

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Free Church of Scotland
1980 – 1989

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE MOUND

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

MAY MCMLXXX (1980)

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

CLASS

I. - Act anent Admission Procedures
(No. 1 of Class I.)

Edinburgh. 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly with the consent of a majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain as follows :-

Every Presbytery to which an application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made, shall transmit to the Assembly through the Admissions Committee:-

(1) Answers subscribed by the applicant to the queries set forth in Schedule C, printed below, and (2) their own answers, subscribed by the Moderator and Clerk, to the queries set forth in the same Schedule.

APPENDIX (Schedule C).

Questions to be answered by all applicants for admission as ministers or probationers of the Free Church of Scotland.

PART I.

1. Personal Details. 2. Names and Addresses.

Date of Birth

Age on 30th September..... Christian Names.....

Married or Single..... Correspondence Address

If Married:

Wife's Occupation

number of Children Tel. No

Country of Birth..... Home Address

Gaelic Speaking?

Present Occupation

3. Give details of secondary Education.
4. Give details of post-secondary Education.
5. Give names and addresses of two referees.
6. With what denominations has applicant been connected and in what capacities?

Give dates and particulars, and reasons for any changes of church connection.

7. When was applicant licenced, ordained or otherwise admitted to the Ministry, and by what denomination?
8. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to leave his present church?
9. What reasons does applicant assign for his desire to be received into the Free Church of Scotland?

PART II.

These are the questions put to licentiates. Are you prepared to answer in the affirmative?

The questions as printed in "The Practice" follow here -

Date..... Signed.....

PART III - to be completed by Presbytery through which application is made.

1. Has the Presbytery interviewed the applicant?
2. What opinion have the Presbytery formed regarding the bona fides of the answers to the above questions signed by the applicant, and what special inquiry have they made into the cases?
3. What opinion have the Presbytery formed regarding the applicant's preaching and pastoral gifts?
4. What opinion have the Presbytery formed regarding the applicant's appreciation of the testimony of the Free Church of Scotland?
5. Does the Presbytery recommend that the applicant be admitted to the standing of a minister of the Free Church of Scotland?

6. Is applicant prepared to sign the Formula?

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 1980.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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 20th day of May, 1980, desire most respectfully to declare our wholehearted and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

At a time when revolutionary forces are assailing the stability of government and order the world over, we give thanks to Almighty God that Your Majesty's throne is based on principles of justice and on the loyalty and deep affection of Your people, and that Your Royal Person is continually remembered at the foot of God's throne in prayer for His daily guidance and sustaining grace.

We are deeply conscious of Your Majesty's readiness to enter into the vicissitudes of Your loyal subjects in day of unrest and economic distress. We earnestly pray that the great principles of social justice, honest toil and economic stability will be increasingly fulfilled in our national life.

We pray likewise, that the use of violence may be restrained and that a saner spirit of Christian benevolence may be fostered. As is true also in the case of Your Majesty, we place primary importance on the home and on its early training in service and sacrifice.

We are grateful for the example of service to the community and nation set by Your Royal Household, and their readiness to shoulder the responsibility that belongs to their station in a spirit of fraternity and goodwill. In particular, we are happy to note the services rendered to the nation by Your Majesty's Consort, the Duke of Edinburgh, and by every member of Your Royal Family. In this public service, we note with gratitude the readiness of Princes Charles to associate himself with all that conduces to the social training of the rising generation, thus setting a noble example to the youth of the nation, with whom he is deservedly popular.

We remember Her Majesty the Queen Mother with abiding affection, and pray that she may be maintained in health and strength, to go in and out among Her people.

And may heaven's choicest blessing rest upon Your Majesty's Person and on all the members of Your Royal Household.

And so pray Your Majesty's most loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

II. - Act appointing General Trustees.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly appoint Mr Angus Boyd, Bank Manager, Fort William and Mr Angus McDonald, Chartered Accountant, Glasgow as General Trustees.

III. - Act anent Sales of Property.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Berriedale Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the church and Manse at Dunbeath, either together or separately, subject to the appropriate consent from the Superior to the change of use, the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income to be utilised for Congregational purposes and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Watten and Bower and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Bower subject to the appropriate consent from the Superior to the change of use, the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income to be utilised for Congregational purposes and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Kilmuir-Easter and Logie-Easter Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and manse at Kilmuir-Easter subject to such consent by the Superior as may be necessary for change of use. They direct that the proceeds of sale should be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation, the Presbytery of Tain and the Church Extension Committee. The income from the proceeds shall be apportioned as follows: One quarter to the consolidated charge of Rosskeen and Kilmuir-Easter; and three quarters to the Church Extension Committee and to be in the first instance available to the Presbytery of Tain for extension work within their bounds. It is further directed that, should extension work initiated by the Presbytery in Milton of Kildary in the parish of Kilmuir-Easter so prosper as to justify the erection or acquisition of buildings, the capital invested may, on application to the General Assembly, be made available for this purpose. The transactions are to be carried out by the Church's law agents.

IV. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Lochaber and Lorn

regarding monies held under the name of Glenorchy. They grant the crave of the Petition to the extent that the income from the total now held in capital be paid to the Presbytery to assist congregations within the bounds. Should the bounds of the Presbytery be altered this finding shall apply to the Presbytery within whose bounds Glenorchy shall be included.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Buccleuch and Greyfriars and grant its crave. They authorise the release to the congregational treasurer of monies held in the name of the congregation in the Custodiers of Titles account.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Farr and grant its crave. They modify the appropriate finding of the General Assembly included in Act 27, 1979 to the extent that the congregation shall have the use of the interest on the proceeds of the sale of the manse at Bettyhill for the purpose of securing the Church there in a wind and watertight condition. Thereafter interest accruing shall be used as directed in 1979.

V. - Act anent Consolidation of Kilmuir-Easter and Logie-Easter, and Rosskeen.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Kilmuir-Easter and Logie-Easter Congregations and grant its crave by consolidating the charges of Rosskeen and Kilmuir-Easter, and Logie-Easter.

VI. - Act appointing General Assessors the Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They re-appoint Rev. W. K. Stone, B.A., Minister at Helmsdale and Kinbrace, and Rev. R. G. Mackay, M.A., Minister at Golspie, General Assessors to the Free Presbytery of Caithness.

VII - Act Uniting Wick and Keiss Kirk Sessions.

No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 20th May 1980.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They ordain that the consolidated charge of Wick and Keiss have one Kirk Session.

VIII. - Act anent Service Charge on Investment Income

repealing Act VI, 1969

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly repeal Act VI (Class II) 1969 (introduction of 2½ per cent. service

charge on investment income).

IX. - Act anent Ministers' Expenses (Amending Act XII 1978.)

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly amend Act XII (Class II) 1978 by the addition of the words, in the first paragraph "and the cost of one month's supply in respect of the minister's annual vacation".

X. - Act anent Amount of Legacy to Revenue (Amending Act VIII, 1965.)

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly amend Act VIII (Class II) 1965 whereby the amount of any legacy available for revenue be increased to £2,000, subject to the discretion of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

XI. - Act anent Nominations Committee (Amending Act XXXVII, 1975.)

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly amend Act XXXVII (Class II) 1975 paragraph to read:
"The General Assembly enjoin each Presbytery of the Church to appoint one of its members as its representative on the Nominations Committee such appointment being restricted to persons in membership of Standing Committees and to run for the same period. Notices of such appointments shall be in the hands of the Principal Clerk not later than 1st November each year. Standing Order VI 4 shall be amended to comply with the foregoing".

XII. - Act anent Committee on Church Building Maintenance and Custody of Titles (Amending Act II, 1979.)

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly amend Act II (Class II) 1979 to the extent that the first paragraph of Section 14 shall now read : -

"The General Assembly appoint a Standing Committee on Church Building Maintenance and Custody of Titles comprised of the personnel of the General Trustees together with one representative from each Presbytery not represented by such personnel. This representative shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee and shall be from the list of those who are members of Standing Committees, and the term of duty on the Church Buildings, etc. Committee shall coincide with that on Standing Committees".

Standing Order VI 5 shall be amended to comply with the foregoing.

XIII. - Act anent Funeral Grants and Related Benefits.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly approve the revised rate of funeral grants and related benefits as follows:

Death Grant: 6 per cent. of equal dividend for ministers, resident lay preachers and College professors.

Widows, etc. Grant: one quarter of rate of annual salary applicable at date of death.

XIV. - Enabling Act anent Pensions and Retirement Provision.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1980.

(a) The General Assembly approve the efforts of the Committee to improve the Church's retirement provisions with particular reference to lump sum payments on normal retirement.

(b) They approve also the concept of provision for dependents in the case of death in service.

(c) With a view to the implementation of (a) and (b) they authorise the Committee to prepare new regulations so adjusting Act XX 1978 that maximum pension shall be payable after 40 years service in such a way that with lump sum payments and death in service benefits the rights accrued under Act XX 1978 will not be prejudiced.

(d) The General Assembly empower the Committee to continue negotiations with the Inland Revenue in order to adjust the Church's Pension Schemes that they may obtain Inland Revenue approval, authorise the Committee to operate the Schemes when so adjusted and instruct the Committee to report on the matter to next General Assembly.

XV. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £3,400 per annum to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1979, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve the aim of the Committee to increase the equal Dividend to £3,800 per annum as from 1st April 1980.

The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

XVI. - Act anent Travelling Expenses.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly approve the increase of the travelling allowance of preachers giving supply and using their own cars from 6p to 10p per mile.

XVII. - Act anent Allocation for Home Mission Grants
(Amending Act VIII, 1960 and Repealing Act XXVII, 1977.)
(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly authorise that the transfer from the interest of Home Mission Capital for the purpose of Home Mission Grants, in terms of Act VIII, 1960, be increased to a sum not exceeding £1,000.

XVIII. - Act anent Resident Supply Fees for Students
(Amending Act XIV, 1978.)
(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly authorise the Committee to negotiate an increased fee for resident supply with any recognised student of the Free Church (this to include students sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia), basing the negotiation on the financial position of the student and the work to be carried out.

XIX. - Act appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund.
(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1980.

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr Iain Gill, C.A., A.T.I.I., to represent the Free Church of Scotland on the Board of Trustees of the Scottish Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XX. - Act appointing Committee on Christian School.
(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1980.

The General Assembly receive the Overture and grant its crave. They appoint a Committee to examine the desirability and practicability of setting up a school or schools, either alone or in co-operation with other sympathetic bodies that would restore to parents the privilege of a Christian education for their children, and report to next General Assembly, as follows:-

Dr N. A. R. Mackay, Convener

Rev. Principal-Emeritus J. Mackintosh, Vice-Convener
Rev. Principal-Emeritus W. J. Cameron.
Rev. Professor G N. M. Collins.
Rev. Principal C. Graham.
Rev. Professor D. MacLeod.
Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald.
Rev. M. J. Roberts.
Rev. M. J. Nicolson.
Rev. M. A. MacLeod.
Rev. M. MacRitchie.
Mr J. O. Sutherland.
Dr I. M. Spence.
Mr A. Macdonald.

Mr Iain Gill, General Treasurer, to be in attendance.

XXI. - Act anent Sale of Colegio San Andres and Related Properties

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 22nd May 1980.

The General Assembly authorise the General Trustees, upon advice from the Foreign Missions Board, to sell the buildings occupied by the Colegio San Andres together with the other properties, inclusive of the residential flats which comprise the Edificio San Andres, situated on Avenida Du Petit Thouars 179, Lima 1. They direct that the proceeds of such sale should be applied to the acquisition and building of a new school and ancillary buildings in a more suitable location.

The foregoing authorisation is conditioned upon the Trustees and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee being satisfied with the financial arrangement of the whole transaction and the General Assembly direct the Board to consult with the Finance Committee on necessary measures of interim financing of the project and for providing assistance to the Trustees' Nominees. The Finance Committee and Trustees are authorised to advance such "bridging loans" as may be necessary and available.

XXII. - Act anent Post-Graduate Course in College.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly enact and ordain that the Senatus shall provide facilities in the College for students whom the Training of the Ministry Committee, in consultation with the Senatus, deem suitable for a post-graduate course of one year, and that the Training of the Ministry Committee shall make provision in its budget for this purpose.

XXIII. - Act anent College Curriculum (Amending Act V, 1979.)

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly amend Act V of Class II 1979, Section II paragraph 5 sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) to read as follows:-

(1) For the better instruction of students in Hebrew and Greek, elementary classes in these subjects shall be provided in the first or second year of the Free Church College course. All students taking two elementary classes will take the four year course, and will take only one elementary class in their first year.

(2) The core curriculum of the College shall be Junior and Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Junior and Senior Greek and New Testament Literature, Junior and Senior Church History, Junior and Senior Systematic Theology, Apologetics and Pastoral Theology.

(3) The Senatus shall arrange the distribution of these subjects in both the three and four year courses.

XXIV. - Act anent Weekend Supply by Students.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly enact and ordain that recognised students at the Free Church College shall give weekend supply from October to May - four weekends in the first year, six in second year and eight in third year. This arrangement shall be under the general surveillance of the Professor of Practical Theology in collaboration with the Supply Department, and a list of presently vacant congregations shall be prepared for this purpose.

XXV. - Act anent Trials for Licence (Amending Act V, 1979.)

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly rescind sub-sections (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 4, Section IV, Act V of Class II, 1979 and substitute the following:

(a) The Presbytery shall examine the Student, strictly and privately.

(b) The following written exercises, on subjects prescribed by the Presbytery, shall be delivered: (1) An exercise on some contraverted head in divinity; (2) An exercise in apologetics; (3) An exercise in N.T. exegesis; (4) An exercise in O.T. exegesis; (5) A popular sermon. It being understood that if the Presbytery see cause they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

(c) Catechetic trials in Divinity and Church History, and a trial in the Hebrew and Greek languages.

(d) College discourses will be submitted to the Presbytery for information and perusal.

(e) At the Presbytery's discretion College discourses may be received in lieu of exercises, provided they cover areas of work prescribed in (b) above, and provided additional exercises are submitted in the areas where a College discourse has not been submitted.

XXVI. - Act anent Exit Examinations

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly enact and ordain that the Executive of the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee, the Senatus and the Exit Examiners shall meet annually to establish an agreed standard for setting and marking in Class and Exit examinations.

XXVII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Principal C. Graham named by the Moderator: To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 First Wednesday of October and the First Wednesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for the appointment of teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers in Colegio San Andres for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection

with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXVIII. - Act appointing Next General Assembly
(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 23rd May 1980.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 19th May 1981, at 9.30 o'clock forenoon.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

I. - Act appointing Committee on Chalmers Bi-centenary

Edinburgh. 2nd October 1980.

The Commission of Assembly approve the action of the meeting arrange the celebration of the Bi-centenary of the birth of Dr Thomas Chalmers. They hereby confirm the membership of the Committee as follows:

Ministers	Elders.
Mr M. MacRitchie	Dr N. A. R. MacKay
Principal-Emeritus W. J. Cameron Sutherland	Mr J. O.
Mr F. A. J. Macdonald	Mr M. Grant
Mr A. P. W. Fraser	Dr I. R. MacDonald
Principal C. Graham	Mr D. Jack
Professor G. N. M. Collins	
Dr N. A. R. MacKay to be Convener and Rev. A. P. W. Fraser to be Clerk.	

II. Act anent Sales of Property.

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1980.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Elder Memorial Church and

grant its crave. They authorise the Congregation to sell the Manse, 48 Netherby Road, Edinburgh and, as the title stands in the name of the General Trustees of the Church, they further authorise the General Trustees, with consent of the Congregational Trustees, to grant the appropriate Conveyance to the Purchaser, the proceeds of sale to be retained meantime by the General Trustees and thereafter applied to the purchase or erection of a more suitable Manse, the title being taken in the name of the Congregational Trustees in terms of the Model Trust Deed; any income accruing to be added to capital and any surplus after acquisition of a new manse to be utilised for congregational purposes. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse building at Kiltarlity, subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied to the erection of a more suitable residence on adjoining ground belonging to the Congregation; any income accruing to be added to the capital. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents. This approval is given on the understanding that the proceeds of sale will approximate to the likely cost of a new manse.

The Commission of Assembly, waiving irregularities, receive the Petition from the London Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse at 306 Brownhill Road, London, in order to acquire a more suitable residence. This authority is given subject to the following provisos:

- (1) The Church's Law Agent shall be satisfied that there is no legal barrier to sale.
- (2) The new manse shall be held in terms of the Model Trust Deed or as nearly as English Law allows.
- (3) The income of sale shall be applied to the purchase of the new manse any surplus in the transaction being utilised for the Congregation's Building Fund.
- (4) The transaction shall be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent.

III. - Act anent Consolidation of Odrig, Watten and Bower.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregations of Odrig, Watten and Bower and grant its crave. They ordain that the congregations be consolidated into one charge to be known as Odrig, Watten and Bower with a single Kirk Session and two Finance Committees/Deacons' Courts. They further ordain that the minister of the consolidated charge shall be entitled to assistance in the supply of one preaching station each week as shall be arranged by him and the Kirk Session, the cost of this being shared by the Congregation and the Supply Committee in accordance with current supply regulations. The Commission direct that until a settlement is achieved, present supply arrangements shall continue i.e., by the employment of two preachers entitled to fee each Sabbath.

IV. - Act anent Sale of Property at Kilwinning

Edinburgh, 4th March 1980

The Commission of Assembly note the intention of the Kilwinning Congregation to sell the property known as Deanfield, Almswall Road, Killwinning. They note also that the Kilwinning Congregation was duly admitted as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland on 2nd October 1956 by the Presbytery of Glasgow pursuant to a decision of the Commission of General Assembly of date 8th August 1956 and that title to the property referred to deduces from the Trustees for the Associated Anti-burghers Congregation of Original Seceders through the proceedings of the Commission of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in August 1956. The Commission of Assembly advise that the proceeds of sale insofar as capital is not required for improvements to congregational property be lodged with the General Trustees and the income applied to Congregational Funds and that the transaction be under the general supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

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20. Act appointing Missionary to Immigrant Community in Glasgow
21. Act authorising Sale of Colegio San Andres and associated properties
22. Act anent Sale of Keiskammahoek Manse

23. Act appointing Representative to British Evangelical Council
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ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

1. Act anent Sale of Manse at Lochalsh

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

MAY MCMLXXXI (1981)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE.

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

I. - Act anent Retirement of Ministers.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly discontinue the present arrangements whereby ministers desiring to retire apply for a Colleague and Successor. They repeal Act VIII, 1862 in so far as it applies to procedures for retirement. The General Assembly enact and ordain that, from this date, the regulations for retirement shall be as follows:-

(a) A minister may apply for permission to retire on attaining the age of 65 years. Application for earlier retirement must be accompanied by medical certificates from two doctors attesting such breakdown in health as makes this necessary. In such a case the Committee administering the Pensions Fund may require the applicant to be examined by a doctor of their selection.

(b) The application shall be addressed to the Committee administering the Church's Pension Fund and shall normally be disposed of by them, the rights of the Applicant to have his request brought before the General Assembly or its Commission, being reserved. The Committee shall report to the General Assembly on all applications.

(c) Applications must be supported by extract of minutes from the relevant Kirk Session and Presbytery and these must show that the applicant had agreed to resile from his rights of

active participation in the courts of the congregation - his right to respond to a specific request from the Moderator or Interim Moderator of the congregation being unchanged.

(d) Retirement shall involve the surrender of the emoluments of the Charge, and normally the vacation of the manse; the congregation shall be deemed to be and declared to be vacant. But retirement shall not involve resignation of a seat in the Presbytery.

(e) The Committee administering the Church's Pension Scheme shall arrange for the payment of such pension as the applicant's years of service in the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland warrant in terms of the approved scheme. Widows' and Orphans' provisions shall continue to be paid by the Sustentation Fund.

II. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1981.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty.

We, Your Majesty's faithful and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh, on the 19th day of May 1981, respectfully offer to Your Majesty this renewed expression of our loyalty to Your Majesty's person and Throne.

Mindful of the heavy burdens and the manifold responsibilities inseparable from the exalted station occupied by Your Majesty, we are thankful to the Most High for the manner in which you have been upheld to bear those burdens for the good of your subjects over the years of your gracious reign.

The many arduous journeys at home and overseas, undertaken by Your Majesty, sometimes at great danger, have contributed greatly to the welding together in a spirit of friendship Your Majesty's subjects at home and throughout the Commonwealth, and for that we are thankful to God.

The distress and unrest in Northern Ireland continue to sadden those who have the welfare of our society at heart, and our earnest prayer is that oppression and violence there shall cease, and that peace and harmony may be restored to that troubled part of the kingdom.

Our constant prayer is that Your Majesty may long be spared in health and strength to reign over us, and, that Peace and Prosperity may be Your Majesty's portion, and that of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and of all the members of Your Royal House.

The news of the engagement and forthcoming marriage of His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, to the Lady Diana Spencer, has been the occasion of widespread pleasure and hope for the future. We pray that happiness, prosperity and every blessing may

be theirs in the days to come. We, Your loyal subjects, are aware of the just popularity of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and of the fine example of public-spiritedness he sets before the youth of our land, and the way he carries out the many onerous duties undertaken by him, as exemplified by His Highness's recent trip to Australia.

We rejoice in the news that a baby daughter has been born to Her Royal Highness, the Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, and that Her Royal Highness and her daughter are both doing well. We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, are delighted at the safe arrival of Your Majesty's first grand-daughter.

In these days of so much moral and social unrest among the nations of the world we pray earnestly that Your Majesty's Throne may be established in Righteousness, as we pray also that our nation may follow the example of domestic stability that Your Royal House has always set before Your subjects.

We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, pray that God's richest blessing may rest abundantly on Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh; upon His Royal Highness, Charles, Prince of Wales; Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and on all the members of Your Royal House.

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

III. - Act Appointing General Trustee.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Murdo MacRitchie, M.A., M.Th., Stornoway, a General Trustee.

IV. - Act anent Applications for Building Grants and Loans.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly instruct that applications for Grant/Loans be in the hands of Clerk of Committee at least fourteen days prior to the meeting of Committee in October and March.

V. - Act anent Sales of Property.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 19th May 1981.

(1) The General Assembly receive the Petition for the Deacons' Court of Rothesay Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and manse at Rothesay and direct that the proceeds of sale be invested by the General Trustees until required for the acquisition of a more suitable place of worship and a house for the resident supply, any

income accruing until such requirement arises to be added to capital and the whole transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

(2) The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Tarbert Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of half an acre of the manse garden, subject to the consent of the Superior or otherwise disposing of any objection to the variations of the feuing conditions. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation and the income to be available for congregational purposes. The whole transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

(3) The General Assembly receive the Petition from Watten and Bower Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Watten and of the grounds adjacent which are surplus to the congregation's requirements. The proceeds of the sale are to be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation and the income to be paid to the congregation's Fabric Fund. The whole transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

(4) The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Aberfeldy, Glen Lyon and Pitlochry and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of a part of the manse garden approximately 430 sq. yards in area located on Old Crieff Road, Aberfeldy. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and to be made available to the congregation for the maintenance and repair of their properties. The whole transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

(5) The General Assembly receive the Petition from Saltcoats and Stevenston and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church at Stevenston and direct that the proceeds of sale should be held by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation to be used for the improving of the Saltcoats Manse and Church. The whole transaction is to be under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

VI - Act granting Presbytery Seat to Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald
(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and grant its crave. They grant a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh to the Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald, Associate General Secretary of the National Bible Society of Scotland, and, solely for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, declare his appointment to be the equivalent of a charge.

VII. - Act anent General Assessor to Presbytery of Inveraray
(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, They appoint Rev. D. Ferguson a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Inveraray.

VIII. - Act appointing General Assessors to Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They re-appoint Rev. Ronald Mackay, Minister at Golspie, and appoint Rev. D. S. MacKenzie, Minister at Maryburgh, General Assessors to the Presbytery of Caithness.

IX. - Act uniting Finance Committees of Lybster and Bruan and Latheron and Berriedale.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 19th May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committees of Lybster, Bruan, Latheron and Berriedale and grant its crave, they unite the Finance Committee of Lybster and Bruan with the Finance Committee of Latheron and the Finance Committee of Berriedale to form one Finance Committee to be known as Lybster, Bruan, Latheron and Berriedale Finance Committee.

X. - Act requiring Resident Lay Preachers to be Elders.

(No.10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly ordain that in future no person be accepted for appointment as a Resident Lay Preacher who is not an elder of a Free Church Congregation, or whom the congregation he serves during his probationary year are not prepared to elect as an elder at the end of the said year.

XI. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £4,000 per annum to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1980 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve the aim of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend to £4,500 per annum as from 1st April. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

XII. - Act anent Resident Supply Fees for Students and Probationers

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly amend Act XVIII 1980 so as to include Probationers of this Church within its provisions. The Act will now read:-

“The General Assembly authorise the Committee to negotiate an increased fee for resident supply with any Probationer or recognised student of the Free Church (this to include students sponsored by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia), basing the negotiations on the financial position of the probationer or student and the work to be carried out”.

XIII. - Act appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly re-appoint Rev. Professor G N. M. Collins, B.A., B.D., to represent the Free Church of Scotland on the Board of Trustees of the Scottish Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XIV. - Act anent Purchase of Whiteinch Homes.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly note with interest the possibilities of upgrading Whiteinch Homes as a Sheltered Housing Scheme and of utilising part of its policies as an ultimate replacement for Maxwell House. They approve the purchase of the building by the General Trustees and authorise the Committee to take all necessary steps for implementing such an upgrading programme on a mainly self-financing basis.

XV. - Act anent Consolidation of Dunoon and Strachur with Greenock.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They unite the Congregation of Dunoon and Strachur with the Congregation of Greenock to form a consolidated charge, each part of the congregation retaining its own Kirk Session and Deacons' Court.

XVI. - Act anent Consolidation of Saltcoats and Stevenston with Kilwinning

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They consolidate the Congregation of Saltcoats and Stevenston with the Congregation of Kilwinning into one pastoral charge, with two Kirk Sessions and two Deacons' Courts.

XVII. - Act appointing Editor of “The Instructor”.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1981

The General Assembly appoint Rev. M.J. Roberts, B.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., Editor of “The Instructor”.

XVIII. - Act Extending Agreement with Free Church in Southern Africa.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1981.

The General Assembly receive the request of their Board and of the Free Church in Southern Africa and ordain that the agreement with the Free Church in Southern Africa, entered into in 1976, be continued for a further two years. They direct the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions’ Board to review this agreement, in consultation with the Free Church in Southern Africa, and to report to the General Assembly in May 1983.

XIX. - Act anent Representation of Irish Evangelical Presbyterian Church on Foreign Missions’ Board.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1981

The General Assembly grant the request of the Irish Evangelical Presbyterian Church to have a representative sit in on meetings of the Board on a non-voting capacity and on such other terms as shall be mutually acceptable to that Church and the Board.

XX. - Act appointing Missionary to Immigrant Community in Glasgow.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1981.

The General Assembly welcome the offer of service by Miss Julia MacKenzie among immigrants within the Glasgow area and instruct the Board to make what arrangements may be deemed necessary, in collaboration with the Church Extension Committee and the Glasgow Presbytery, for her appointment to this work.

XXI. - Act authorising Sale of Colegio San Andres and associated properties

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 21st May 1981.

The General Assembly amend Act XXI 1980 to read as follows:-

The General Assembly authorise the General Trustees, upon advice from the Foreign Missions’ Board, to sell the buildings occupied by the Colegio San Andres together with the other properties, inclusive of the residential flats which comprise the Edificio San Andres,

situated on Avenida Du Petit Thouars 179, Lima 1, or alternatively arrange for the development and subsequent sale of the site. They direct that the proceeds of such sale should be applied to the acquisition and building of a new school and ancillary buildings inclusive of necessary staff accommodation in a more suitable location. The foregoing authorisation is conditioned upon the Trustees and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee being satisfied with the financial arrangement of the whole transaction and the General Assembly direct the Board to consult with the General Trustees and the Finance Committee on necessary measures of interim financing of the project and for providing assistance to the Trustees' Nominees. The Finance Committee and Trustees are authorised to advance such bridging loans as may be necessary and available.

XXII. - Act anent Sale of Keiskammahoek Manse.

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1981.

The General Assembly authorise the sale of the Keiskammahoek Manse and empower the Foreign Missions' Board to apply the proceeds, or part thereof, to the erection of a Church at Ibika, Butterworth, Southern Africa, on such terms as the Board deem most appropriate.

XXIII. - Act appointing Representatives to British Evangelical Council

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1981.

The General Assembly re-appoint Principal-Emeritus W.J. Cameron and Rev. Hector Cameron their representatives on the Council for the ensuing three years. They note that Professor G N. M. Collins continues to serve as a Founder-Member.

XXIV. - Act anent Grants to Students.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May, 1981.

The General Assembly authorise the Training of the Ministry Committee to award grants to students recognised as candidates for the Ministry who are ineligible to receive grants from public funds. Grants awarded by the Committee shall, according to available funds, follow the pattern of Scottish Education Department student allowances, including allowances for dependents, but excluding mature student allowances.

XXV. - Act anent Students Changing Presbytery.

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1981.

The General Assembly amend Section III of Act 5 of Class II 1979 by inserting between paragraphs 2 and 3 the following :-

The General Assembly ordain that all students who require, for good reason, to transfer from

the oversight of one Presbytery to that of another, must first obtain a Certificate of Transference from the Presbytery from whose oversight they desire to remove; and that the Clerk of Presbytery receiving this certificate should notify the Training of the Ministry Committee thereanent. No student should be a communicant member of a congregation within the bounds of one presbytery whilst being under the oversight of another presbytery.

XXVI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1981.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Professor D. Macleod, named by the Moderator :- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers, Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of a Report on the Pensions Scheme to be submitted by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee; to receive and, in terms of the finding of this Assembly, dispose of a Report from the Committee on Ecumenical Relations with regard to the Reformed Ecumenical Synod and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matter 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XVII. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1981.

The General Assembly appoint the Next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 18th May 1982, at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

I. - Act anent Sale of Manse at Lochalsh.

Edinburgh, 4th March 1981.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Lochalsh and grant its crave. They authorise the Congregation, subject to the consent of the Superior, to sell the present manse; the proceeds are to be held by the General Trustees until such time as they are required for the purchase or erection of a new manse, and the transaction is to be carried out under the oversight of the Church's Law Agents.

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

MAY MCMLXXXII (1982)

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 1982.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly in Edinburgh on the 18th day of May 1982, desire to express to Your Majesty our sincere and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give continued thanks to Almighty God that he has blessed Your Majesty with good health enabling you to bear the burdens of your Exalted Office, and has preserved you in your frequent journeyings at home and abroad. We view with prayerful concern the present critical world situation, and in particular the conflict that has recently erupted over the Falkland Islands, and the continuing problems in connection with the Province of Ulster, and we pray that the unwearied efforts of Your Majesty's Government in the interests of just and peaceful solutions may be so successful by the blessing of God that the calamitous evil of war may be averted, and an enduring peace established among the nations of the world.

The marriage last summer of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the Lady Diana Spencer gave us unqualified pleasure. and we rejoice with Your Majesty in their continued happiness.

It is our prayer that Your Majesty's Throne may be established in righteousness, and that Your Majesty's Counsellors may be persons of wisdom in whom is the fear of God. The contemporary situation renders it appropriate that as a Church maintaining the principles of the Scottish Reformation we should affirm our gratitude for the benefits accruing from that event, and our continuing support to Your Majesty in every endeavour to uphold the Protestant Heritage to which the Crown is committed.

We pray that the richest blessings of Divine Grace may rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, upon His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne and Captain Mark Philips, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret, and the other members of Your Royal House.

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

II. - Act anent Procedure in Sales of Property.

(No. 2 of Class II).

Edinburgh 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly direct that when Petitions for sale with proposed findings are included

in the Committee's submissions to the Assembly or its Commission, the Presbytery concerned shall appoint one of their number to answer such questions bearing on the local situation as members of Assembly or Commission may propose.

III. - Act anent Sales of Property
(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Creich, Kincardine and Croick and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church at Croick subject to such consent as may be necessary from the superior.

They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational funds, and that the transaction be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

IV. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies
(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Greenock and grant its crave. They authorise the General Trustees to release a sum not exceeding £12,000 from the funds realised by the sale of the Church at Greenock: such sum to be applied to the purchase and renovation of the halls and ancillary rooms presently used by the congregation.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Lochalsh and Glenshiel Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the General Trustees to release such sums from the funds realised by the sale of the Glenshiel manse as when added to the sum realised by the sale of the manse at Ardelve, shall meet the cost of the new manse being built at Ardelve.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Vancouver Deacons' Court and grant its crave in the following terms. They delete the words of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland from the last line of paragraph (2) of the Finding of 22nd May 1958 and substitute the following "of the Overseas Missions Board, who are hereby authorised to dispose of requests from the Deacons' Court to apply specified amounts of the interest or capital of the Manse Fund to the maintenance of Gospel ordinances. Such requests from the Deacons' Court must be submitted in writing and supported by relevant information".

V. - Act anent Appointment of Assessor to Presbytery of Inveraray.
(No. 5 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they appoint Rev. D. Ferguson a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Inveraray for the ensuing year.

VI. - Act anent Appointment of Assessors to Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 6 of Class II).

Edinburgh. 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they re-appoint as General Assessors to the Presbytery of Caithness Rev. R. G Mackay, M.A., Minister at Golspie and Rev. D. S. Mackenzie, Minister at Maryburgh (Retired).

VII. - Act anent Uniting Kirk Sessions of Tongue and Farr.

(No. 7 of Class II).

Edinburgh 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they unite the Kirk Session of Farr Free Church with the Kirk Session of Tongue Free Church to form a single Kirk Session which will be known as the Kirk Session of Tongue and Farr Free Church.

VIII. - Act anent Camps Organiser and Camps Committee.

(No. 8 of Class II).

Edinburgh. 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly ordain that the Camps Organiser be ex-officio a member of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee and enact that henceforward the Camps Committee be a sub-committee of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee.

IX. - Act anent Appointment of Editors

(No. 9 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 18th May 1982

The General Assembly approve the following arrangements for the filling of vacancies in the editorship of the "Monthly Record" and the "Instructor":-

When notice of resignation has been received by the Publications Committee, the Committee shall make such preliminary enquiries as they deem necessary and desirable so as to be in a position to recommend a name or names (up to a maximum of three) to the General Assembly by whom the appointment shall be made ".

X. - Act anent Re-constitution of Special Committee on Education.

(No. 10 of Class II).

Edinburgh 18th May 1982.

The General Assembly reconstitute the Special Committee on Education with the following membership:-

Convener and Vice-Convener of the Welfare of Youth Committee.
Convener and Vice-Convener of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee.
Principal-Emeritus W. J. Cameron.
Dr N. A. R. Mackay.
Dr D. Mackenzie, and
Mr A. Macaskill.
The Editor of "The Instructor".

XI. - Act Adjusting Previous Pension Legislation.

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly noting that new pension arrangements have been approved with effect from 16th March 1982, hereby adjust previous legislation as follows:

Acts repealed - Act XIII 1934 amended by Act V 1940; Act XV 1966; Act XIX 1977 and Act XX 1978.

Acts repealed in these still stand repealed.

Acts amended - Act VI 1979 (Consolidating Act).

Two lines at top of page 29 to be deleted and read:

"He shall receive salary until 30th September and qualify for pension as from 1st October
".

Same Act, (paragraph 3; referring to Pension Scheme now to read:

"Pension arrangements are as noted in Act of Commission of Assembly of 16th March 1982".

Act XXV 1977 is amended to read;

"The Finance, Law and Advisory Committee" where there is reference to the Committee.

Act XIII 1980 - last paragraph to be deleted.

XII. - Act anent Amending Pension Act.

(No. 12 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly direct that any proposed amendment to the Pensions Scheme must first be submitted to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee for consultation with and approval by the relevant civil authorities.

XIII. - Act anent Licence and Ordination.

(No. 13 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly affirm, that, within the Presbyterian system, while, by Licence, a man is formally authorised to preach wherever in the providence of God his lot may be cast, and becomes eligible for a Call to undertake the full functions of the Ministry, by Ordination he is

solemnly set apart to the office of the Holy Ministry and authorised to discharge all the duties thereof; and by induction is appointed to a particular sphere of labour.

Accordingly, the General Assembly recognise that it is within the competence of a Presbytery that sustains a Call to a probationer, if it so desires, to accept his Certificate of Licence as affording satisfaction with regard to academic requirements, knowledge of Scripture and grasp of Confessional doctrine; and to make trials for ordination largely catechetical, with special attention to Pastoral Theology, especially in cases where the Presbytery that sustains a call is also the Presbytery that has recently licensed the probationer. Further the General Assembly enact that no Edict appointing ordination be authorised before such trials be sustained.

XIV. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £5,000 as from 1st January 1982 exclusive of premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They further approve of the aim of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend to £5,500 as from 1st October 1982 provided that such an increase can be borne by the church's treasury.

XV. - Act anent Responsibility for Stipend in Development Charges Amending Act XXII, 1975.

(No. 15 of Class II).

Edinburgh 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly amend Act XXII, 1975 para. B (3) to read as follows:

“The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend for each year and shall be borne by the Committee on Church Extension. There shall be in addition paid a sum, to be fixed and reviewed annually, and payable by the Church Extension Committee, for travelling and incidental expenses “.

XVI. - Act anent Responsibility for Stipend in Outreach Charges

Amending Act XI, 1979.

(No. 16 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly amend Act XI, 1979 Para. B (3) to read as follows:

“The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend for each year and shall be borne by the Committee on Church Extension”.

XVII. - Act anent Expenses for Greenock, Dunoon and Strachur.

(No. 17 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they direct the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to give financial help for the continued maintenance of services in Greenock, Dunoon and Strachur.

XVIII. - Act appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

(No. 18 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 19th May 1982.

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr D. A. Cameron, B.L., a Trustee of the Scottish Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XIX. - Act anent Thomas Chalmers Housing Association Ltd.

(No. 19 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly, aware that civil legal requirements oblige them to re-organise the structures of responsibility and management of the Eventide Homes, recognise the Thomas Chalmers Housing Association Ltd. as the successor of the Free Church of Scotland Eventide Home Ltd. The General Assembly note that the on-going business of the Homes will be carried out by a Committee of Management appointed by the Association from its membership, the management of Maxwell House continuing as at present.

XX. - Act constituting Thurso a Fully Sanctioned Charge.

(No. 20 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly record their thanks to the Most High for the establishing of a Congregation in Thurso with fully sanctioned status, and commend its minister, elders and people to the prayers of the Church.

XXI. - Act constituting Livingston and Whitburn a Church Extension Charge

(No. 21 of Class II).

Edinburgh 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly are pleased to hear of the ministerial settlement and the material provision already made for the congregation of Livingston and Whitburn. They admit the congregation to the status of a Church Extension Charge on the understanding that the financial requirements will fall almost wholly on the Church Extension Committee.

XXII. - Act anent Exemption of Development and Outreach Charges from Limits imposed by Directive of 1979 Assembly.

(No. 22 of Class II).

Edinburgh 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly remove Development and Outreach Charges from the computation to be made by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee in terms of the directive of 1979 (page 92 paragraph 28 of Assembly Minutes 1979). They direct the Church Extension Committee to limit the recommendations for Development and Outreach status by reference to the resources available to them declaring that the allocation from Central Funds to the Church Extension Committee shall not be increased in respect of the transference of responsibility presently made.

XXIII. - Act anent Report of Mission to Immigrants Committee.

(No. 23 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly approve the proposal that, in future, the Mission to Immigrants Committee should report to the General Assembly through the Committee on Church Extension.

XXIV. - Act anent Interest on Capital Redemption Fund.

(No. 24 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly direct that the interest on the Capital Redemption Fund for 1982 be made available to the Committee.

XXV. - Act constituting Dumfries an Outreach Charge.

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they confer on the Congregation of Dumfries the status of an Outreach Charge, in order that the congregation may obtain the services of a suitable minister.

XXVI. - Act anent Appointment of Study Panel.

(No. 26 of Class II).

Edinburgh. 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly ordain that a panel of five members, including the Professors of Apologetics and Systematic Theology in the Free Church College, be appointed to study serious spiritual and moral issues in depth and in the light of Scripture, and to present results of their deliberations to the General Assembly through the Committee on Public Questions, Religion and Morals. The General Assembly further ordain that the members and the Convener be re-appointed by the Assembly each year as long as is necessary; that the panel give due time and attention to such weighty matters, and that it attempt not more than three

subjects in any year; and that in its first year it give priority to the study of subjects raised by the Special Committee on Education (the ethics of work and employment), the Committee on Public Questions and Morals (the ethical problems involved in developments in science and medicine in relation to the biological aspects of human life in its beginnings) and the Presbytery of Edinburgh (marriage and divorce).

The General Assembly proceeded to elect a Study Panel as follows : -

Dr N. A. R. Mackay (Convener).
Rev. J. L. Mackay.
Mr Colin Mackay,
with Rev. Principal C. Graham
and Professor D. MacLeod.

XXVII. - Act anent Addendum to General Rules for Missions

Amending Act XXXII, 1979.
(No. 27 of Class II).

Edinburgh 20th May 1982.

The General Assembly add to the General Rules for Missions, etc. approved by the Assembly (Act XXXII, 1979) the following at 1 (1) :-

Ordained ministers of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Ireland) are seconded by that Church on terms to be agreed upon with the Foreign Missions' Board and to be reported to the General Assembly in due course.

XXVIII. - Act anent College Curriculum - Amending Act XXIII, 1980.

(No. 28 of Class II).

Edinburgh 21st May 1982.

The General Assembly amend Act XXIII of Class II, 1980 by adding to Sub-section I of Paragraph 5 the following:-

“All students entering on a three year College Course are required to pass at least one of the Language Entrance Examinations before entering the College. Students in this category who present themselves for, or pass only one of the Language Entrance Examinations will be required to take the Elementary Class in the other language in the first year of the College Course “.

XXIX. - Act anent Regulations for College Library

Amending Act XXIII, 1970.
(No. 29 of Class II).

Edinburgh 21st May 1982.

The General Assembly add the following statement to Act XXIII 1970 (Regulations for College Library) :-

“The General Assembly direct that for its part the Training of the Ministry Committee shall discharge its responsibility for the College Library through the Sub-Committee on Finance, sitting with the Senatus as a Library Committee of which the Librarian shall be Chairman and the Clerk of the Training of the Ministry Committee clerk. The Library Committee shall meet annually and review requirements, new acquisitions and prospective sales.”

XXX. - Act anent Appointment of Professor of Church History and Principles
(No. 30 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 21st May 1982.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. J.D. MacMillan, M.A., Minister at St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, to be Professor of Church History and Church Principles in accordance with existing regulations.

The General Assembly hereby release Mr MacMillan from his present pastoral charge and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his Induction to the Chair of Church History and Church Principles on a date not earlier than 1st July 1982, his relationship to the Congregation of St Vincent Street, Glasgow, to subsist until he be actually admitted to the charge aforesaid.

XXXI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.
(No. 31 of Class II).

Edinburgh. 21st May 1982.

The General Assembly did and hereby do nominate and appoint a Commission, consisting of all the members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. A. G. Ross named by the Moderator: To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly full 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising

the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXXII. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 32 of Class II).

Edinburgh. 21st May 1982.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 24th May 1983 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

I. - Act terminating Membership of Reformed Ecumenical Synod.

Edinburgh 7th October 1982.

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland note, with profound regret, that the Interim-committee of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod have stated that they cannot give either of the assurances required by last General Assembly as the minimal condition of continued membership by the Free Church of Scotland in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod. In terms of the Assembly's directive, therefore, the Commission now declare the membership of the Free Church of Scotland in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod terminated from this date. As a founder-member of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod the Free Church of Scotland is particularly grieved by the necessity for this action, but it is now no longer persuaded of the will and/or ability of the R.E.S. fully to implement its own constitution. The tolerance by member Churches of views of Scripture incompatible with the Reformed Confessions appears to yield only unduly protracted discussion in the R.E.S. The long drawn-out discussion of dual membership in R.E.S. has also strained relationships. The more recent discussions with a member Church on the issue of homosexuality have served as a focal point of distress and disenchantment and confirmed the conviction that the Free

Church of Scotland must, in the interests of its adherence to Reformed standards, terminate its membership of the R.E.S.

II. - Act anent Sale of Manse at St Columba's, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh. 7th October 1982.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from St Columba's (Edinburgh) Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at 5 Forbes Road, Edinburgh, the proceeds to be invested by the General Trustees and applied to the acquisition of a more suitable residence and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agent.

III. - Act anent Consolidation of Rogart and Eddrachillis.

Edinburgh, 7th October 1982.

The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Dornoch and grant its crave. They consolidate the Congregations of Rogart and Eddrachillis with one Kirk Session and one Finance Committee and direct that a minister inducted to the consolidated charge shall supply the Eddrachillis pulpit on at least one Sabbath per month - the expenses incurred in operating this provision (i.e., for supply of the relevant pulpit) to be borne by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply as at present. The Congregation shall submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule for approval before calling a minister.

IV. - Act anent Pensions Schemes.

Edinburgh, 16th March 1982.

The Commission of Assembly approve the Pension Schemes, as adjusted to meet the directions of the General Assembly and the requirements of civil legislation, with effect from 16th March 1982. The texts of the adjusted Schemes are appended to the minutes of the Commission. The Finance Committee are instructed to submit to next General Assembly a list of all Acts of Assembly which effectively have been superseded by the new Pension Schemes, and to seek the repeal of these Acts, retrospective to the coming into operation of the new Schemes.

V. - Act anent Sale of Knockbain Manse.

Edinburgh. 16th March 1982

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Knockbain Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present Manse at Knockbain, the proceeds of sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied to the purchase or erection of a more suitable Manse, any income accruing to be added to the capital until required for the purpose specified. The sale is to be subject to any necessary consent from the Superior and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

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ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

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

MAY MCMLXXXIII. (1983)

CLASS I - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT
NONE

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

I. - Act anent International Conference of Reformed Churches.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1983.

The General Assembly direct that the Free Church of Scotland shall take up membership of the International Conference of Reformed Churches without prejudice to their relations with bodies which are faithful to the Confessional Standards stated in the Basis. They would anticipate that the Conference itself will be open to amalgamation with any bodies or organisations the aims and practices of which are not in conflict with the stated basis.

The General Assembly welcome the prospect of the next meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches being held in Edinburgh in September 1985 (D.V.) and agree to act as Calling Church.

The General Assembly confirm the appointment of Rev. J. N. Macleod as the representative of the Free Church of Scotland on the Provisional Committee of the International Conference.

II. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1983.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly this 24th day of May 19183 respectfully offer Your Majesty this renewed expression of our wholehearted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to God that Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip were

sustained through this past year of very great stress especially during the time of hostilities in the Falklands, when Your Majesty and His Royal Highness had to bear the great burden of daily anxiety for the armed forces of the Crown and the added burden of parental concern for the safety of His Royal Highness Prince Andrew. Especially do we thank God for the many proofs of His divine favour to our nation during the campaign. We bless God who fortified the hearts of our brave armed forces to overcome such appalling conditions and gain such a victory as to excite the admiration of the world. We grieve along with Your Majesty over the loss of life and the cruel injuries suffered by so many of our troops as the price paid for resisting aggression and upholding the cause of freedom.

We Your loyal subjects have rejoiced with Your Majesty and the whole Royal House that God has blessed their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales with the gift of a son, His Royal Highness Prince William.

We are profoundly grateful for the unswerving devotion of Your Majesty and the other members of the Royal House to the fostering of the good of Your subjects throughout the Commonwealth. Its cohesion owes not a little to Your Majesty's frequent journeyings, along with other members of the Royal House, to the various parts and peoples of the Commonwealth and to other nations of the world.

Your Majesty's recent visit of the Caribbean and afterwards of the Western Coast of South America, the United States and Canada evinced that we as a nation are singularly blessed in our constitutional Monarchy of which you are the Honoured Head and Representative.

The recent visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Australia and New Zealand was just recognition by the Crown of the loyalty ever shown by those countries of the Commonwealth to our nation and Throne especially in times of crisis.

The arduous journeys recently undertaken by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne to Africa and Asia in the interests of the "Save the Children" work have done much to forward this noble humanitarian campaign and to focus the world's attention on this grievous problem.

As we convene in General Assembly we are mindful that Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip are visiting Sweden and we faithfully pray that God shall keep in safety the Person of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness and prosper you abundantly in all your affairs of State.

We are grateful that your Majesty continues to uphold the sanctity of truth in keeping sacred vows solemnly undertaken and by example inculcating upon Your subjects the propriety of a wholesome family life at a time when those virtues are daily eroded by a normless and Godless permissiveness.

We Your Majesty's most loyal subjects are deeply conscious that the vast moral social and economic problems that confront our nation at this time weigh heavily upon Your Majesty and the other members of the Royal House and that there is need that unceasing prayer be made to God on Your Majesty's behalf for wisdom and strength adequate to the task of reigning over us in these difficult times.

Above all we pray that the favour of God which is better than life, shall ever rest upon Your Majesty's Person and upon every member of the Royal House to the end that our Royal Family may enjoy the everlasting felicity of the redeemed people of God. So pray Your Majesty's most loyal subjects the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

III. - Act anent Sales of Property.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1983.

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacon's Court of Saltcoats Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse in Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats. They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational funds and that the transaction be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Strathy and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the church and the manse at Strathy either together or separately, subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior. They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to Congregational funds and that the transaction be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

3. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Fearn Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church in Fearn which is presently in disuse and direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational purposes, the transaction to be carried through by the Church's Law Agent.

IV. - Act anent Release of Congregational Money.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Greenock Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the withdrawal of a sum not exceeding £4,500 from funds held for behoof of the congregation, to be applied to the renovation of congregational property. They further direct that interest accruing on the remaining capital be made available, upon request by the Deacons' Court, for congregational purposes.

V. - Act anent Re-application of Congregational Money

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 24th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Congregation of Watten and Bower and grant its crave. They revise Act V, 1981 and direct that the interest on the proceeds of the sale of the Watten Manse and grounds be made available to the Congregation for General

Purposes.

VI. - Act anent Union of Kirk Sessions and Deacons' Courts of Saltcoats and Kilwinning. (Amending Act XVI 1981.)

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 24th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Saltcoats and Kilwinning congregation and grant its crave. They ordain that the Act of Consolidation (Act XVI, 1981) be altered to read, "One Kirk Session, and One Deacons' Court".

VII. - Act anent Union of Kirk Sessions of Strathy and Halladale.

(Amending Act XXXII, 1975.)

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 24th. May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Strathy and Halladale and grant its crave. They revise the Act of consolidation (Act XXVII, 1975) to the extent that they approve the union of the Kirk Session of Halladale and the Kirk Session of Strathy.

VIII. - Act anent Revision of Presbytery and Synod Boundaries

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1983.

(a) The General Assembly thank the Committee for their work in connection with the revision of Presbytery and Synod Boundaries.

(b) The General Assembly approve the principle of a minimum of (i) six settled charges per Presbytery and (ii) three Presbyteries per Synod, and enact the following scheme in its entirety:

A. Presbyteries:

(1) No change : Glasgow, Lewis, Lochcarron, Skye & Uist
Adjustment : Fort Augustus etc. to be added to Presbytery of Inverness.

(2) Amalgamation:

(i) Edinburgh and Perth to be known as Presbytery of Edinburgh & Perth with seat in Edinburgh and proviso that a minimum of one quarter of ordinary meetings in each year be held within the bounds of the former Presbytery of Perth.

(ii) Inveraray and Lochaber & Lorn (less Fort Augustus etc.) to be known as Presbytery of Argyll & Lochaber with seat in Oban and proviso that a minimum of one quarter of ordinary meetings in each year be held within the bounds of the former Presbytery of Inveraray.

(iii) Dingwall & Chanonry and Tain to be known as Presbytery of Ross with seat in

Dingwall and proviso that a minimum of one third of ordinary meetings be held within the bounds of the former Presbytery of Tain.

(iv) Caithness and Dornoch to be known as Presbytery of Caithness & Sutherland with seat in Brora.

B. Synods:

(1) Amalgamation:

(1) Synod of Moray & Ross and Northern Synod to be known as Northern Synod and to include Presbyteries of Caithness & Sutherland, Inverness, Ross.

(2) Adjustment:

(i) Argyll & Southern Synod to be known as Southern Synod and to include Presbyteries of Argyll & Lochaber, Edinburgh & Perth, Glasgow.

(ii) Synod of Glenelg to be known as Western Synod and to include Presbyteries of Lewis, Lochcarron, Skye & List.

(c) The General Assembly ordain that the first meetings of all Presbyteries and Synods affected by the foregoing scheme shall be held according to the following schedule and the Moderators named shall be responsible for convening the respective courts:

(1) Presbyteries:

Argyll & Lochaber: Tuesday 6th September 1983 at 7 o'clock in Free High Church, Oban; Moderator: Rev. W. K. Stone, Kilmallie.

Caithness & Sutherland: Tuesday 6th September 1983 at 7 o'clock in Free Church, Brora; Moderator : Rev. K.W. R. Cameron, Thurso.

Edinburgh & Perth : Tuesday 6th September 1983 at 7 o'clock in Presbytery Hall, Edinburgh: Moderator Rev. Principal C. Graham.

Ross: Monday 5th September 1983 at 7 o'clock in Free Church, Dingwall; Moderator: Rev John MacKenzie, Kiltearn.

(2) Synods:

Northern Synod : Tuesday 27th March 1984 at 2 o'clock in Free Church, Tain; Moderator: Rev. H. M. Ferrier, Inverness.

Southern Synod : will follow the same programme as set out for Argyll & Southern Synod.

Western Synod : will follow the same programme as set out for Synod of Glenelg.

(d) The General Assembly ordain that all new courts shall inherit and discharge all benefits

and burdens which may have pertained to former courts now within their bounds, according to existing regulations.

(e) The General Assembly continue the remainder of the remit.

IX. - Act anent Widows' and Orphans' Fund (Amending Act V, 1966.)

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly repeal Act V 1966 except insofar as it gives authority for the payment of an annual sum to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund for the benefit of Free Church widows in need.

X. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

2. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £5,300 as from 1st January 1983 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They further approve the aim of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend as from 1st October 1983 provided that such an increase can be borne by the church's treasury.

3. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

XI. - Act anent London Supplement (Amending Act XXIII, 1977.)

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly approve the freezing of the supplement to the stipend of the London minister at £2,650 until such time as it is the equivalent of 20% of Stipend.

XII. - Act anent Congregations settled in terms of Act XIII, 1976.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th, May 1983.

In view of the fact that the repeal of Act XIII 1976 left the Sustentation and Supply Committee without specific guidance regarding the terms on which the congregations involved might be retained on the E.D.P., the General Assembly authorise their retention on the Platform for a further six years, or an earlier vacancy, provided they contribute a minimum of half the Equal Dividend annually. From May 1989, or early vacancy they will be treated in the same way as congregations considered on the basis of Act XIII 1978, by which time they must contribute the full amount of the Equal Dividend for retention on the Platform.

XIII. - Act amending Act XIII, 1978.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly amend Act XIII 1978 inserting in the preamble after the clause “upon becoming vacant” the words; “or being for whatever reason required to submit a new schedule”.

And further add a new paragraph (number 5).

(5) When a congregation listed in Group I or Group II at the time of the approval of their Sustentation Fund Schedule fails to remit to central funds an amount equal to the Equal Dividend then current, the Sustentation Fund Committee shall draw this fact to the attention of the congregation. If the shortfall continues for three years the Committee shall require the congregation to submit a fresh schedule to be dealt with on the same terms and conditions as Group III congregations.

The amended Act now reads as follows:

The General Assembly ordain that in future congregations in Groups III and IV, upon becoming vacant, or being for whatever reason required to submit a new Schedule, shall not be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform except upon the following considerations and terms :-

(1) The congregation shall promise to send to central funds an amount in total equal to the Equal Dividend current at the time of the submission of its schedule to the Sustentation Fund Committee.

(2) A fresh schedule shall be submitted triennially and the Sustentation Fund Committee shall have no authority to continue the congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform unless it promises a total contribution to central funds which shall at least equal the amount of the Equal Dividend current at the time of consideration of the fresh schedule.

(3) When a congregation hitherto on the Equal Dividend Platform on the above terms fails to qualify for retention on the basis of its fresh schedule the Committee shall report the case to the General Assembly, and unless the Assembly are satisfied that circumstances meriting special consideration exist, the Committee shall authorise that the minister be paid a stipend equal to the total contribution of his congregation to Central Funds from the beginning of June following upon the meetings of the General Assembly.

(4) Notwithstanding the above, the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly that in special circumstances congregations be admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform on conditions to be submitted by the Committee to the Assembly. These special circumstances shall have regard to:

(a) The geographical position of the congregation; and

(b)The potential for growth perceived to exist.

Each such case so passed by the Assembly shall be reviewed triennially.

(5) When a congregation listed in Group I or Group II at the time of the approval of their Sustentation Fund Schedule fails to remit to central funds an amount equal to the Equal Dividend then current, the Sustentation Fund Committee shall draw this fact to the attention of the congregation. If the shortfall continues for three years the Committee shall require the congregation to submit a fresh schedule to be dealt with on the same terms and conditions as Group III congregations.

The General Assembly repeal Act XIII Class 2 1976.

The General Assembly re-enact as follows: -

“Where the main church buildings of two vacant congregations or a vacant congregation and a settled charge, one or both of these congregations being in Groups III and IV, are not more than 15 miles apart, the Presbytery shall be required to take all possible steps to bring about a linkage”.

XIV. - Act anent Period of Validity of Sustentation Fund Schedules.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly enact that in future the validity of a Sustentation Fund Schedule be limited to two years from the date on which it is passed by the Sustentation Committee.

XV. - Act anent Ministers Expenses (Amending Act XII, 1978.)

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly amend Act XII 1978 inserting after paragraph one; three new paragraphs as follows:-

(2) In the case of a charge where a car is used for travel between different centres of worship for pastoral duties, the Deacons' Court(s) should take particular care to ensure that the actual expenditure is ascertained and reimbursed, insofar as it is not met by Home Mission Grants.

(3) In all congregations the agreement regarding reimbursement of ministers' expenses should be reviewed annually, and an attempt should be made to identify the actual out-of-pocket expenditure so that as far as possible pastoral expenses are not met from the personal income of ministers.

(4) In the case of a consolidated charge with more than one Deacons' Court or Finance Committee, before a settlement of a minister the interim-moderator should arrange for

different courts to reach agreement about ministers' expenses and the agreement should be minuted in all the relevant minute books.

Present paragraphs (2); (3); (4) to be renumbered (5); (6); (7).

The amended Act now reads as follows:

(1) The General Assembly ordain that legitimate expenses shall be payable to ministers by their congregations in respect of the following items: Rates and Taxes on Manses; Telephone; Communion expenses; Car and/or Travelling Expenses; a fair proportion of heating and lighting of manse; such expenses shall not be regarded as supplement.

(2) In the case of a charge where a car is used for travel between different centres of worship for pastoral duties, the Deacons Courts(s) should take particular care to ensure that the actual expenditure is ascertained and reimbursed, insofar as it is not met by Home Mission Grants.

(3) In all congregations the agreement regarding reimbursement of ministers' expenses should be reviewed annually, and an attempt should be made to identify the actual out-of-pocket expenditure so that as far as possible pastoral expenses are not met from the personal income of ministers.

(4) In the case of a consolidated charge with more than one Deacons' Court or Finance Committee, before a settlement of a minister the interim-moderator should arrange for different courts to reach agreement about ministers' expenses and the agreement should be minuted in all the relevant minute books.

(5) Cash supplements in addition to payment of listed expenses shall only be allowable by congregations in Group I and on the basis of a minimum of one pound to central funds for each pound of supplement: but in no case shall cash supplements exceeding 50 per cent. of the Equal Dividend be allowed.

(6) In the case of a vacant Congregation, the Interim-Moderator shall have refunded to him by the Congregation, all travelling and other expenses incurred by him in discharging such duties on behalf of the Congregation as would normally fall to be undertaken by the minister if the charge were settled.

(7) The General Assembly repeal Act III (Class 2) 1961 and Act III (Class 2) 1966.

XVI. - Act anent Quinquennial Visitation (Amending Act XXIX, 1978.)

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly amend Act XXIX 1978 inserting after paragraph (5) the following paragraph :-

(6) The efforts made by Deacons' Courts to reimburse out-of pocket expenses to their ministers in terms of Act XII 1978, particularly in the case of Consolidated Charges where a

car is used.

The amended Act now reads as follows :

The General Assembly ordain that Presbyteries shall resume the practice of quinquennial visitation of all charges within their bounds as from May, 1979. So that this may be accomplished in an orderly fashion Presbyteries shall prepare a five-year programme which will be submitted to their Provincial Synods in April 1979 and approved by them. Annually thereafter, Presbyteries shall report on their carrying out of the programme approved and a note of this shall be made in the Synod's minutes and be scrutinised by the Assembly's examining committee and by them reported to the Assembly.

Besides acquainting themselves with the data available in Statistical and Triennial Returns, Presbyteries shall show interest in the following and such other topics as they shall deem proper without adopting an inquisitorial attitude.

- (1) The general spiritual health of congregations, with reference to the current of Church attendance, interest in prayer meetings and the vitality of family religion.
- (2) The diligence of ministers and office-bearers in the oversight of their congregations - the frequency of visitation - specific arrangements for contact with the housebound: Contact with schools hospitals or eventide homes in the community.
- (3) The specific endeavours of congregations to reach out to those not directly interested in public services.
- (4) The condition of congregational properties and the provision of useful aids for the interest and comfort of young and old.
- (5) The efforts being made to phase-out Finance Committees in favour of Deacons' Courts in accordance with Assembly legislation.
- (6) The efforts made by Deacons' Courts to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses to their ministers in terms of Act XII 1978, particularly in the case of Consolidated Charges where a car is used.

(Note: Act XII 1978, as now amended, is incorporated in Act XV, 1983).

XVII. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Shettleston and Glenelg

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May, 1983.

The General Assembly approve that the following congregations be placed on Special Arrangements on the conditions hereby specified:

- (a) Shettleston for one year on condition that:

- (1) they remit not less than £3,000 to central funds; and
- (2) that the Presbytery of Glasgow actively pursue the possibility of their consolidation with a neighbouring charge

(b) Glenelg for three years.

XVIII. - Act anent Renewal of Consolidation Arrangements for Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Kennoway.

(Act II of Commission of Assembly 1970-71 and Act XXVI, 1977.)

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983

The General Assembly approve of the continuation of the present arrangements for the consolidation of Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Kennoway.

XIX. - Act anent District Evangelists

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1983

The General Assembly, recognising the claims on the Church of its loyal people in congregations too small to call a minister under current legislation, and concerned about their need of more sustained pastoral attention than is presently available to them, resolve to authorise the appointment of District Evangelists in terms of the following Regulations:

(1) Those appointed will be Ministers or Probationers of the Free Church of Scotland. The appointment of a Probationer shall be conditioned upon his being ordained after due trials by the Presbytery within whose bounds the major part of his work shall be. The Committee on Sustentation and Supply shall request the Presbytery to arrange the ordination.

(2) A District Evangelist will be appointed by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to minister to vacant congregations within a limited area agreed in consultation with the Presbytery, or Presbyteries, within whose bounds the need for such a ministry has been identified.

(3) The appointment must have the approval of the Presbytery, or Presbyteries, of the bounds, after consultation with the Congregations to be served.

(4) The appointment will be, in the first instance, for a period of three years and will be open to renewal, if there has been satisfactory improvement in the numerical and financial strength of the congregations served.

(5) The District Evangelist will have a seat in the Presbytery, or one of the Presbyteries, within whose bounds he serves, and will be Moderator of Kirk Sessions in the congregations he serves within the bounds. Should the area to which he is appointed cross Presbytery boundaries, he may be authorised to act as Interim-moderator in the congregations he serves in another Presbytery.

(6) The Stipend shall be paid at the rate of Equal Dividend each year, and shall be borne by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply. The appointment will be declared to be equivalent to a charge for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and the Committee will be responsible for the payment of the appropriate premium.

(7) The Congregations served will pay a sum for travelling expenses, which will be fixed in agreement with the Committee on Sustentation and Supply and reviewed annually during the appointment.

(8) Before the appointment of a District Evangelist an agreement will be reached between the Committee, the Presbytery or Presbyteries, and the Congregations concerned regarding the provision of a suitable manse, and the sharing between the Congregations of such costs as rates, maintenance, re-decoration and repairs.

(9) The Congregations will make an annual contribution to Sustentation Fund, which shall be fixed for the first year of the appointment at a figure approved by the Sustentation and Supply Committee in the light of the Congregations' income in the preceding year, and the sum should show a satisfactory increase over each year of the appointment.

(10) The District Evangelist shall not undertake other duties, or make himself available for gospel work elsewhere, which might be to the prejudice of the work to which he has been appointed, without consulting the Committee and the Presbytery, or Presbyteries of the bounds.

(11) The District Evangelist shall report, in writing, regularly to the Presbytery, or Presbyteries, of the bounds, and annually in March to the Committee, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial state of the Congregations serviced.

(12) During the three years of his initial appointment, a District Evangelist will not be eligible for a Call to another Charge. Thereafter, he may be re-appointed for further periods of three years, during which he shall be eligible for a Call to another Charge. Alternatively, he shall be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge and be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of the expiry of his appointment, or until his induction to another Charge, whichever is sooner.

XX. - Act anent Consolidation of Fort Augustus and Glenurquhart.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston and grant its crave. They consolidate the Congregation with the Congregation of Glenurquhart, with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court, the charge to be known as the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus, and be within the bounds of the Presbytery of Inverness.

XXI. - Act anent Appointment of Assessors to Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They appoint Rev. D.S. MacKenzie, Senior Minister of Maryburgh a General Assessors to the Presbytery of Caithness.

XXII. - Act anent Appointment of Assessor to Presbytery of Caithness and Sutherland.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They appoint Rev. D. S. Mackenzie, Senior Minister of Maryburgh, a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Caithness and Sutherland from its inception.

XXIII. - Act anent Appointment of Assessor to Presbytery of Inveraray.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They re-appoint Rev. D. Ferguson a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Inveraray, and to the Presbytery of Argyll and Locheaber from the date of its institution.

XXIV.- Act anent Responsibility for Appointment of Representative to Scottish Joint Committee on Religious Education.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly recognising that the appointment of a representative to the Scottish Joint Committee on religious Education is more appropriate to the remit of the Committee on Education than to that of the Welfare of Youth Committee transfer the responsibility for making the said appointment from the latter Committee to the former.

XXV. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1983.

The General Assembly re-appoint as a Trustee Rev. Principal-Emeritus W.J. Cameron, M.A., B.D.

XXVI. - Act anent Constitution of Lennoxton and Smithton as Development Charges.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1983.

In accordance with the request of the Committee, and in terms of Act XXII 1975 the General Assembly confers the status of Development Charge upon the work at Lennoxton within the bounds of the Presbytery of Glasgow and at Smithton within the bounds of the Presbytery of Inverness. The Committee is instructed to secure suitable ministerial settlements for those Charges as soon as the resources available to them may permit.

**XXVII. - Act anent Appointment of Moderator to Public Questions, Religion and
Morals Committee.**
(No 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th. May 1983

The General Assembly enact that the Moderator of the General Assembly shall be a supernumerary member of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee from the close of the General Assembly over which he presided, until the close of the next General Assembly.

**XXVIII. - Act anent Agreement for Co-operation with Evangelical Presbyterian Church
of Peru**
(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 26th May 1983.

The General Assembly approve the Agreement for co-operation with the Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana del Peru set forth in Appendix A to the Board's Report.

APPENDIX A.

AGREEMENT FOR CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MISSIONS BOARD
OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF PERU

In its Seventh General Assembly, which took place in Lima from the 12th to the 17th of February 1977, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, after full discussion, agreed to draw up an agreement for co-operation with the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland. In the 10th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, which took place in Suyobamba, Amazonas in January of 1982, it was agreed that the Pastoral Commission prepare the way for the renewal of the Agreement. In the Third Ordinary Session of this Commission, along with the Delegation of the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland, the following text was elaborated :-

1. Basis of the Agreement.

The Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland, having worked in Peru for more than sixty years, formalized their commitment to co-operate with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru in February 1977.

The co-operation offered by the Free Church of Scotland consists in:

- (a) The sending of personnel, that is to say, two kinds of missionaries: those ordained as pastors and those who come to fulfill other specific tasks; and
- (b) Financial aid, which has been an important factor in the development of our church.

The original agreement having run out, it is renewed for a further period of five years.

2. Ordained Missionaries

2.1 They are seconded as ministers without ceasing to be ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. The place and nature of their service will be decided through consultation between the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland and the Pastoral Commission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru. If it should be necessary either of the two bodies may suggest changes.

2.2 The missionary, though ultimately responsible to the Free Church of Scotland, is in the first instance responsible to the Presbytery to which he is seconded and shall give due respect to their counsels and admonitions. If a situation should arise where the Presbytery deem that there is a prima facie charge of heresy or misconduct against the missionary they may ask the Pastoral Commission to relieve him of his duties and to report the whole matter to the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland.

2.3 The Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland is responsible for maintaining its missionaries and covering the costs involved in their ministeries; discounting from their income the salary agreed for the pastors of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, which sum is to be provided by the local congregation which the missionary serves as pastor. This measure is to be implemented as soon as possible through consultation between the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland and the Pastoral and Finance Commissions of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru.

2.4 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru will be informed of the policy of the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland with reference to the period of leave of their missionaries - at the present time for nine months at the end of four years.

2.5 It is taken for granted that unless the missionary does not want to return, or the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru does not want to receive him, or the Foreign Missions Board does not think it is convenient, the missionary will carry out his future period of service according to the present agreement in consultation with the Pastoral Commission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland; his work and his place of work will be established before his home leave.

2.6 Ministers sent by the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland to fulfill specific tasks outwith the IEPP (e.g. in the Colegio San Andres) ought to become members of one of the congregations of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and may participate

in the work of its courts at the invitation of this church.

2.7 The ordination vows of the missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland will be respected by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and the missionaries will respect the Statutes and Rules of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru.

3. Unordained Missionaries

3.1 They are sent by the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland for specific tasks.

3.2 These tasks may be related to: -

(a) The institutions organised and administered by the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland, and/or

(b) Work under the direction of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru.

3.3 They ought to be members of a congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and co-operate fully with its congregations.

3.4 Unordained missionaries who work under the direction of the Free Church of Scotland may request the advice of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru when they think it is convenient, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru may also provide suggestions or advice when they think it prudent.

4. Correspondence

All official correspondence, in the future, should be sent to the President of the Board of Directors in order to be distributed to the relevant commissions. The Pastoral Commission continues to be responsible for co-ordination and relations with the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland.

XXIX. - Act anent Agreement for Co-operation with Free Church in Southern Africa.

(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1983.

The General Assembly approve the Agreement for co-operation with the Free Church in Southern Africa set forth in Appendix B to the Board's Report, and they authorise the Secretary of the Board to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Free Church of Scotland.

APPENDIX B.

AGREEMENT REGARDING CONTINUED CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE FREE CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Whereas by formal agreement approved by the General Assembly of the Free Church of

Scotland in May 1976 and ratified by the Free Church in Southern Africa on 24th July 1976, the Free Church in Southern Africa was recognised as a Church in Association with the Free Church of Scotland accepting the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland “in loco Synodi “ and the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland as the final court ecclesiastical:

And whereas the Free Church in Southern Africa has now developed to the point where the terms of association may be properly relaxed and that Church set up its own Superior Courts to manage its own government and discipline without subjection to decisions of the Free Church of Scotland:

Wherefore:

The agreement entered into as specified above is hereby terminated and the relations between the two Churches shall continue as follows;

1. Both Churches shall continue to own the Westminster Confession of Faith as their principal standard in subordination to the Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.
2. The Free Church of Scotland shall continue to send missionaries to labour within the bounds of the Free Church in Southern Africa. The form and sphere of service shall be agreed between the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland and the General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa or its Commission.
3. These missionaries, whilst remaining missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland, shall be seconded to the Free Church in Southern Africa, and shall be subject to the authority of the local Presbytery, always in their own interest with right of access to the Foreign Missions Board.
4. If a situation should arise where the Presbytery deem that there is a prima facie charge of heresy or misconduct, in terms of the agreed Standards, against the missionary they may ask the General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa or its Commission to relieve him of his duties and shall report the whole matter to the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland.
5. The accommodation and maintenance of missionaries seconded by the Free Church of Scotland shall be the responsibility of the Free Church of Scotland. The Free Church of Scotland also undertakes so far as its resources allow, to aid the Central Fund of the Free Church in Southern Africa as shall seem necessary and expedient.
6. The Free Church in Southern Africa will be informed of the policy of the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland with reference to the period of leave of their missionaries - at the present time for nine months at the end of four years.
7. It is taken for granted that unless the missionary does not want to return, or the Free Church in Southern Africa does not want to receive him, or the Foreign Missions Board does not think it is convenient, the missionary will carry out his future period of service according

to the present agreement in consultation with the General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa or its Commission and the Foreign Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland; his work and his place of work will be established before his home-leave.

8. While the above paragraphs envisage personnel sent for long-term service with the Free Church in Southern Africa, the Free Church of Scotland will encourage others with various skills to go as volunteers to help in specific areas in response to requests from the African Church.

9. The General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland will grant a seat in the General Assembly, with deliberative but not voting rights, to any duly certified elder or minister of the Free Church in Southern Africa who happens to be in Edinburgh at the time of the Assembly.

10. The General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa will grant a seat in the General Assembly, with deliberative but not voting rights, to any duly certified elder or minister of the Free Church of Scotland who happens to be in Africa at the time of the Assembly.

XXX. - Act anent Teaching of Ecclesiology and Missiology.

(No. 30 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1983.

The General Assembly authorise the transference of studies in Ecclesiology and Missiology the Professor of Church History and Church Principles over such a period as will best serve the interests of students whose studies have commenced with the existing syllabus.

XXXI. - Act anent Exit Examinations (Amending Act V 1979.)

(No. 31 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1983.

The General Assembly amend the regulations governing Exit Examinations, incorporated in Act V Class II 1979 (page 21 of Acts and Proceedings 1979) as follows :-

Paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) shall be deleted and replaced by the following:

(4) Exit Examinations shall be set by the Professor of the relevant disciplines.

(5) The Training of the Ministry Committee shall also appoint external examiners who shall have access to examination papers prior to the examination and who will independently mark the answers submitted and report to the committee.

(6) The Training of the Ministry Committee shall review the examination results in the light of the marks awarded.

XXXII. - Act anent appointment of Professor of Old Testament Language and

Literature.
(No. 32 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 27th May 1983.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. John L. MacKay, M.A., M.Litt., B.D., Minister at Rosskeen to be Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature in accordance with existing regulations. The General Assembly hereby release Mr Mackay from his present pastoral charge and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of Old Testament Language and Literature on a date not earlier than 1st July 1983, his relationship to the Congregation of Rosskeen to subsist until he be actually admitted to the charge aforesaid.

XXXIII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly
(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 27th May 1983

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. A. G. Ross named by the Moderator; To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges. for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXXIV. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 34 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1983.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 22nd May 1984 at 9.30 o'clock forenoon.

ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

I. - Act anent Consolidation of Lairg and Rosehall.

Edinburgh, 6th October 1982.

The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Dornoch and Grant its crave. They consolidate the Congregations of Lairg and Rosehall into one charge with one Kirk Session and one Finance Committee.

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

MAY MCMLXXXIV (1984)

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(No. 1 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

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

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly this 22nd day of May 1984, mindful of the the Christian duty to respect and pray for monarchs and all in authority offer to Your Majesty this renewed expression of our loyal duty.

We are glad that the allegiance to the throne to which by the Word of God we are committed, is made, not a burden but a delight by the exemplary dedication to duty and Christian piety shown by Your Majesty. Being convinced that the stability of our society is bound up with a general recognition of the fear of God, we thank God and take courage as we observe Your Majesty's due acknowledgement of the over-arching authority of Almighty God.

That, burdened by the unremitting cares of state, Your Majesty takes time to visit your loyal subjects in many parts of the country, always wins our sincere admiration. We still remember the uplift brought to us by personal visits from Your Majesty as we are deeply appreciative of the annual courtesy visit paid to our General Assembly by Your Majesty's High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

We are not unmindful that the long list of engagements undertaken in these islands by Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and of other members of the Royal Family does not curtail even more arduous visits to countries overseas. We pray that in all these travels to lands peaceful and distraught Your Majesty may be kept in the peace of God and may be an ambassador of His peace. We humbly offer our token of praise to Your Majesty for the courage displayed recently in persisting in Your Majesty's visit to the Middle East. We are specially moved to admiration by the fine example of care and compassion shown by her Royal Highness the Princess Anne on behalf of the Save the Children Fund.

The clouds that darken our own country's skies, the strife in Northern Ireland, industrial unrest, and large scale unemployment will be causes of keen distress to Your Majesty as to this General Assembly. We pray that the spirit of wisdom and reconciliation may be given to Your Majesty's ministers of state, all leaders of industry, and to social and political counsellors that happiness and contentment may be a feature of Your Majesty's reign.

We pray that Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh and all members of the Royal Family may be upheld in health and strength and continue in the fear of God by whom kings reign and princes decree justice. We think with special affection and tenderness of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

II. - Act anent Amendment of Standing Orders

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

The General Assembly amend Standing Orders as follows, the amendments to take effect at this Assembly.

(a) Standing Order V.3(4) is amended by the deletion of the last sentence.

(b) There shall be added to section V of Standing Orders as V 3(7) the following "It shall be competent for commissioners to give notice in writing of questions to be put to the person

presenting a Report to the General Assembly — this without prejudice to the right to add supplementary questions or the right of members generally to propose questions from the floor”.

(c) The following sentence shall be added to Standing Order V4(4) “it shall be competent for the person who presents a Committee’s Report to answer questions relating to the Report and to reply to the discussion, even if he be not a member of Assembly.

III. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984.

The General Assembly regret to note the resignation of Mr. Angus Boyd as a General Trustee and record their thanks to him for the services given over several years.

The General Assembly appoint Mr. Alexander J.M Fraser, Kyle, Rev. John N. Macleod, Point and Mr. William S. Wyllie, Stornoway, as General Trustees.

IV. - Act anent Sales of Property

(No 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Fortrose. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Fortrose Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the Congregation to sell the ground, surplus to their requirements, at a suitable distance to the west of the Church Hall, the proceeds of sale to be applied to the general funds of the Congregation, but the Assembly recommend that the Congregation consider the wisdom of selling the ground in such a way that they can maintain future control of its use.

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Coll and grant its crave. They authorise sale of the present Manse subject to (a) the retention by the Congregation, if they are so minded, of sufficient ground for the erection of a replacement Manse when the time is ripe and (b) such consent as may be necessary from the Superior. They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees (subject to the retention from the proceeds by the Congregation of £1,000 to be expended by the Congregation on repairs to the Church building), one-half of the income from the balance to be applied to Congregational funds and the remaining one-half to be accumulated with the capital. The transaction is to be carried through by the Church’s Law Agents.

3. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of North Knapdale and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of such portion of the Church ground at Tayvallich as is required, provided that the ground sold does not adversely affect the amenity or the security of the remainder, and provided that such consent as may be necessary is obtained from the Superior. The General Assembly further direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to Congregational purposes, the transaction to be carried through by the Church’s Law Agents.

**V. - Act anent Re-appointment of General Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and
Lochaber**

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

The General Assembly receive the petition and grant its crave, they re-appoint Rev. Donald Ferguson a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

VI. - Act anent Appointment of General Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they appoint Rev. Huite Sliep a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

**VII. - Act anent Name of church referred to in Federal Relations Act (Act I, Class I,
1952)**

(No.7 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly, noting the information given in the letter from the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, hereby declare that Church to be the Church to which the terms of Act I, Class I 1952, anent Federal Relations apply.

VIII. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of "The Instructor"

(No. of 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984.

The General Assembly receive with regret the resignation of Rev. M.J. Roberts, B.A.,B.D.,Dip.Ed., as Editor of the "Instructor" as from this Assembly and place on record their appreciation of his services over the past three years.

The General Assembly appoint Rev.R.C.Christie, MA.,B.D.,M.Th, Minister at Wick, Editor of the "Instructor".

IX. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of "Monthly Record"

(No.9. of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984.

The General Assembly re-appoint the Rev. Professor D. MacLeod, M.A., Editor of the "Monthly Record" and express their thanks to him for his work of the past seven years.

X. - Act anent Reconstitution of Working Party on Welfare of Youth Syllabus
(No.10 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

The General Assembly continue to approve the Committee's work in the formation of a new Welfare of Youth Syllabus and direct that the Working Party on the Syllabus be reconstituted in such a way as will best provide for continuity of this work with the following personnel: Convener and Vice-convener of the Welfare of Youth Committee, the Editor of the "Instructor", Principal W.J. Cameron, Professor D. Macleod, Rev. R. C. Christie and Dr. N.A.R MacKay and by co-option by the Welfare of Youth Committee of a maximum of three others. They appreciate the part that ministers, teachers and especially typists play in the production of Sabbath School lessons.

XI. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related of Salaries.
(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1984

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £6000 as from 1.10.83 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They further approve of the proposal that increases of stipend shall in future be made once a year to take affect from the 1st of January of each year, endeavouring to maintain stipends at 75% of N.A.W.W. The General Assembly approve of the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividends.

XII. - Act anent Equal Dividend Platform - Amending Act XIII, 1983
(No.12 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly amend Act XIII 1983 as follows:-

- (a) Inserting at the beginning of paragraph (2) the words, "After the settlement of a minister"
- (b) They also insert a new paragraph (5): "Before a presbytery gives its approval to a Schedule seeking 'Special considerations' in terms of paragraph (3) or (4) it shall carry out a visitation of the congregation and submit to the Committee, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the congregation."
- (c) Present paragraph (5) to be numbered paragraph (6).

The amended Act now reads as follows:-

The General Assembly ordain that in future congregations in Groups III and IV, upon becoming vacant, or being for whatever reason required to submit a new Schedule, shall not be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform except upon the following considerations and terms:-

(1) The congregation shall promise to send to central funds an amount in total equal to the Equal Dividend current at the time of the submission of its schedule to the Sustentation Fund Committee.

(2) After the settlement of a Minister a fresh schedule shall be submitted triennially and the Sustentation Fund Committee shall have no authority to continue the congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform unless it promises a total contribution to central funds which shall at least equal the amount of the Equal Dividend current at the time of consideration of the fresh schedule.

(3) When a congregation hitherto on the Equal Dividend Platform on the above terms fails to qualify for retention on the basis of its fresh schedule the Committee shall report the case to the General Assembly, and unless the Assembly are satisfied that circumstances meriting special consideration exist, the Committee shall authorise that the minister be paid a stipend equal to the total contribution of his congregation to Central Funds from the beginning of June following upon the meetings of the General Assembly.

(4) Notwithstanding the above, the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly that in special circumstances congregations be admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform on conditions to be submitted by the Committee to the Assembly. These special circumstances shall have regard to:-

(a) The geographical position of the congregation: and

(b) The potential for growth perceived to exist

Each such case so passed by the Assembly shall be reviewed triennially.

(5) Before a presbytery gives its approval to a Schedule seeking 'Special Consideration' in terms of paragraph (3) or (4) it shall carry out a visitation of the congregation and submit to the Committee, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the congregation.

(6) When a congregation listed in Group I or Group II at the time of the approval of its Sustentation Fund Schedule fails to remit to central funds an amount equal to the Equal Dividend then current, the Sustentation Fund Committee shall draw this fact to the attention of the congregation. If the shortfall continues for three years the Committee shall require the congregation to submit a fresh schedule to be dealt with on the same terms and conditions as Group III congregations.

The General Assembly repeal Act XIII Class 2 1976

The General Assembly re-enact as follows:-

“Where the main church buildings of two vacant congregations or a vacant congregation and a settled charge, one or both of these congregations being in Groups III and IV, are not more than 15 miles apart, the Presbytery shall be required to take all possible steps to bring about a

linkage”.

XIII. - Act anent Sustentation Fund Schedules - amending Act XIV, 1983

(No.13 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly amend Act XIV 1983 deleting the words, “The Validity of a Sustentation Fund Schedule” and insert in their place the words, “The entitlement of a vacant congregation to call a minister”, they further delete the word “it” and insert in its place the words, “its schedule”.

The amended Act now reads as follows:-

The General Assembly enact that in future the entitlement of a vacant congregation to call a minister be limited to two years from the date on which its Schedule is passed by the Sustentation Committee.

XIV. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Shettleston

(No.14 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly direct that the Congregation of Shettleston be continued for a further year on Special Arrangements, during which time the Presbytery shall continue to research the possibilities of alternative arrangements.

XV. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Aberfeldy and Pitlochry

(No.15 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly approve the continuence of the Congregation of Aberfeldy and Pitlochry on the Equal Dividend Platform for a further three years.

XVI. - Act anent Assistant Minister for Stornoway.

(No.16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly direct their Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to investigate the whole situation relevant to the appointment of ordained assistants and to propose legislation to next General Assembly: and as an interim measure applicable to the congregation of Stornoway enact as follows:

(1) Provided the congregation shall pay to central funds an amount not less than 2 1/2 times the Equal Dividend, it shall be competent for the minister and Kirk Session to request the Presbytery to appoint an assistant to the minister.

- (2) The Presbytery upon sustaining this request shall process it as though it were a Call and upon its acceptance make the requisite arrangements for the ordination/induction of the appointee to the assistantship and to a seat in the Presbytery:
- (3) The appointment shall be on a year to year basis:
- (4) The Courts of the Congregation shall be free to accord membership to the appointee:
- (5) The appointee shall be instructed by the minister who shall consult with the Kirk Session as regards the work to be undertaken by him:
- (6) The General Assembly waive the conditions of Act III 1851 and ordain that in this case the Assistant shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend from the Sustentation Fund:
- (7) The congregation shall provide accommodation, car expenses, and other expenses as listed by Acts of Assembly, these expenses to be not less than 10% of Equal Dividend.
- (8) The General Assembly declare that the ordained assistantship at Stornoway shall be recognised as a charge for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund Amending Order 1967, and the period of service shall count for pension purposes.
- (9) This Act shall continue in force until superseded by such Act as the Assembly may pass in the light of the recommendations to be proposed in line of proposal (a) above.

XVII. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund

(No.17 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr Iain D.Gill C.A.,A.T.I.I. as a Trustee of the Fund, as from 1st June 1984, for four years.

XVIII. - Act anent Constitution of Dunblane as a Development Charge.

(No.18 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984.

The General Assembly, in accordance with the request of the Committee, and in terms of Act XXII, 1975, confer the status of Development Charge upon the work at Dunblane, within the bounds of the Presbytery of Glasgow. The Committee is instructed to secure a suitable ministerial appointment to the Charge as and when their funds permit them so to do.

XIX. - Act anent Constitution of Drumchapel as an Outreach Charge

(No.19 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

In accordance with the recommendation from the Committee, the General Assembly confer the status of Outreach Charge upon the Congregation of Drumchapel under the provisions of Act XI 1979 and instruct the Committee to seek a suitable ministerial settlement when the resources available to them may permit.

XX. - Act anent Allocation of Funds to Church Extension

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly, recognising the vital importance of evangelistic effort to our future wellbeing as a Church, and as a nation; and recognising also that the present allocation from Central funds to the Church Extension Committee has proved inadequate for requirements, ordain that, from January next, the amount allocated shall not be less than 4.7% of the Church's full annual budget.

XXI. - Act anent Minister for Asian Outreach

(No.21 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1984

The General Assembly, recognising that the Asian Outreach is at the stage where it would benefit from the appointment of a minister to devote himself exclusively to the work approve the following proposals:

- (1) The Church Extension Committee acting through the Asian Outreach Committee shall seek the services of a minister who shall be appointed to this work as his full-time ministry.
- (2) The appointment shall be, in the first instance, for three years, renewable if the progress of the work so warrants.
- (3) The minister shall be inducted to the work by the Presbytery of Glasgow, in which he shall have a seat, and the appointment shall rank as a charge both for the purposes of the Widows' & Orphans' Fund and for the Presbytery's representation in the General Assembly.
- (4) Induction shall be as "colleague for Asian Outreach" of the minister at Duke Street such collegiate status conferring only rights of membership of the Kirk Session.
- (5) The minister shall report monthly to the Kirk Session on the progress of the work and to the Presbytery and Committee (through the Asian Outreach Committee) as often as they shall meet.
- (6) The minister's remuneration shall be at the rate of the Equal Dividend payable from central funds through the budgetary arrangements presently operating.
- (7) Provision of accommodation and payment of necessary expenses as of contribution to the Widows' & Orphans' Fund and National Insurance shall be made according to present budgetary arrangements.

XXII. - Act anent Reconstitution of Special Committee on Education

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1984

In view of the Committee's declared need for wider direct contact with the workings of the educational system and the schools, the General Assembly ordain that the representation of the Committee on Public Questions, Religion and Morals and of the Welfare of Youth Committee on the Special Committee on Education be limited to the Convener or Vice Convener in each case, and the General Assembly appoint the Rev. W. M. Mackay and Mr. Donald Mackay (elder, Stornoway) to fill the vacancies thus created.

XXIII. - Act amending Act V, 1979 and repealing various other Acts

(No.23 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1984

The General Assembly repeal Act V, Class II, 1979, Section IV, 3(e).

The General Assembly, in order to allow greater flexibility to students requiring to take elementary classes in Greek and Hebrew, repeal Acts XXIII, Class II, 1980 and XXVIII, Class II, 1982 and amend Act V, Class II, 1979, Section II, 5 to read as follows:-

“For the better instruction of students in Hebrew and Greek, elementary classes in these subjects shall be provided in the first or second year of the Free Church College course. All students taking two elementary classes will take the four-year course.

“All students entering on a three year College course are required to pass at least one of the Language Entrance Examinations before entering College. Students who pass only one of the Language Entrance Examinations will be required to take the Elementary Class in the other Language in the first year of the College Course.

“The core curriculum of the College shall be Junior and Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Junior and Senior Greek and New Testament Literature, Junior and Senior Systematic Theology, Junior and Senior Church History, Apologetics and Pastoral Theology.

“The Senatus shall arrange the distribution of these subjects in both three and four-year courses.”

The General Assembly repeal Act V, Class II, 1979, Section I(4).

The General Assembly repeal the words in Act V, Class II, 1979, Section II, “...Students shall be required to give pulpit supply for a minimum of ten week-ends during each of the first two sessions.”

The General Assembly approve the new arrangements for the Exit Examinations in Church History and Pastoral Theology and they add to Act V, Class II, 1979, Section 11, 7 (3), after

the words “are based on the work of the Senior Classes”, the words “except in the Department of Church History.”

XXIV. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly
(No.24 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1984.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor A. C. Boyd named by the Moderator:- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, where of eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that 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.

XXV. - Act appointing Next General Assembly
(No.25 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1984

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday 21 st May 1985 at 9.30 o'clock forenoon.

ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Mission House and House at Poolewe

Edinburgh 7th March 1984

The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Poolewe and Aultbea and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Mission House at Poolewe and its ground (formerly the Poolewe School) the proceeds to be held by the General Trustees until such time as they are required for the purchase or erection of a new Mission House. The Commission receive the further Petition from the Congregation and authorise the proposal of the Congregation to demolish the existing Manse and replace it with a new Manse within the same grounds. Any legal transaction is to be carried out by, or under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

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ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

1. Act anent Sales of Property

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

MAY MCMLXXXV (1985)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

I. - Interim Act anent Assembly Representation

(No. 1 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1985.

The General Assembly therefore Enact "ad interim" that the words "one-third" in Act 1, Class 1 1942 be changed to read "one-half" in respect of the General Assembly of 1986.

II. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1985

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 faithful subjects, The Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly on the 21st day of May 1985, respectfully assure Your Majesty of our deep and abiding loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

The admiration and affection which the Assembly and Church bear to Your Majesty's Person, and our consciousness of the strain imposed upon Your Majesty by the manifold duties of Your high office, find regular expression in our private and public prayers for Your Majesty and all Members of Your Royal House.

We give thanks to our Sovereign Lord, the God of all grace, for His continued care of You and other Members of the Royal Family in frequent and demanding journeys undertaken in the interests of understanding and co-operation between Nations, as we also give thanks for His goodness in granting Your Majesty the strength and rich grace with which you bear the many responsibilities of Your exalted station.

We are conscious of the honour to God and the blessing to men that flow from the fear of God that expresses itself in respect for His Name, His Work and His Day.

We give thanks for every demonstration of piety witnessed in Your Majesty's example, and we make it our fervent prayer that true piety may characterise the lives of all those who under You, lead the life of the Nation.

In days when our Nation is faced with a wide range of perplexing and inter-related problems, economic and social, and moral and spiritual we pray the God of grace so to revive His work that men will learn "to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with their God".

We make conscience of remembering before God, Your Majesty's Ministers of State as they exercise their own special responsibilities in dealing with national and international problems, that they might determine and act with wisdom and courage given from Him.

Convictions concerning the abiding authority of the Scriptures as the only rule to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy Him cause us to pray fervently and labour earnestly for the continued establishment of the ecclesiastical and civil life of the Nation upon the sole foundation of these Scriptures.

In this year when we remember past deliverances from war we consider that it becomes us as a Nation to join with our thanksgiving a spirit of repentance for our forgetfulness of the God to whom we owe our freedom. This year of celebration of deliverance renews the special affection which we bear to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, as we remember with thanksgiving the courageous and compassionate leadership given to the Nation in the dark years of war by His Majesty, the late, beloved King George VI and Her Majesty.

We pray that God's richest blessing may rest on Your Majesty's Person, on His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and on all other Members of the Royal Family.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened.

III. - Act anent Sales of Property
(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1985

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Alligin and Diabaig and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Mission House at Alligin, the proceeds to be invested by the General Trustees and the income to be made available to the congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of the Church and Manse at Glenmoriston subject to obtaining such consent as may be required from the Superior. Proceeds of the sales shall be dealt with as follows:

(a) the proceeds of the sale of the manse will be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation and the income paid to the congregation;

(b) the proceeds of the sale of the church will be made available as necessary to the congregation for the upkeep of their other properties; insofar as not required the proceeds will be invested for behoof of the congregation and the income paid to the congregation.

The transactions will be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

3. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Fort William and grant its crave. They authorise sale of the present manse and of the grounds in whole or in part as may be deemed most expedient for the acquisition by building or purchase of a more suitable residence. The proceeds of sale will be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for the erection or purchase of a new manse and any surplus capital will be invested and the interest paid to the congregation. The transaction will be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

4. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Kennoway and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and Hall at Kennoway, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation of Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Glenrothes and the interest along with that of money presently held by the Custodiers of Titles for behoof of the Kennoway congregation to be made available in equal amounts to the congregation of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie and Glenrothes for congregational purposes.

5. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Creich, Kincardine and Croick and grant its crave to the following extent. They authorise the sale of the Church at Kincardine and of the Hall at Spinningdale; subject to the Congregation obtaining the necessary waiver from the Superiors of both properties of the relevant prohibitions in the respective titles; the proceeds of the sales to be lodged with the General Trustees and drawn upon as required by the congregation for maintenance and improvements of the

congregation's other buildings. Such capital sums as are not so required will be invested and the proceeds paid to the congregational funds. The transactions are to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

6. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Assynt and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manses in Lochinver and in Stoer and direct that the proceeds of sale or sales be lodged with the General Trustees and invested for behoof of the congregation with interest accruing being added to capital: the capital with accrued interest shall be used for the acquisition of a suitable manse or, should one of the present manses be retained, for its renovation and upgrading to acceptable standards: such capital as is not so required will be retained and the interest paid to congregational funds. The transaction will be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

7. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Keiss and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Keiss and direct that the proceeds of sale be lodged with the General Trustees to be invested for behoof of the congregation: the congregation may draw upon one quarter of the capital realised for the maintenance and/or improvement of their Church building: the interest accruing shall be paid to congregational Funds: and the transaction will be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

IV. - Act anent General Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber
(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1985

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave, they re-appoint Rev. Huite Sliop a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

V. - Act anent Assistant Minister for Stornoway - extending Act XVI, 1984
(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985

The General Assembly extend the operation of Act XVI, 1984 for a further year.

VI. - Act anent Pension Scheme - amending Act IV of Commission of Assembly, March 1982
(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1985

7. The General Assembly authorise an addition to the Pension Scheme approved by the Commission of Assembly on 16th March 1982 as follows:

In the Pension Scheme for Ministers, etc. add paragraph 16:

16. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

(A) Although a person is not required to contribute towards the cost of providing the normal

benefits set out in the foregoing Regulations he may opt to pay regular contributions under these Regulations at such a rate as may be agreed by the Church but not exceeding 15% of his pensionable salary for the purpose of the provision of additional benefits being provided under these Regulations in respect of him subject to the maximum stated in Regulation 3 relating to limitation of benefits.

(B) The amount of contributions paid by the Church in respect of a person is not affected by the Voluntary Contributions paid by that person.

(C) No Voluntary Contributions will be payable on or after the person's minimum retiring age unless specially authorised in writing by the Church.

(D) In all circumstances Voluntary Contributions must be paid by the person on a uniform basis for a period of not less than five years or until retirement, if earlier. However the Church may consent to a person's Voluntary Contributions being reduced or suspended in circumstances of hardship or during temporary absence from active employment. In such event, the person's benefits relating to such Voluntary Contributions will be appropriately reduced by amounts determined by the Church. In addition the Church may reduce or suspend such Voluntary Contributions to ensure that the additional benefits secured when aggregated with the normal benefits do not exceed the limits set out in Regulation 3.

(E) Except as hereinafter provided, a person will be entitled on retirement to the benefits relating to his Voluntary Contributions.

(F) In the event of a person leaving the service of the Church who has paid Voluntary Contributions as aforesaid

(a) (i) the person may elect to take a return in respect of such Voluntary Contributions if on the date of leaving he has not attained 26 years of age or has completed less than five years' qualifying service (as defined in Regulation 2).

(ii) any return in respect of a person's Voluntary Contributions will be subject to a deduction of the amount of Income Tax for which the Church is accountable in respect of such refund, and

(iii) an election by a person to take a refund in respect of his Voluntary Contributions will automatically extinguish his entitlement to all other benefits in respect of the period to which the refund relates.

(b) a person may not elect a return in respect of such Voluntary Contributions if on the date of leaving he has both attained 26 years of age and completed five years' qualifying service as defined in Regulation 2).

Where a person can but does not elect a return in respect of his Voluntary Contributions or the provisions of (b) above apply in respect of him he will remain entitled under these Regulations to the deferred benefits relating to such Voluntary Contributions.

(c) Irrespective of his length of service the person may elect to transfer the value of his contributions to any scheme or arrangement of his new employer approved by the Board of Inland Revenue.

(G) (i) If a person dies whilst in the service of the Church prior to his retirement, a refund in respect of his Voluntary Contributions will be paid in terms of Regulation 8.

(ii) If a person dies subsequent to leaving the service of the Church but prior to his minimum retiring age or the date of his receipt of any benefit from these Regulations, if earlier, a refund in respect of his Voluntary Contributions (or such part as remains subject to these Regulations at the date of his death) will be paid to his personal representatives.

In the Pension Scheme for Office, etc. Staff add paragraph 15:

15. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

(A) Although a person is not required to contribute towards the cost of providing the normal benefits set out in the foregoing Regulations he may opt to pay regular contributions under these Regulations at such a rate as may be agreed by the Church but not exceeding 15% of his pensionable salary for the purpose of the provision of additional benefits being provided under these Regulations in respect of him subject to the maximum stated in Regulation 4 relating to limitation of benefits.

(B) The amount of contributions paid by the Church in respect of a person is not affected by the Voluntary Contributions paid by that person.

(C) No Voluntary Contributions will be payable on or after the person's Retiring Age unless specially authorised in writing by the Church.

(D) In all circumstances Voluntary Contributions must be paid by the person on a uniform basis for a period of not less than five years or until retirement, if earlier. However the Church may consent to a person's Voluntary Contributions being reduced or suspended in circumstances of hardship or during temporary absence from active employment. In such event, the person's benefits relating to such Voluntary Contributions will be appropriately reduced by amounts determined by the Church. In addition the Church may reduce or suspend such Voluntary Contributions to ensure that the additional benefits secured when aggregated with the normal benefits to not exceed the limits set out in Regulation 4.

(E) Except as hereinafter provided, a person will be entitled on retirement to the benefits relating to his Voluntary Contributions.

(F) In the event of a person leaving the service of the Church who has paid Voluntary Contributions as aforesaid

(a) (i) the person may elect to take a return in respect of such Voluntary Contributions if on the date of leaving he has not attained 26 years of age or has completed less than five years' qualifying service (as defined in Regulation 2).

(ii) any return in respect of a person's Voluntary Contributions will be subject to a deduction of the amount of Income Tax for which the Church is accountable in respect of such refund, and

(iii) an election by a person to take a refund in respect of his Voluntary Contributions will automatically extinguish his entitlement to all other benefits in respect of the period to which the refund relates.

(b) a person may not elect a return in respect of such Voluntary Contributions if on the date of leaving he has both attained 26 years of age and completed five years' qualifying service as defined in Regulation 2). Where a person can but does not elect a return in respect of his Voluntary Contributions or the provisions of (b) above apply in respect of him he will remain entitled under these Regulations to the deferred benefits relating to such Voluntary Contributions.

(c) Irrespective of his length of service the person may elect to transfer the value of his contributions to any scheme or arrangement of his new employer approved by the Board of Inland Revenue.

(G) (i) If a person dies whilst in the service of the Church prior to his retirement, a refund in respect of his Voluntary Contributions will be paid in terms of Regulation 9.

(ii) If a person dies subsequent to leaving the service of the Church but prior to his minimum retiring age or the date of his receipt of any benefit from these Regulations, if earlier, a refund in respect of his Voluntary Contributions (or such part as remains subject to these Regulations at the date of his death) will be paid to his personal representatives.

VII. - Act anent Equal Dividend

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £6,500 as from 1 January 1985 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows and Orphans Fund. They further approve the efforts to maintain Stipends at 75% of the National Average Wage. The General Assembly approve of the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

VIII. - Act anent Special Arrangements (Shettleston)

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985.

The General Assembly approve the continuance of the congregation of Shettleston on Special Arrangements for a further year.

IX. - Act anent Supply Fees and Expenses - repealing Act XXVI, 1978

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985.

11. The General Assembly approve the following Scale of Preaching Fees to be effective from 1 January 1986:-

Resident Supply by Students and Probationers - to be negotiated with Supply Committee
Other Resident Supply - £15
Weekend Supply by Students and
those without other employment - £15
Other Weekend Supply - £8

12. The General Assembly approve that the mileage rate paid to preachers giving supply who use their own cars be increased as from 1 January 1986 to 12 pence per mile up to a maximum of 100 miles each way.

ADDENDUM: 1986

Correction of Misprint in Acts 1985

ACT IX, CLASS II, 1985

This Act should read as follows:

IX. - Act Repealing Act XXVI 1978 and Upgrading Fees and Expenses

1. The General Assembly repeal Act XXVI, 1978 and enact as follows:

The General Assembly re-affirm the basic principle and ideal of the Scottish Reformed Church that "The word of God is to be preached only by such as are sufficiently gifted and also duly approved and called to that office".

The General Assembly instruct that when it is necessary for congregations to receive pulpit supply no man should be employed against the wishes of his own Kirk Session, and Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries should conscientiously fulfil their obligation to ensure that those employed have an understanding of and loyalty to our Confessional position.

2. The General Assembly approve the following Scale of Preaching Fees to be effective from 1 January 1986 -

Resident Supply by Students and Probationers - to be negotiated
with Supply Committee
Other Resident Supply - £15
Weekend Supply by Students and those without other employment - £15
Other Weekend Supply - £8

X. - Act anent Consolidation of Ardnamurchan, Acharacle and Strontian
(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1985

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber. They unite the congregation of Ardnamurchan with the congregation of Acharacle and Strontian to form a consolidated charge, each part of the congregation retaining its own Kirk Session and Finance Committee.

XI. - Act anent Consolidation of Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Glenrothes

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh. 22nd May, 1985

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Congregation of Kennoway and grants its crave, they amend Act II of Commission 1970 as approved by Acts of Assembly XXVI, 1977, and XVIII, 1983, to read as follows:

The General Assembly consolidate into a single charge the Congregations of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie and Glenrothes, each congregation to retain its own Deacon's Court and Kirk Session, with the proviso that a minister on being settled over the charge will have the assistance of a student or lay preacher to be directed by him each Lord's Day so as to ensure that not less than four services be held each Sabbath.

XII. - Act amending Act XXII, 1972, anent Consolidation of Duthil-Dores

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1985.

The General Assembly received the Petition and grant its crave to the extent that they amend Act XXII, 1972, to give the consolidated charge of Duthil-Dores one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court/Finance Committee.

XIII. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May, 1985

The General Assembly re-appoint Rev. Professor-Emeritus G.N.M. Collins B.A.,B.D.,D.D, to represent the Free Church of Scotland on the Board of Trustees of the Scottish Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XIV - Act anent Renewal of Church Extension Charge Status for Livingston.

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985

The General Assembly, encouraged by the progress made in Livingston, retain the congregation on Church Extension Charge status for a further three year period.

XV. - Act anent Renewal of Outreach Charge Status for Dumfries
(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985

The General Assembly, noting the growth in Dumfries, retain the congregation on Outreach Charge Status for a further three year period.

XVI. - Act anent Reconstitution of Highways and Byways Mission - repealing Act XXVIII, 1977

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1985

The General Assembly, recognising that the work of the Highways and Byways Mission comes within the general remit of the Church Extension Committee, authorise the Committee to appoint the membership of the Mission, up to a maximum of 12 persons, not necessarily from within their own number but by co-option of suitable and interested people, ensuring a reasonable change of personnel within each four year period. The Convener of the Church Extension committee will act as Convener. The clerk of the Church Extension Committee will act as its clerk and keep separate records: and the Mission will report annually to the General Assembly through the Committee on Church Extension. The General Assembly repeal Act XXVIII 1977.

XVII. - Act anent Withdrawal from Foreign Board Capital.

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1985

The General Assembly authorise the Board to withdraw from their Capital a sum not exceeding £40,000 for payment of the house acquired in Lima for the use of the Colegio Headmaster.

XVIII. - Act anent Proceeds of Sale of properties in Thunder Bay - amending Act III, 1978

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May. 1985

The General Assembly noting the changed situation in regard to Thunder Bay and the decision of the Synod of North America that the proceeds of the sale of properties should be transferred to the care of the General Trustees of the Church amend Act 3 Class II 1979 so as to read as follows from the second sentence:

“The proceeds of sale shall be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the Overseas Board and the Synod of North America. There shall be added to Capital annually from interest accruing such sums as shall prevent depreciation by inflation. The remaining interest shall be made available to the Overseas Board only for the benefit of their work in North America and Capital shall be drawn upon only by authority of the Board in consultation with

the Synod of North America.” These arrangements are subject to Canadian Law.

XIX. - Act anent Co-options of Representatives from W.F.M.A. by Foreign Board
(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1985.

The General Assembly authorise the Board to co-opt two representatives of the WFMA to their Committee on Recruitment and Personnel - such co-opted members to have advisory status.

XX. - Act amending Act V 1979 anent Recognition of Students, College Curriculum, Presbytery Examinations and Licence; Powers of Committee on Training of Ministry and Sub-Committees.

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1985.

1. The General Assembly amend Act V 1979 by the addition of the following words to Section III 3 sub-paragraph 2 (i.e. after the words “he may judge useful and prudent”): “When the student resides within the bounds of a congregation other than the one in which he is enrolled as a member, the minister granting a certificate will consult with the minister of the congregation of residence as to the terms of the certificate”.
2. The General Assembly amend Act V 1979 by the addition of the following words to Section III 3 sub-paragraph 2 (i.e. beginning “students not resident” ... and ending, “first session in divinity”).
3. The General Assembly amend Act V 1979 III 5(I) to read:
“He must make application in the first instance to the Training of the Ministry Committee before beginning his College course. The Committee shall consult with the Presbytery with which the student is connected and with the Senate of the Free Church College. If the application be granted the Senate will rearrange the student’s classes in the College if he so wishes”.
4. The General Assembly amend Act V 1979 III 5(2) by prefixing the words “Before embarking on such studies”.
5. The General Assembly amend Act V 1979 II 9 by omitting the words “... in the College Calendar”.
6. The General Assembly repeal Act XXIV 1980 and enact as follows:
“The General Assembly ordain that recognised students at the Free Church College shall give weekend Supply from October to May - for 3-year course students; 4 weekends in the first year, 6 in the second year and 8 in the third year, and for four year course students; 4 weekends in the second year, 6 in the third year, 8 in the fourth year. Modification of these requirements will be permitted in the case of students involved in outreach evangelism. This arrangement shall be under the general surveillance of the Professor of Practical Theology in collaboration with the Supply Department and a list of presently vacant congregations shall be prepared for this purpose. The Professor of Practical Theology exercises pastoral care to

ensure that studies are not adversely affected by too many preaching engagements”.

The Act now reads as follows:-

CONSOLIDATING ACT ANENT RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, COLLEGE CURRICULUM, PRESBYTERY EXAMINATIONS AND LICENCE; POWERS OF COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MINISTRY AND SUB-COMMITTEES:

repealing all previous Acts thereanent, excepting so far as they may be embodied in this Act; or are referred to therein for purposes of amplification.

I. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS.

The General Assembly ordain as follows:-

1.1 Before recognition as a candidate for the ministry can be given it will be a normal requirement that the applicant shall be qualified to enter upon a University Degree course. Before entering on the University course he shall be required to obtain the approval of the Training of the Ministry Committee for the proposed course, and before entry to the Free Church College such a candidate will be expected to secure a University Degree. In the event of failure to obtain a degree the reasons for this failure must be submitted to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

1.2 Provisional recognition may be given during the time that a candidate is acquiring University entrance qualifications; but this will be reviewed within at least two years in the light of the progress being made.

1.3 These requirements may be departed from at the discretion of the Training of the Ministry Committee in the case of candidates who at the time of their application may be considered mature students; in which circumstances the following provisions shall apply:-

1.3.1 Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries and the Training of the Ministry Committee shall carefully consider whether the applicant's experience, gifts and record of past usefulness in the Church are such as to compensate for the lack of academic qualifications and to offer promise of ministerial usefulness.

1.3.2 Before full recognition as a candidate for the ministry can be given such an applicant must secure two Ordinary grade passes and two Higher grade passes (one of which must be English) in S.C.E examinations or their equivalents.

1.3.3 Thereafter, students who in the judgement of the Committee might profit from a University non-graduating course shall seek admission to such a course. This shall extend over a minimum of two years and upon its satisfactory completion the student shall proceed to the normal three-year course at the Free Church College.

1.3.4 Students who, in the judgement of the Committee, would not benefit from a University non-graduating course shall be admitted to the College once they have fulfilled the requirements of paragraph 1.3.2;

and shall be required to take a four-year course at the Free Church College.

2. The General Assembly approve the regulations for medical examination of students which are as follows:-

2.1 Before confirmation of recognition by the Committee is granted, students shall submit to a medical examination by doctors appointed by the Committee. The pattern of examination shall be uniform, based on a detailed certificate drawn up for this purpose.

2.2 The Committee reserve its right to require a further examination at any stage.

II. CURRICULUM

1. The General Assembly ordain that the College Session shall be of three terms, viz., an Autumn and a Spring term, each of ten weeks duration, and a Summer term which shall be of five or six weeks duration as the Senatus may decide.

2. The General Assembly enact that Students be required to study the English Bible under the supervision of the Professors, who shall respectively assign the sections of the Old and New Testaments for study of contents only and for examination so that the whole English Bible may be covered by the end of a student's course.

3. The General Assembly ordain that classes in Psalmody shall be taken in the First and Second Years of a Student's course and that instruction in Elocution be for the three years of the course.

4. The General Assembly ordain that arrangements be made whereby Lectures in Preaching and Pastoral work and other subjects as may be determined, be given by Ministers in the active ministry and others equipped for such service. The Training of the Ministry Committee in consultation with the Senatus, shall make arrangements for these Lectures, determine who shall be invited, when the Lecture shall be delivered and what remuneration shall be given to the Lecturer.

5. The General Assembly enact as follows:-

5.1 "For the better instruction of students in Hebrew and Greek, elementary classes in these subjects shall be provided in the first or second year of the Free Church College course. All students taking two elementary classes will take the four year course.

5.2 "All students entering on a three-year College course are required to pass at least one of the Language Entrance Examinations before entering College. Students who pass only one of the Language Entrance Examinations will be required to take the Elementary Class in the other Language in the first year of the College Course.

5.3 "The core curriculum of the College shall be Junior and Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Junior and Senior Greek and New Testament Literature, Junior and Senior Systematic Theology, Junior and Senior Church History, Apologetics and Pastoral Theology.

5.4 “The Senatus shall arrange the distribution of these subjects in both three and one-year courses.”

5.5 Entrance Examinations in Hebrew and Greek shall be retained and those securing pass marks shall be exempted from the relevant elementary class/classes.

5.6 Students who have secured a pass in S.C.E. examinations at Higher level or its equivalent, or in University Degree examinations, in Hebrew and/or Greek, shall be exempt both from the appropriate Entrance examination and elementary class.

5.7 All students other than those referred to in (5) above shall normally be required to pass the Entrance Examination in Hebrew and/or Greek as appropriate before being admitted to the classes of Junior Old Testament and Junior New Testament. However, concessions by way of exemption from the language part of these classes may be granted to students failing these examinations should adequate cause be found by the Training of the Ministry Committee.

5.8 The General Assembly ordain that from this date Entrance Examinations in Scripture, Hebrew and Greek only be retained.

6. The General Assembly ordain that the Entrance Examinations in Greek and Hebrew shall be conducted by the Professor of Greek and New Testament Literature and the Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Literature respectively.

7. The General Assembly, to ensure that Exit Examinations relate as closely as possible to the work covered in the various courses of the Free Church College, ordain as follows:-

7.1 The practice of preparing and publishing a separate Exit Examination syllabus shall be discontinued.

7.2 The Exit Examinations shall be based on the published syllabuses of the various College classes.

7.3 In the case of courses where there are Junior and Senior classes the Exit Examinations shall be based on the syllabus of the Senior Class, except in the Department of Church History and Ecclesiology to be called “Church History and Principles I”, and in the Senior class of which there shall be an Exit Examination on Church History and Missiology to be called “Church History and Principles II”.

7.4 Exit Examinations shall be set by the Professor of the relevant disciplines.

7.5 The Training of the Ministry Committee shall also appoint external examiners who shall have access to examination papers prior to the examination and who will independently mark the answers submitted and report to the committee.

7.6 The Training of the Ministry Committee shall review the examination results in the light of the marks awarded.

7.7 The General Assembly enact and ordain that the Executive of the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee, the Senatus and the Exit Examiners shall meet annually to establish an agreed standard for setting and marking in Class and Exit examinations.

8. The General Assembly ordain that all students shall submit only three statutory College exercises; that it shall be the responsibility of the Senatus to decide with reference to each student the three departments in which exercises shall be submitted; and that in coming to their decision they shall have regard to the wishes of the student as well as to the need to ensure a fair distribution of exercises between the various departments.

9. The General Assembly recommend to the Senatus that a time-table for the submission of statutory exercises be prepared and published and that it be strictly adhered to.

10. The General Assembly ordain that recognised students at the Free Church College shall give weekend Supply for October to May - for 3-year Course students, 4 weekends in the first year, 6 in the second year and 8 in the third year, and for four year course students; 4 weekends in the second year, 6 in the third year, 8 in the fourth year. Modification of these requirements will be permitted in the case of students involved in outreach evangelism. This arrangement shall be under the general surveillance of the Professor of Practical Theology in collaboration with the Supply Department and a list of presently vacant congregations shall be prepared for this purpose. The Professor of Practical Theology exercises pastoral care to ensure that studies are not adversely affected by too many preaching engagements”.

11. The General Assembly encourage the fostering of sacred scholarship. They recommend that all encouragement should be given to promising students who finish their prescribed training in the Free Church College to take a Post-College Course at an accredited seat of sound Theological Training.

12. The General Assembly enact and ordain that the Senatus shall provide facilities in the College for students whom the Training of the Ministry Committee, in consultation with the Senatus, deem suitable for a post-graduate course of one year, and that the Training of the Ministry Committee shall make provision in its budget for this purpose.

III. CERTIFICATES AND PRESBYTERY EXAMINATIONS.

The General Assembly having taken under their serious consideration the great danger to which the interests of religion and of this Church may be exposed by licensing any to preach the gospel who are not duly qualified for that important trust, do hereby enact and ordain that, in all time coming, the following regulations shall be strictly observed:

1. It is hereby enacted, that no student shall be enrolled in the College unless he shall produce to the Secretary of Senate:-

1.1 Documentary evidence that he has obtained an approved University degree or has otherwise satisfied the requirements approved by the General Assembly, in respect of pre-divinity studies.

1.2 A Certificate that he has been examined by the Presbytery within the bounds of which he resides and that he has passed, in a satisfactory manner, an examination by said Presbytery upon his knowledge of the Christian religion, as it is exhibited in the Catechetical Standards of the Church.

2. The General Assembly ordain that all students who require, for good reason, to transfer from the oversight of one Presbytery to that of another, must first obtain a Certificate of Transference from the Presbytery from whose oversight they desire to remove; and that the Clerk of Presbytery receiving this certificate should notify the Training of the Ministry Committee thereanent. No student should be a communicant member of a congregation within the bounds of one presbytery whilst being under the oversight of another presbytery.

3. Every student of divinity shall be examined by the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides, not only previous to his being first enrolled as a student of divinity, but every year of his attendance at the Hall; and shall be required to produce to the Secretary of Senatus every session of his attendance at the Hall, a certificate from the Presbytery of his having been examined by them on the progress made by him in his studies, and of the Presbytery satisfaction with the same, as well as a certificate of his good moral character from the minister under whose pastoral charge he is, before he can be enrolled.

4. The General Assembly hereby instruct Ministers, that before granting a certificate to any Student previously to admission to the College, the Minister shall consult with the Elders respecting the character borne by the Student in the congregation, and shall embody in the certificate such expression of the results of that consultation as he may judge useful and prudent. When the student resides within the bounds of a congregation other than the one in which he is enrolled as a member, the minister granting a certificate will consult with the minister of the congregation of residence as to the terms of the certificate.

5. The General Assembly ordain that any Student who desires to take part of his training at a foreign University must observe the following conditions:-

5.1 “He must make application in the first instance to the Training of the Ministry Committee before beginning his College course. The committee shall consult with the Presbytery with which the student is connected and with the Senate of the Free Church College. If the application be granted the Senate will re-arrange the student’s classes in the College if he so wishes”.

5.2 Before embarking on such studies he must produce evidence that he has completed two sessions of attendance at the Free Church College and that his attendance, progress in his studies and conduct have been satisfactory to the Professors under whom he has studied.

5.3 He must satisfy the Committee by suitable evidence, including a certificate under the hand of a professional teacher, that he has made such proficiency in the language used at the University at which he intends to study, as will enable him to understand and profit.

5.4 He must satisfy the Committee in regard to the classes he means to attend and also in regard to the congregation with which he means to connect himself as well as in regard to the

introduction which he has, or is likely to have, to the Professors of such classes, and the Pastor or Pastors of said congregation.

5.5 He must, immediately upon his return to this country, produce to the Training of the Ministry Committee, satisfactory evidence, including certificates under the hands of the Professors whose classes he has attended, and the Pastor or Pastors with whose congregation or congregations he has been connected, that his attendance at the University has been regular, his diligence satisfactory and his conduct so far as may be known, suitable and becoming and shall, moreover, submit if required, to an examination by the Committee on the branches of study in which he has been engaged.

5.6 He will, moreover, be expected to sit, at the conclusion of his year abroad, the Exit Examinations appropriate to his year of training and the examination required by the Presbytery.

IV TRIALS FOR LICENCE

The General Assembly further enact and declare;

1.1 That a student is entitled to apply to his Professor for his certificates that he may be proposed for trials, and that the preliminary steps may be taken by the Presbytery during the currency of the last session of his course.

1.2 Every student intending to apply for licence at the close of his Theological course shall intimate to the Training of the Ministry Committee, at the beginning of his last session, to what Presbytery he intends to apply. The Committee shall send to all Presbyteries and all Synods of the Church the names of all students applying, and if no objections are received from any of these Courts before 30th April, the Presbytery to whom the student is applying shall be entitled to proceed towards licence.

2. When a student is proposed to any Presbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Presbytery shall be alone, and the motion for that purpose shall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting.

3. When the time appointed for considering the motion is arrived, the Presbytery shall strictly observe the following regulations:

3.1 The Presbytery shall be alone while they are employed in discussing the several preliminaries respecting students who are proposed for trials.

3.2 They shall require satisfying evidence that every student who is proposed for that purpose has completed the twenty-first year of his age.

3.3 No student shall be admitted to trial unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professors of Divinity under whose tuition he has studied, bearing that he has prosecuted his studies and delivered his discourses in the manner prescribed by the General Assembly; and that his conduct as far as it consists with the knowledge of the

Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life; and the Presbytery shall in their minutes record that such certificates were produced and read, specifying the classes attended the names of the Professors by whom such certificates were granted the number and dates of the sessions during which attendance had been given, whether attendance was regular or partial, the nature of the discourses delivered, and whether said discourses were sustained and whether the character and conduct of such student or students were in all respects suitable to their views towards the holy ministry. And it is hereby enacted and declared that the student, having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the minute above prescribed, if demanded.

3.4 No Presbytery shall receive any student upon trials unless they are satisfied that he is of good report; sound in his principles, pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and that he holds the principles of this Church, as to the independence of the Church, and the duties of nations and their rulers in reference to true religion and the Church of Christ. And that Presbytery may proceed with all due caution in the matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion on behalf of the student unless his residence during the year preceding has been chiefly within their bounds; or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been during that term, bearing that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him in those respects to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

4. The General Assembly rescind sub-sections (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 4, Section IV, Act V of Class II, 1979 and substitute the following:-

4.1 The Presbytery shall examine the Student, strictly and privately.

4.2 The following written exercises, on subjects prescribed by the Presbytery, shall be delivered: (1) An exercise on some contraverted head in divinity; (2) An exercise in apologetics; (3) An exercise in N.T. exegesis; (4) An exercise in O.T. exegesis; (5) A popular sermon. It being understood that if the Presbytery see cause they may examine the Student upon the subject of these several discourses.

4.3 Catechetical trials in Divinity and Church History, and a trial in the Hebrew and Greek languages.

4.4 College discourses will be submitted to the Presbytery for information and perusal.

4.5 At the Presbytery's discretion College discourses may be received in lieu of exercises, provided they cover areas of work prescribed in 4.2 above. and provided additional exercises are submitted in the areas where a College discourse has not been submitted.

5. The student having gone through the several trials above mentioned, the Presbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order:-

5.1 They shall deliberately and seriously take a conjunct view of the whole trials, and if they shall be of opinion that the student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a preacher of the gospel. they shall by no means grant him a licence in his present

circumstances.

5.2 If upon this review of his trials, the Presbytery are fully satisfied therewith, they shall record this opinion in their minutes.

5.3 The Presbytery shall then propose to the student the questions that are appointed to be put to all who pass trials, by Act XII, Assembly 1846, and require him to subscribe the Formula which is prescribed by said Act. And the General Assembly strictly prohibit all Presbyteries from licensing any student to preach the gospel, who shall not give explicit and satisfying answers to these questions and subscribe the said Formula.

5.4 The Presbytery shall appoint their Moderator to licence the student to preach the gospel, and order their Clerk to furnish him with an extract of his licence.

6. The General Assembly enact and declare, that at the request of the student, it shall be competent to any Presbytery to transfer the receiving of the trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Presbytery to which the transference is to be made that the various preliminary steps have been taken according to the directions of this Act; and that such parts of the public and private trials as have been already gone through, have been received with approbation.

V. POWERS OF COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MINISTRY AND SUB-COMMITTEES.

1. The General Assembly affirm that, in addition to particular remits made from time to time by the Assembly, the powers of the Committee on the Training of the Ministry and Admissions are as follows:-

1.1 To deal with all applications for recognition from intending students with a view to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, exercise general supervision of recognised students and provisionally recognised students at all stages of their studies, and conduct examinations prescribed by the General Assembly.

1.2 To keep the Senatus of the College informed regarding findings of the Committee relating to the studies of students admitted to the College; discuss with the Senatus or individual Professors, when necessary, aspects of the curriculum or departmental syllabuses, deal with matters referred to them by the Senatus; and consider appeals against decisions of the Senatus and complaints from students.

1.3 To arrange for Quinquennial Visitations of the College, and for special visitation should unusual circumstances render that desirable.

1.4 To keep the salaries of Professors under regular review, receive intimation for transmission to the General Assembly of a Professor's proposed retiral, inform Presbyteries and Synods of the impending vacancy in the College so that it may be filled by the procedure laid down in Assembly legislation; and originate processes against Professors, subject to Assembly legislation thereanent.

1.5 To administer finances for the purposes of the Committee and College finances, always excepting income from donations or bequests placed by donors or legators at the disposal of the Senatus.

1.6 To consider and deal with in accordance with Assembly legislation all applications from ministers of other churches for admission to the Free Church of Scotland in order to serve in its Ministry.

1.7 To maintain such liaison with other Standing Committees as may contribute to the effective discharge of its responsibilities.

XXI. - Act appointing Commission Assembly

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1985

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. A.P.W. Fraser named by the Moderator:-
To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXII - Act appointing Next General Assembly

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1985

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 20 May 1986 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACT OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sales of Property

Edinburgh 3rd October 1984

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from Wellgate Free Church of Scotland, Dundee and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building and direct that the proceeds of the sale, or any compensation payable, be lodged with the General Trustees until required for the provision or erection of an alternative building, and the income meantime to be accumulated with the capital; any surplus remaining after the acquisition of the new building to be held for behoof of, and the interest thereon to be paid to, the Congregation. The transaction is to be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

The Commission Assembly receive the Petition from the Kilmuir and Stenscholl Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present Manse at Kilmuir and direct that the proceeds of the sale be lodged with the General Trustees until required for the purchase or erection of an alternative building, the income meantime to be accumulated with the capital.

Further, with regard to the Mission House at Staffin, as this property is held on a Lease and negotiations are currently in progress with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland whereby a title may be granted, the Commission of Assembly direct that, if and when such a title is granted, the Congregation may sell the building, the proceeds of sale to be lodged with the General Trustees on the same basis as the proceeds of the sale of the Manse at Kilmuir.

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

MAY MCMLXXXVI (1986)

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 1986

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, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly this 20th day of May 1986, respectfully offer Your Majesty anew our wholehearted expression of allegiance and loyalty with respect to your person and throne.

We give thanks to our great God and Saviour for the measure of strength and wisdom He has given Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip in all the demanding duties laid upon you at home and abroad for our nation and government, and we are grateful to Almighty God for the moral stature and respect you enjoy throughout the world.

We remember each member of the royal family before the throne of grace, not forgetting our gracious Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The forthcoming marriage of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson is viewed by us with great delight, and we wish them God's richest blessing.

It is our fervent prayer that Her Majesty's ministers be enabled to act wisely, in good conscience and in godly conviction.

We pray for peace and stability during your reign, and that terrorism may be abated and come to an end, both in Northern Ireland over which you are Queen, and in other parts of the world.

We pray for the spiritual stability of our land, that the Word of God may be given a supreme place in the hearts of all your Majesty's subjects. We rejoice too for the measure of conviction that still obtains in the nation regarding the Lord's Day, as was shown recently by the action of parliament.

May the King of Kings, in whose hand the providence of each one is, be Your Majesty's Helper at all times.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland.

II. - Act anent Sales of Property
(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1986

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Thurso and Reay, and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Reay Manse at Shebster, subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior. They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational funds, and that the transaction be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Greenock and grant its crave. They approve the sale of the Manse at 165 Newark Street and direct that the proceeds of sale be invested by the General Trustees until required for the purchase of a more suitable Manse, the income meantime being added to the capital. They direct that the titles of the new Manse be drawn in terms of the Model Trust Deed and that the transaction be carried through under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

Further, with regard to the residue of the sale of the former Church presently held by the General Trustees the Assembly authorise that up to £4,000 be made available, if required, for the purchase of a new manse, and the remainder of these funds continue to be set aside for use in connection with the Church building on its replacement.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Berneray, Harris, and recognising that the contract already entered into was due to misapprehension and that the parties concerned acted in good faith simply remind them of the need to secure well-founded information before entering upon such procedures. They grant the crave of the Petition and authorise the sale of the Mission House at Berneray, Harris, the capital realised to be applied in the first instance to the repair of the Church and any surplus to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational purposes.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of North Knapdale and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and grounds at Tayvallich subject to such consent as may be required from the Superior for any change of use contemplated by the Congregation or a prospective customer. They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational funds. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

III. - Act anent Re-application of Congregational Money
(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1986

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and grant its crave. They grant access to the capital already held by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation, and they amend the terms of Act III 1985 to allow access to the capital to be realised from the sale of the Glenmoriston Manse in order to repair and maintain the properties of the consolidated charge; the remainder of the proceeds to be

invested for behoof of the Congregation, and interest paid to the Congregation.

IV. - Act anent Representatives on Scottish Reformation Society

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1986

It was moved seconded and agreed that Rev. D. Gibson be appointed to represent the Free Church of Scotland on the Acting Committee of the Scottish Reformation Society for three years, that Rev. D. Lamont be appointed for two years, and Rev. A.G. Ross for one year.

V. - Act anent Assistantships

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21 May 1986

5. The General Assembly having considered the feasibility and desirability in certain cases of having ordained assistantships appointed in certain congregations enact as follows:

1. The General Assembly reserve to themselves the right to judge of all applications which may be made by congregations for the appointment of an assistant minister under waiver of the conditions of Act III, 1851.

2. It shall be a condition of the Assembly's entertaining such an application that (1) the congregation concerned shall contribute to Central Funds an amount not less than three times the Equal Dividend and (2) the application shall be supported by the Presbytery within whose bounds the congregation is and the Presbytery shall formally make the appointment after due procedure.

3. Upon the granting of an application the Presbytery shall consult with the congregation concerned and process an invitation from them as though it were a Call and upon its acceptance make the requisite arrangements for the ordination/induction of the appointee to the assistantship and to a seat in the Presbytery.

4. The appointment shall, in the first instance be for one year, renewable by the Presbytery on request from the Kirk Session but shall not endure beyond three years.

5. At the date of expiry of the Assistant's appointment, he shall be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge and be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend for a period of 6 months from the date of the expiry of his appointment or until his induction to a charge, whichever is sooner.

6. The appointee shall be instructed by the minister who shall consult with the Kirk Session as regards the work to be undertaken by him.

7. The congregation shall provide accommodation, car expenses and other expenses as listed by Acts of Assembly, these expenses to be not less than 10% of Equal Dividend.

8. On granting an application the General Assembly shall declare the assistantship the equivalent of a Charge for the purposes of the Widows' & Orphans' Fund, Amending Order 1967, and the period of service shall count for pension purposes.

9. This Act supersedes Act XVI (Class II) 1984 which therefore now lapses.

VI. - Act anent Use of Telephone Link-up in Presbytery Meetings
(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Synod of North America and grant its crave. They ordain that within the bounds of the Synod of North America it shall be permissible, when Presbytery is duly constituted, for absent members to participate in the proceedings by telephone link-up, except on occasions when parties are to be heard at the bar, the Presbytery is dealing with calls, or meeting in private.

VII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries
(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly declare an equal Dividend of £7,200 as from 1 January 1986 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows and Orphans fund. They further approve of the efforts to maintain Stipends at 75% of the National Average Wage.

VIII. - Act anent Salaries of Resident Lay Preachers
(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly authorise an increase in the salaries of Resident Lay Preachers to 80% of the Equal Dividend, the increase to take effect from 1 January 1987.

IX. - Act anent Special Arrangements
(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly approve that the following congregations be placed on Special Arrangements for the periods aftermentioned:-

- (a) Shettleston for one year.
- (b) Glenelg and Arnisdale for three years.

X. - Act anent Union of Kirk Sessions of Lochfyneside and Lochgilhead
(Amending Act I of Commission of Assembly, October 1975)
(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Lochfyneside Kirk Session and grant its crave. They amend Act I of the Commission of Assembly, October 1975, to read "One Kirk Session".

XI. - Act anent Appointment of Trustees to Widows' and Orphans' Fund

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly appoint Mr. Alastair MacDonald to be a Trustee of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund as from 1st June 1986 for a period of four years.

XII. - Act anent Allocation of Funds to Church Extension

amending Act XX, 1984

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly, recognising the vital importance of evangelistic outreach to the future well-being of our church and nation, and aware of the increasing demands made on the Committee's resources, ordain that the allocation from central Funds be increased to not less than 5% of the Church's full annual budget.

XIII. - Act anent Constitution of Smithton-Culloden as a Church Extension Charge

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly note with gratitude the encouraging growth in the Development Charge of Smithton-Culloden. In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, following a request from the Presbytery of Inverness, they now confer the status of Extension Charge on the congregation.

XIV. - Act anent Renewal of Outreach Charge Status for Lennoxton

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly, noting the slow but steady growth in the Development Charge of Lennoxton, retain the congregation on Development Status for a further period of three years.

XV. - Act anent Outreach Charge Status for Coatbridge

(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1986

The General Assembly, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee following a request from the Presbytery of Glasgow, confer the status of Outreach Charge upon the congregation of Coatbridge under the provisions of Act XI 1979 and instruct the Committee to seek a suitable ministerial settlement, when the resources available to them permit.

XVI. - Act anent Appointment of Special Committee on Strategy

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1986

1. The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee to formulate a long-term and nationwide strategy for the witness of the Free Church of Scotland with a view to the efficient and effective use of the resources entrusted to our stewardship.
2. The General Assembly direct that the Special Committee appointed to consider the long term and nationwide strategy for the witness of the Free Church to Scotland shall consist of sixteen members, namely: one representative from each Presbytery, nominated by the Presbytery; a representative of the Committee on Extension nominated by the Committee; a representative of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee nominated by the Committee; a representative of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, nominated by the Committee; the Principal Clerk of Assembly; and three elders appointed by the Assembly. The representative of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee shall be the Convener of the Special Committee.
3. The General Assembly direct the Special Committee to submit their draft proposals to Presbyteries for consideration and comment; and to take these comments into account in preparing recommendations for submission to the General Assembly.

Edinburgh 23rd May 1986

It was moved seconded and agreed that the three elders appointed by the Assembly to the Special Committee on Strategy be as follows:- Mr. W.S. Wyllie, Mr. N. MacLean, Mr. J. Fraser.

XVII. - Act anent Asociacion San Andres

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1986

The General Assembly authorise the Board to set up an Asociacion San Andres, which will assume legal responsibility for Colegio San Andres.

XVIII. - Act anent Ex Gratia Payments for Education of Missionaries Children

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1986

The General Assembly authorise the board to award from Board funds, when necessary, ex gratia payments to help with the cost of the further education of the children of missionaries who, in the interests of the work, stay on in their spheres of labour beyond the time when their children reach the age of eighteen.

XIX. - Act anent College Finances - amending Act IV 1979

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1986

The General Assembly ordain that in Act IV, 1979, Sect. V. Para. 5 an addition be made to the second sentence, so that it reads:

“The finances of the College are not within its direct jurisdiction or control except for:

- (a) moneys explicitly bequeathed, donated or assigned to it for its exclusive use;
- (b) moneys generated by activities within its competence; and
- (c) accrued balances from the aforementioned sources.

XX. - Act anent Expenditure on Private Students

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1986

The General Assembly take note that private students are admitted to the College by the Senate, that these students are subject to the authority of the Senate and that their welfare - occasionally a matter of significant expenditure - devolves upon the Senate. They therefore direct that each year a proportion of the fees paid by private students shall be paid into a Fund established by the Senate for the purpose of meeting expenditure arising from the existence in the college of private students. The proportion shall be fixed annually by agreement between the Training of the Ministry Committee and the Senate and duly reported to the General Assembly. For the academic year 1986-87 the proportion will be 20%. For the purposes of this legislation the term ‘private student’ shall include all students who are not recognised as candidates for the Free Church ministry or placed under the supervision of this Committee by a Church in federal relations with the Free Church and shall apply to all students admitted to the College on the authority of the Senate and not on the authority of the Training of the Ministry Committees.

XXI. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1986

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. D. Lamont named by the Moderator:- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o’clock in the evening, and oftener when

and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, and for the sale in whole or in part of the cleared site of the old Hall of Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXII. - Act appointing Next General Assembly

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1986

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 19th May 1987 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sales of Property

Inverness, 15th October 1985

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Raasay and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Raasay, the Proceeds to be invested by the General Trustees until required for the acquisition of more suitable premises, the interest meantime being added to capital: any surplus to remain invested and the interest applied to Congregational Funds.

2. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of the North Knapdale Congregation and approve of its crave. They approve of the sale of the manse at Carsaig and of the investment of the proceeds with the General Trustees. They commend the congregation's desire to aid the congregation of Islay in the renovation of the Church and manse at Islay and approve of the proposal to meet half of this cost up to a maximum of £5,000 from the proceeds of sale should the work of renovation be undertaken. They authorise the General Trustees to hold the remaining funds for behoof of the congregation of North Knapdale paying the interest to the congregation.

Should the congregation cease to exist the General Trustees are to allocate the capital equally between the Sustentation Fund and the Eventide Homes Committee of the Free Church of Scotland. The Commission advise that the transaction be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

3. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Elgin Finance Committee of Elgin Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present Church and site the proceeds of sale to be invested by the General Trustees pending the purchase or erection of a more suitable place of worship, interest accruing in the meantime to be added to capital until the replacement building has been acquired and satisfactorily furnished: thereafter any surplus to be held for behoof of the congregational funds. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

II. - Act anent Sale of Property

Edinburgh 5th March 1986

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from Mull Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse at Craignure subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior. They direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees until such time as they are required for the purchase of an alternative Manse, and the income for the time being to be added to capital until such time as required for the purchase of a Manse in a more suitable area. The transaction is to be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

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15. Act anent Reports from Asian Outreach Committee
16. Act anent Reconstitution of Study Panel
17. Act anent Reappointment of Strategy Committee
18. Act anent Appointment of Representative to the Scottish Joint Committee on Religious Education
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20. Act anent Extra-Denominational Students (amending Act VII, 1979)
21. Act anent Commission of Assembly
22. Act anent next General Assembly

ACT OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

1. Act anent Sale of Property

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

MAY MCMLXXXVII (1987)

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 19th May 1987

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 subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly on the 19th day of May 1987, respectfully assure Your Majesty of our allegiance and loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God for the strength and wisdom He has given Your Majesty for the fulfilment of Your Majesty's manifold duties as Monarch of this Realm and Head of the Commonwealth, and we regularly pray in public and in private that Your Majesty may continue to be blessed physically and spiritually.

We pray that the Commonwealth may foster understanding and cooperation between different nations and races and especially that the present strife in Sri Lanka and Fiji may be brought to a speedy and just solution. Committed as we are to the historic doctrine of the Incarnation of the Son of God for our salvation, we give thanks for the warm commendation of Christian truth in Your Majesty's Christmas broadcast.

We deeply appreciate Your Majesty's publicly expressed concern for the wellbeing of family life at a time when the family is under great stress and insidious attack.

We rejoice in Your Majesty's affection for and service to the Scottish people as attested by Your Majesty's frequent visits to Scotland and, indeed, on two past memorable occasions to the General Assemblies. We give thanks for Your Majesty's recent visit to the People's Republic of China which was so cordially received and which has greatly helped to foster international goodwill.

During this period of a General Election campaign in the United Kingdom we pray that the Election may provide a Government which will honour God, promote justice and exercise compassion.

We remember each member of the Royal Family in our prayers, rejoicing in their high devotion to public service and in the widespread public affection they enjoy. We have been specially moved by the intense interest taken by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne in the care of children and in particular her support of the Save the Children Fund.

We pray that Your Majesty will continue to inspire the nation with a high sense of devotion to duty in the fear of God.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland.

II. - Act anent 150th Anniversary of the Disruption

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1987

The General Assembly agree to the appointment of a Special Committee to prepare timeously for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Disruption.

Edinburgh 20th May. 1987

The General Assembly proceeded in terms of its finding on the Deliverance of the Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations Committee, to appoint a Special Committee to prepare for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Disruption.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The following be appointed, on the understanding that Presbytery representatives may be changed as necessary:

The Professor of Church History in the Free Church College, the Principal Clerk of Assembly, Dr. I.R. MacDonald, Mr. Evan Macdonald, together with one representative named by each Presbytery in Scotland - the names of these representatives to be supplied to the Principal Clerk by 30th September 1987. The Professor of Church History is appointed Convener.

III. - Act anent Resignation of Assistant Clerk and Appointment of Successor

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1987

The General Assembly with great regret accept the resignation of Rev. A.P.W. Fraser as Assistant Clerk. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Professor John L. Mackay to the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. His duties shall be generally to assist in the preliminary work connected with the preparation of the business of the Assembly, to take minutes of the General Assembly and its Commissions and such other work as required, all under the direction of the Principal Clerk. His remuneration and conditions of service will be in accordance with current practice, his duties to commence as from the close of the General Assembly 1987.

IV. - Act anent Organisation of Building Work

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1987

The General Assembly direct that all Deacons' Courts and local Finance Committees note the advice of the General Trustees regarding the organisation of building work. The advice is as follows:

1. All professional services should be the subject of a written contract paid for at prescribed rates and the documentation should be carefully preserved.
2. Any revision or amendment of plans and contracts should be similarly recorded and preserved.
3. All matters should be dealt with on a strictly legal basis.
4. No work, especially of a major nature, should be undertaken without professional advice.

V. - Act anent Sales of Property
(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1987

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Thurso and Reay Free Church Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building and glebe adjoining at Shebster, the proceeds of sale to be invested with the General Trustees and the income to be made available to the congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Tongue Congregation and grant its crave. The General Assembly renew the authorisation of the sale of the ground at Strath tongue on the same terms as granted by the Assembly of 1979 (Act XXVII 1979).

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Farr Congregation and grant its crave. The General Assembly modify the terms of their findings recorded in Act XXVII 1979 and Act IV 1980 relative to the sale of the manse at Farr so as to permit the use of the proceeds for the improvement of general facilities and accommodation in the Church at Bettyhill.

VI. - Act anent Re-Application of Congregational Money
(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1987

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Coll congregation and grant its crave. They amend Act IV, Class II 1984 paragraph 2 to the extent that in the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 the whole of the interest on the net proceeds of the sale of the manse will be paid to the congregation.

VII. - Act anent Re-constitution of Working Party on Welfare of Youth Syllabus

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1987

The General Assembly thank the Working Party on the Syllabus for their work and continue the remit. The General Assembly reconstitute the Working Party with the following personnel: two representatives of the Special Committee on Education appointed by the Special Committee, The Convener and Vice-Convener of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee, The Editor of "The Instructor", Professor D. Macleod, Rev. Innes M. Macrae, Mr M.K. MacLeod and a maximum of three members co-opted by the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee.

The General Assembly instruct the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee to direct the Working Party on the Syllabus to continue their review of the Welfare of Youth Examination System.

VIII. - Act anent Assembly Committees - repealing previous Acts thereanent.

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly enact and ordain that the work of the Assembly between their meetings shall be prosecuted by Standing Committees, Select Committees and a Service Committee as follows:

1. Standing Committees

1.1 Group 1: A group comprising 12 persons, of whom at least 3 shall be elders and constituting 2 Committees as follows:

(1) Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance.

Clerk: Assembly Clerks' Department - Act III 1926.

(2) Committee on Church Extension.

Clerk: General Treasurer's Department.

1.2 Group II: A group comprising 12 persons of whom at least 3 shall be elders, together with ex officio members as specified below constituting 3 Committees as follows:

(1) Committee on Public Questions, Religion and Morals.

(2) Committee on Welfare of Youth.

(3) Committee on Training of the Ministry and Admissions.

Ex officio members shall be as follows:

(i) The Moderator of the previous General Assembly - the Public Questions etc. Committee.

(ii) Editor of The Monthly Record - Public Questions and Welfare of Youth

(iii) Editor of The Instructor and Camps Supervisor - Welfare of Youth.

(iv) Two members of Senate - Training of the Ministry and Admissions, except when one or more members of the Senate are already members of the Committee in which case the 'ex officio' membership will be reduced "pari passu"

The Clerks of the above Committees shall be appointed by the Finance, etc. Committee in consultation with the relevant Committees.

1.3 A Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board which shall consist of not more than 12 persons of whom at least 4 shall be elders and with, in addition, the Editor of From the Frontiers as an ex officio member.

1.4 A Finance, Law and Advisory Committee which shall consist of the Conveners of Committees in Groups I and II, the Chairman of the Foreign etc. Missions' Board, the General Trustees together with 3 elders representative of Synods and named by the Nominations Committee, and the Principal Clerk of Assembly. The Nominations Committee shall also name additional elders if this is necessary to secure a majority of elders in the Committee, and such elders will be from those serving on Committees in Groups I and II and the Foreign etc. Missions' Board. The Clerk will be from the General Treasurer's Department.

2. Select Committees

These shall consist of persons nominated by the Nominations Committee on the grounds of special knowledge of, and practical expertise in the relevant subjects, as so recommended by Presbyteries.

2.1 Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations Committee shall have a membership of 10 plus the 2 immediate past Moderators and the Principal Clerk. At least 2 shall be elders. Clerk: Assembly Clerk's Department.

2.2 Psalmody shall have a membership of 6 whereof at least 2 shall be elders. Clerk: Special appointment by the Finance, etc. Committee.

2.3 Education shall have a membership of 6 whereof at least 2 shall be elders, plus Convener of Welfare of Youth, ex officio. Clerk: Special appointment by Finance, etc. Committee.

2.4 Eventide Home shall have a membership of 11 inclusive of at least 3 ministers and the Convener of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee (or his deputy). The General Treasurer shall be in attendance.

2.5 A Publications Department shall have a membership of 10 of whom the following 6 shall be ex officio, viz: The Conveners of the Public Questions Committee and of the Welfare of Youth Committee, the Editors of the three Church magazines and a representative of the College Senate. The remaining four will be named by the Nominations Committee on the basis of knowledge and practical expertise in publications. The Clerk will be appointed by the Finance Committee in consultation with the Department.

3. A Service Committee: Committee on Nominations

The Nominations Committee shall consist of a representative from each Presbytery nominated by the Committee from those serving on Groups I and II and the FMB together with two elders nominated by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and four elders

nominated by the Nominations Committee from those serving on Groups I and II and the FMB. It shall meet at the conclusion of Commission of Assembly in March.
The Clerk shall be from the Assembly Clerks' Department.

4. General Regulations - Standing Committees

4.1 Meetings - Statutory and Other

4.1.1 Committees in Groups I and II and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall have stated meetings on the same date as the Commission of Assembly. They shall meet on other dates as necessary.

4.1.2 The times allotted to Groups I and II on the dates stated should be 9.00am - 4.30pm and the duration of each Committee within a group shall be arranged by the Conveners in the light of the volume of work to be undertaken.

4.1.3 The Finance Committee shall meet from 500pm - 700pm.

4.1.4 The Foreign Missions' Board shall meet as business requires but not on the same days as the statutory meetings referred to above.

4.2 Representation and Term of Service

4.2.1 All Presbyteries shall be represented on each Group; duration of service shall be for 4 years and members shall not be eligible for immediate reappointment. During the phasing in period representation of Presbyteries and duration of service will be subject to adjustment.

4.2.2 All Synods in Scotland shall have at least three representatives on the Foreign etc. Missions' Board; the duration of appointment shall be for four years, with eligibility for a second term without interval after which there shall be no immediate return.

5. General Regulations - Special Committees

5.1 Meetings: Special Committees shall meet as business requires, but the Assembly Arrangements etc. Committee is required to meet in the month of January and the Eventide Home Committee shall meet normally in February.

5.2 Representation and Term of Service

5.2.1 Appointments to Special Committees will normally be for periods not exceeding four years with eligibility for immediate return.

5.2.2 Representation on the Eventide Home Committee shall be secured as follows:

(a) Each Synod shall nominate one minister and one elder for a four year period, with initial appointments arranged in consultation with the Principal Clerk so as to give a rotation in which no more than one will be replaced in any year. Appointments shall be reported to the Principal Clerk by 28 February for information of the General Assembly.

(b) Four representatives of the Home Board of Management, one being the Chairman. This Home Board shall consist of 9 persons - i.e. 2 ministers, 4 other men of whom at least 3 must

be elders or deacons, 2 ladies and a medical practitioner. All of these shall be appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow to serve for a period of 4 years. The members shall be eligible for immediate re-appointment for a further period of 4 years: after this a break of at least a year must ensue except in the case of the medical practitioner. Rotation of membership shall become effective by the resignation of 2 members each year beginning with the first Board meeting after the General Assembly of 1987

5.2.3 The Board shall appoint (a) their own Chairman who must be resident in the Glasgow area and (b) their own Clerk who shall also act as Clerk to the Committee.

The Committee shall meet at least once a year, normally in February.

The Board shall meet as required.

6. Responsibilities - General

Each Committee (Board or Department) shall assume the general responsibilities assigned to Committee which previously bore their designation as detailed in the various Acts of Assembly relative to them. The Welfare of Youth Committee though ceasing to be the Publications Committee shall, nevertheless, continue to be responsible for publication of the "Instructor" and the "Monthly Record" with the related responsibilities as to appointment of Editors.

7. Newly Assigned Responsibilities

7.1 The Finance, etc. Committee shall assume responsibility for reporting on Custody of Titles and processing petitions relating to properties whether addressed to the General Assembly or its Commission. The Clerk of Assembly shall act as Custodian of Titles and report regularly to the Committee.

7.2 The Publications Department shall be responsible for (1) Publications: (2) Audio Visual; (3) Bookshop. In respect of publications undertaken for Committees, the editorial and financial responsibility shall remain with the originating Committee and the Department shall provide the technical work of production and publishing to maintain consistency and quality of format and efficient marketing. For the latter, use shall be made of a publisher. In the administration of the Bookshop the Presbytery of Edinburgh & Perth shall appoint two persons of suitable expertise to a relevant sub-committee.

8. The General Assembly repeal all previous Acts bearing on the structure of Committees insofar as they are inconsistent with the foregoing and they direct that Standing Orders be adjusted in terms of this Act - such adjustments to take immediate effect.

IX. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend on £7,600 as from 1 January 1987 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows and Orphans Fund. They further approve of the efforts to maintain Stipends at 75% of the National Average Wage.

The General Assembly approve of the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are

paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

X. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Shettleston

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly approve the continuance of the congregation of Shettleston on Special Arrangements for a further year.

XI. - Act anent Congregations settled in terms of Act XIII, 1976, suspending implementation of Act XII, 1983

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly suspend implementation of the provisions of Act XII, 1983, and direct that congregations admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform in accordance with the terms of Act XIII, 1976 be retained on the Platform until their position is reviewed in the light of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Strategy when it reports.

XII. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly appoints Rev. Principal C. Graham M.A., B.D., to be a Trustee of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund as from 1st June 1987, for a period of four years.

XIII. - Act anent Alternative Versions of the Metrical Psalms

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly direct the Select Committee on Psalmody to examine alternative versions of the metrical Psalms and when alternative versions meeting the characteristics outlined in the Report are available, or can be provided from within the Church, to submit them to a consultative group comprising the Convener of the Special Committee, another representative of the Special Committee and one representative from each Presbytery, to be nominated by the Presbytery. The consultative group is to be asked to comment upon the suggested alternative versions before the Special Committee report to the General Assembly. The Convener of the Special Committee is to be Convener of the consultative group.

XIV. - Act anent Renewal of Outreach Status for Drumchapel

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly are glad to hear of encouragements in the congregation of Drumchapel and retain the congregation on Outreach Status for a further period of 3 years.

XV. - Act anent Reports from Asian Outreach Committee

(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1987

The General Assembly thank the Asian Outreach Committee and approve the proposal that in future they should report to the Assembly through the Foreign Missions Board.

XVI. - Act anent Re-constitution of Study Panel

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1987

The General Assembly re-appoint the Panel in terms of the previous remit with the following personnel:

Principal Clement Graham - Convener

Prof. D. MacLeod

Prof. J.L. Mackay

Rev. A.J. MacDonald

Rev. A.I. MacLeod

XVII. - Act anent Re-appointment of Strategy Committee

(amending Act XVI, 1986)

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1987

The General Assembly continue the Committee's remit for another year with the same personnel: -

Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay, Convener, Rev. Principal C. Graham, Rev. J.H. Maclean, Rev. H. Cameron, Rev. A.P.W. Fraser, Rev. J. Morrison, Rev. D. MacIver, Rev. Professor D.

MacLeod, Rev. M.A. MacLeod, Rev. W.J. Campbell, Rev. J.J. Murray, Rev. A. Gollan, Mr. J.O. Sutherland, Mr. W.S. Wyllie, Mr N. MacLean, and Mr. J.M. Fraser; hereby amending Act XVI, 1986, as an interim measure.

XVIII. - Act anent Appointment of Representative to the Scottish Joint Committee on Religious Education

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1987

The General Assembly approve the appointment of Mr.A. MacAskill as representative of the Free Church on the Scottish Joint Committee on Religious Education in succession to the late Dr. N. A. R. MacKay.

XIX. - Act anent Exit and Entrance Examination

(amending Act XX, Class II, 1985)

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1987

The General Assembly amend Act XX Class II 1985 by adding Section 7.3 and renumbering subsequent sections accordingly:

7.3 Students may not present themselves for Exit Examinations other than those in Scripture, without having valid Class Certificates, and in this connection Class Certificates are valid only for diets of Exit Examinations up to and including the second diet in the year following the date of issue.

The General Assembly amend Act XX Class II 1985 in the second sentence of II.5.7 by deleting the words “failing these examinations” and adding at the end of that sentence the words “after consultation with the Senate”. The Section now reads:

5.7 All students other than those referred to in (5) above shall normally be required to pass the Entrance Examination in Hebrew and/or Greek as appropriate before being admitted to the classes of Junior Old Testament and Junior New Testament. However, concessions by way of exemption from the language part of these classes maybe granted to students should adequate cause be found by the Training of the Ministry Committee after consultation with the Senate.

XX. - Act anent Extra-Denominational Students - amending Act VII, 1979

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1987

The General Assembly amend Act VII, Class II, 1979; they delete section 2 of the Act, and in its place ordain that “The General Assembly direct that the Senatus, in consultation with the Training of the Ministry Committee, take active steps to publicise the College and to encourage extra-denominational students to enroll”.

XXI. - Act anent Commission of Assembly

(No.21 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1987

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay named by the Moderator: - To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the second Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority for sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXII. - Act anent Next General Assembly
(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1987

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 24th May 1988 at 9.30 o'clock forenoon.

ACT OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sale of Property

Edinburgh 4th March, 1987

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from Knox Free Church of Scotland, Perth and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church buildings and direct that the proceeds of the sale be lodged with the General Trustees until required for the provision or erection of an alternative building, the income meantime to be accumulated with the capital and any surplus remaining after the purchase or erection of a new building to be held for behoof of, and the interest thereon to be paid to, the Congregation. The transaction is to be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

The Commission direct that no sale be finalised unless alternative accommodation is available.

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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

MAY MCMLXXXVIII (1988)

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 1988

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 subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly this 24th day of May 1988, respectfully offer Your Majesty this renewed

expression of our allegiance and loyalty. Mindful of the heavy burden borne by Your Majesty in your exalted status, we thank God for the health and strength of mind and body given you. We thank God also for Your Majesty's devotion to duty and for the evident concern for the wellbeing of all your subjects demonstrated by frequent journeys throughout the far-flung Commonwealth. We are assured that this devotion and concern contribute greatly to the stability of this nation and the Commonwealth at large.

Committed as we are to the Supreme Authority of the Bible we recall with thankfulness the Principles of the Reformation which we believe, undergird Your Majesty's Throne and the constitution of the realm and sustain the true prosperity of this nation over which Your Majesty reigns by God's decree.

We pray that Your Majesty and your Ministers and advisers may be given much of the wisdom which begins in the fear of God being persuaded that such wisdom will procure strong national commitment to a Bible-honouring way of life such as has been enjoyed in the best ages of our country.

We assure Your Majesty that we share your concern for a just and peaceful settlement of the troubles in Northern Ireland, so that Your subjects there may be free to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

We have followed with interest the newscasts concerning Your Majesty's visit to Australia on the occasion of their bicentennial celebrations and have been gladdened by the public demonstrations of loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks for the sympathetic interest of the Royal Household in problems affecting the inner cities and we appreciate particularly the utterances of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales in bringing attention to human need in these areas.

We thank each member of the Royal Family for their exemplary devotion to public service and we pay special tribute to the Princess Royal for her outstanding work for deprived children of various countries. We pray that Your Majesty will continue to lead the nation with the dignity and wisdom which has already earned the admiration of many nations.

So pray Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland.

II. - Act anent Resignation of General Trustee
(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive, with regret the resignation of Rev. John N. Macleod as a General Trustee. They record appreciation of the service which Mr. Macleod has given the Church in this capacity and convey to him their sincere thanks and commend him to the grace of God.

III. - Act anent Re-allocation of Monies from Sales of Properties in Arran

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Church Congregation of Arran and grant its craves. They modify the terms of Act II of the Commission of Assembly, October 1975, Act XX of 1976, Act I of 1977; and Act I of 1978 and direct that:

(1) the proceeds from the sale of the Lochranza and Whiting Bay Manses be held for the Arran Congregation, the interest being paid to the Arran Finance Committee to be used for the repair and improvement of the Corrie cottage and the Shiskine Manse, and for the payment of ministerial expenses and other expenses of the joint charge;

(2) the Arran congregation be permitted to withdraw from this invested capital up to 5,505 Share Pool Units to meet expenses connected with the securing of feu dispositions for the church and Manse at Shiskine.

(3) accumulated interest on the Lochranza Manse investment be made over to the Treasurers of the Kilbride and Lochranza sections of the consolidated congregation for the upkeep of their fabric to be apportioned as follows:

2/7ths to Pirmill, 2/7ths to Brodick, 3/7ths to Corrie.

(4) the Arran congregation may further withdraw from the invested capital to the extent £8,000 for the effecting of improvements to the Shiskine Manse and the Corrie cottage.

IV. - Act anent Sales of Properties

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Lybster, Bruan, Latheron and Berriedale and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the church and manse buildings at Lybster, subject to such procedure as may be necessary for a Minute of Waiver or the purchase of the Superiority, the net proceeds of sale to be invested with the General Trustees until required for the purchase or erection of more suitable properties, and the income in the meantime to be made available to the Congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Olig, Watten and Bower and grant its crave. They renew the authority to sell the manse at Bower on the terms stipulated in Act III (Class II) 1980.

V. - Act anent Consolidation of North Knapsdale and Kilmartin with Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They unite the congregation of

North Knapdale and Kilmartin with Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside under the one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court, and declare that the charge be known as "Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside".

VI. - Act anent Release of Congregational Money (Kilmallie)

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They amend Act VIII 1975 and allow access to the balance of the capital realised from the sale of the Corpach Church and site, viz. £2,900.

VII. - Act anent Re-appointment of General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint Rev. Huite Sliep as General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

VIII. - Act anent Date of Meeting of Synod of North America

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Synod of North America and grant its crave. They authorise that the Synod meet on the first Tuesday following the 17th of April.

IX. - Act anent Reconstitution of Working Party on Welfare of Youth Syllabus

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly thank the Working Party on the Syllabus for their continued work in preparing the Syllabus and Teachers' Notes and continue the remit. The General Assembly reconstitute the Working Party on the Syllabus with the following personnel: The Convener and Vice-convener of the Welfare of Youth Committee, two representatives of the Select Committee on Education, the Editor of the Instructor, Professor D. Macleod, Rev. C. Matheson, Rev. Innes M. MacRae, Mr D. Gordon, Mr Colin MacDonald, Mr Evan Macdonald, Dr D. MacKenzie, Mr. D. MacLean and Mr. M.K. MacLeod.

X. - Act anent Welfare of Youth Examinations

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1988

The General Assembly approve the revised arrangements for Welfare of Youth Examinations whereby the existing examinations in Essay, Catechism and Scripture will be superseded by one composite examination at three levels which will embrace Catechism and Scripture.

XI. - Act anent Grant to Bethesda Nursing Home Trust
(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1988

The General Assembly recognising the establishment of the Nursing Home proposed by the Bethesda Nursing Home Trust as an extension of our care and concern for the elderly, and as an enhancement of the service provided to patients in the Isle of Lewis suffering from a terminal illness, commend the aims of the Trust to the prayerful interest of the Church and authorise a grant of £75,000 to the Trust payable in five equal annual instalments with the first instalment to be paid as soon as capital expenditure of £140,000 has been incurred. The amount of grant paid by the Church is not to exceed 11 per cent of the total capital expenditure incurred by the Trust.

XII. - Act anent Amendment of Pensions Regulations
(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1988

A. The General Assembly note and accept the changes made necessary in the present Pension Schemes by National legislation as follows:

(1) Membership is to be voluntary. (However, as the Schemes confer considerable benefits on a non-contributory basis, this is unlikely to affect membership).

(2) Preserved pensions, already partially 'inflation-proofed' are to be available after 2 years (previously 5 years) qualifying service and the requirement of having attained age 26 is removed. However, as a consequence 'qualifying service' should be redefined as not commencing before attainment of age 20.

(3) Transfer values, calculated on actuarial principles, are to be provided as an option to preserved pensions. (Transfer values are capital sums which can only be applied in specified ways to secure future pension benefits).

(4) An Additional Voluntary Contribution Scheme, for which the 1985 General Assembly passed enabling legislation, is to be provided, with some alterations to that enabling legislation now necessary.

B. The General Assembly approve, subject to Inland Revenue agreement as to content and timing, the following detailed changes to the present Pension Schemes:

(1) In Act IV of Commission of Assembly, March 1982, Pension Scheme for Ministers etc.

(i) Paragraph 4 shall be amended to read:

“The amount of pension provided under paragraph 3 shall be abated by one half of the additional part of the State pension insofar as that one half is attributable to the contributions made by the Church for the purpose of that additional part of the State pension during the period of qualifying service of a person to whom these regulations apply”.

(ii) Paragraph 8(a) shall be amended by deleting the words “one and three quarters times” and substituting therefor the words “two and a half times” and by adding at the end the words: “save that in the case of a person to whom (i) above applies dying after having attained the minimum retiring age, the cash payment shall be restricted to one and three-quarters times the sum specified in sub-paragraph (b) below”.

(iii) Paragraph 9(c) shall be amended to read:

“In the event of a person to whom these regulations apply dying, the Church may, at its discretion, (i) augment to such extent as it thinks fit any pension payable as a result by the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund

(ii) where such pension is not payable, pay an equivalent pension as if such person had been a member of the said Fund, augmented as provided in (i) above:

Provided that such payment and augmentation shall in no case prejudice the approval of this Scheme under Chapter II, Part II of the Finance Act 1970, of any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force”.

(2) In Act IV of Commission of Assembly, March 1982, Pension Scheme for Office etc. Staff,

(i) Paragraph 5 shall be amended to read:

“The amount of the pension provided under paragraph 4 shall be abated by one half of the additional part of the State pension insofar as that one half is attributable to the contributions made by the Church for the purpose of that additional part of the State pension during the period of qualifying service of a person to whom these regulations apply”.

(ii) Paragraph 9(a) shall be amended by deleting the words, “one and three quarters times” and substituting therefor the words “two and one half times”.

(iii) The following new paragraph shall be added between existing paragraphs 9 and 10:

“9A. Discretionary Benefit to Widows, etc.

“In the event of a person to whom these regulations apply dying, the Church may, at its discretion, pay an equivalent pension in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 9(e) (as amended) of the Pension Scheme for Ministers, etc. (Act IV of Commission of Assembly 1982), augmented as indicated therein:

Provided that such payment and augmentation shall in no case prejudice the approval of this Scheme under Chapter II, Part II, of the Finance Act 1970, or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.

C. The General Assembly approve in principle the proposal that the Pension Schemes should in future be properly funded rather than conducted on the present day “Pay-as-you-Go” basis. They recognise that full funding of pension obligations is a long-term aim but instruct that arrangements can be made as soon as possible for future pension obligations to be partially funded, bearing in mind the substantial additional cost to the Church and the minimum level of funding required to ensure the viability of such arrangements.

D. The General Assembly also approve the intention to arrange a Contracted-out Money Purchase Scheme to give Pension Scheme members the option to contract out of the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme.

XIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries
(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1988

The General Assembly declare and Equal Dividend of £8,250 as from 1 January 1988 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve the efforts to maintain the stipend at 75% of the National Average Wage.

XIV. - Act anent Supply Fees
(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1988

The General Assembly enact that as from 1 January 1989 the scale of preaching fees listed in Section 2, Act IX (Class II) 1985, shall be replaced by the following:

Resident Supply by Students and Probationers - to be negotiated with Supply Committee
Other Resident Supply £20
Weekend Supply - Probationer £25
Weekend Supply- Student £20
Weekend Supply-Other £10

**XV. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to the Churches and Universities (Scotland)
Widows' and Orphans' Fund**
(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1988

The General Assembly reappoint as a Trustee (for a further period of 4 years) Mr Iain D. Gill, C.A., A.T.I.I., who goes out of office at 30th May 1988.

XVI. - Act anent Extension of Development Status to Dunblane
(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1988

The General Assembly grant Dunblane Congregation a further three-year extension of Development Status.

XVII. - Act anent Extension of Outreach Status to Dumfries
(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1988

The General Assembly grant Dumfries Congregation a further three-year extension of Outreach Status.

XVIII. - Act anent College Session (amending Act XX, 1985)
(Act 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly amend Act XX, (Class II) 1985 in Section II, paragraph 1 so that it now reads: "The General Assembly ordain that the College Session shall be of three terms, viz., an Autumn and a Spring Term, each of ten weeks duration, and a Summer term of not less than six weeks duration as the Senatus may decide."

XIX. - Act anent Trials for Licence (Amending Act XX, 1985)
(Act 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly revise paragraph 4, Section IV Act XX 1985 to read:

"4. The General Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the student, provided always that no part of the examination of a student shall be commenced by a Presbytery until the last session of his theological course shall have been concluded, and until he shall produce to the Presbytery a certificate of his having passed satisfactorily an examination upon his previous studies from the Training of the Ministry Committee.

4.1 The Presbytery shall examine the student, strictly and privately.

4.2 The following written exercises are required:

(i) Either (a) Exercises prescribed by the Presbytery in Apologetics, Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Church History and Systematic Theology or (b) At the Presbytery's discretion the three College discourses may be received in lieu of three of the exercises specified in (a) above, and in each of the other areas of study the Presbytery may agree with the student to receive a College Essay if its subject matter satisfies the requirements of the Presbytery.

(ii) A popular sermon.

4.3 If the Presbytery see cause, they may orally examine the student upon the subject of these several exercises, and also in the Hebrew and Greek languages.

4.4 College discourses will be submitted to the Presbytery for information and perusal".

XX. - Act anent Resignation of Principal of Free Church College
(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly accept with regret the resignation of Rev. Principal C. Graham, M.A. B.D., from his College appointments. They fix 30th June 1988 as the effective date of his retirement subject to the terms of Act XI 1982 and grant him from that date the designation "Principal-Emeritus" and a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

XXI. - Act anent Conditions of Employment of Professors
(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly in accordance with Act XX, 1985 section V, paragraph 1.4, which requires the salaries of professors to be kept under review, enact as follows:

1.1 All professors appointed by this or subsequent General Assemblies shall receive a disturbance allowance to reimburse them for expenditure necessarily incurred as a consequence of appointment, up to a maximum of one-quarter of the Equal Dividend. The provisions of Act VI, 1979, in relation to removal costs, shall continue in force.

1.2.1 In respect of bonds granted by the General Trustees on security of a house which shall hereafter be purchased by a newly appointed professor, the Training of the Ministry Committee are directed to subsidise from the College Fund the rate of interest paid so that in the period from a professor's induction up to 31st December of the following year he shall pay interest at three per cent per annum, and that in each subsequent calendar year he shall pay at a rate of interest one percentage point higher until the rate of interest he pays equals that which the General Trustees charge, after which no subsidy shall be made.

1.2.2 The capital sum in respect of which the subsidy of 1.2.1 is paid shall not exceed four times the Equal Dividend current at the date of the professor's induction.

1.3 The pension paid to the professor shall be the Equal Dividend.

1.4 The salary paid to the professor shall be the Equal Dividend plus a non-pensionable supplement equal to the Equal Dividend.

2.1 Professors appointed prior to this Assembly shall continue to be paid a salary equivalent to the Equal Dividend plus three-quarters of the Equal Dividend, plus a non-pensionable supplement equal to one-quarter of the Equal Dividend.

2.2 The pensions of professors already appointed shall continue to be based on one and three quarter times the Equal Dividend.

2.3 Professors already appointed shall not be eligible for the disturbance allowance of 1.1 nor for the interest subsidy of 1.2.

XXII. - Act anent Appointment of Principal of Free Church College
(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Professor Archibald C. Boyd, M.A., B.D., to be Principal of the Free Church College in succession to Rev. Principal Clement Graham. They direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps for his induction on a date not earlier than 1st July 1988.

XXIII. - Act anent Appointment to Chair of Apologetics and Practical Theology in Free Church College
(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Alasdair I. Macleod, J.P, M.A, B .D., M.Div., to be Professor of Apologetics and Practical Theology in the Free Church College in accordance with existing legislation. They direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair on a date not earlier than 1st July 1988.

XXIV. - Act anent Tripartite Agreement between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, the Reformed Missions League (Holland), and the Free Church of Scotland.
(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly note and approve the terms of the Tripartite agreement between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, the Reformed Missions League (Holland) and the Free Church of Scotland, as follows:-

1. Doctrinal Aspects;

(a) The IEPP has adopted from the FCS the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter Catechism. Both documents must be studied and understood in the light of the Word of God at the present time, until the historical moment arrives when an indigenous and contextualised confession of faith is produced.

(b) The IEPP recognises that the Dutch Reformed Church has the Belgic Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism and the Canons of Dort. The IEPP recommends that its members study these and get to know them; but as a basis for their work with the IEPP, RML missionaries must accept the doctrinal standards of the IEPP.

(c) By virtue of the fact that the IEPP, the FCS and the RML represent the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, with particular characteristics due to their historical development in different contexts, they should engage in an open dialogue with a mutual acceptance of each others' confessions of faith, seeking together the most accurate contemporary interpretation of the Bible with the help of the aforesaid historical documents.

2. Organisational Aspect:

(a) The IEPP is organised ecclesiastically on the basis of local congregations with collegiate government elected by the congregation. The FCS and RML missionaries who work with the IEPP must be members of the local Church, and in order to hold Church office they are subject to the same conditions as national members. If they have been ordained as ministers or elders in their former Churches they will only be elected by the congregation and inducted by the Presbytery.

(b) When as a result of missionary work a group of new believers reaches the stage of establishing a new congregation of the IEPP it will be set up and recognised according to IEPP procedural rules.

(c) The FCS and RML missionaries will be subject to the organisational rules of the Presbyteries and/or Kirk Sessions of the areas where they work, except in matters of conscience linked to the vows taken in their home Churches.

(d) The designation of spheres of work as of tasks and other administrative matters will be determined by the Pastoral Commission and Executive, in co-ordination with the Presbyteries and/or Kirk Sessions, in agreement with the parties concerned and also the FCS and the RML.

(e) Missionaries may hold office in the General Assembly, committees, presbyteries and congregations of the IEPP, provided they do not attain an excessive influence which would militate against IEPP autonomy.

(f) FCS and RML missionaries will be responsible to their Kirk Sessions if they are local ministers, to Presbyteries if they are opening new fields of work, and to the Executive if they are carrying out special ministries at national level.

3. Ministerial Aspect:

The IEPP is drawing up a national five-year plan as an expression of its desire to expand and as a way of celebrating its 25 years of legal existence. As a result it wants to have the aim of seeing one minister for every fifty members, and a goal of 2500 members for 1992.

Therefore the FCS and RML agree - insofar as their funds and policies allow - to co-operate in the sending of more missionaries.

In the light of present circumstances and having reached in each individual case mutual agreement between the IEPP and the respective mission - spelt out in writing in a job description - these missionaries will work as:

(a) Evangelists

(b) Local ministers, not necessarily full-time and only with the agreement of their mission.

(c) Trainers of (future) national leaders.

(d) Ministers with special responsibilities in youth work (if they are gifted in that area). The aim of this work will be to attract young people and professionals, stimulating among them a ministerial vocation.

(e) Workers in community development and in diaconal ministry in general.

It is expected that ministers appointed to the task of preaching and teaching will emphasise the need of unity and cohesion in the IEPP at a national level, and that they will also teach

and practise biblical principles concerning Christian stewardship.

4. Financial Aspect:

(a) The IEPP has not yet reached the goal of financial self-support. It appears that this stems from the lack of teaching and practice of Christian stewardship on the part of its leaders. But it is also due to the very limited resources of its members, especially those in the mountains and jungle. Therefore on renewing this agreement the FCS and RML will contribute financially and through teaching to the development of the IEPP's national plan, in accordance with their abilities and policies.

(b) The IEPP through the Treasurer of the Executive, will prepare an annual budget for the approval of the General Assembly. This will show administrative costs and those connected with growth and church development as the National Plan advances. It will include: evangelism, diaconal service, theological and ministerial training, leadership, youth, women, children, consolidating churches, stewardship, opening new fields in new cities.

The budget will be sent to the FCS and RML (in good time, before the first of September of the preceeding year) so that they may consider to what extent they can co-operate.

(c) To enable the IEPP to have a trained pastoral and diaconal leadership, the FCS and the RML will try to contribute financially and seek contacts for the provision of scholarships for theological students who will study in Peru. In exceptional cases the IEPP may consult with the missions about the possibility of scholarships for study abroad, especially post-graduate studies. For a scholarship abroad, a condition will be six years active membership in the IEPP.

(d) The great aim is that each congregation be entirely responsible for paying its pastor a salary which will enable him to have a decent standard of living. In the meantime the ministers provided by the FCS and RML shall be supported by the missions, and perhaps when the local Church can provide partial support, the FCS and RML shall deduct part of their contributions from the missionary pastor

(e) The costs of missionaries' international transport, and also their housing, internal travel and other items shall be covered by the supporting mission.

5. General Aspects:

(a) Our principle of financial of co-operation dependent on the FCS and RML is that we should not place any ideological emphasis on it, nor be afraid of this dependence which stems from the present international economic order. Rather is it a case of strengthening financial and missionary co-operation on the basis of a work plan which aims at future self-support. Economic assistance on the part of the missions is given as an expression of love and brotherly communion, and cannot prejudice the freedom of the IEPP to organise its own affairs in the light of the Holy Word. The hope is expressed that financial and material dependence will gradually be reduced.

(b) It is desirable that the personnel sent by the FCS and RML have some ministerial experience in preaching, evangelism, diaconal service, leadership in youth or children's work, and a vision of working in a team rather than imposing authority.

(c) The IEPP places great value on an adequate missiological preparation of missionaries before they reach Peru, and during their initial orientation in the country they should receive guidance from national leaders.

(d) The Executive will appoint a number of the IEPP to receive and accompany the new missionary during his orientation period in Peru.

(e) The personnel sent by the FCS and RML must be prepared for life and work in difficult surroundings. For example: absence of means of transport, of communication, of electric light, of drinking water, and sewerage, and of other facilities to which they are used in their home countries. They must also have a basic knowledge of the cultural and linguistic aspects of the place where they will be living.

6. Duration of the Agreement:

(a) In view of the National Plan, this agreement is signed for a period of five years (till 1993), so as to guarantee its normal development.

(b) In each tripartite meeting, the various areas where co-operation has been agreed will be evaluated, so as to analyse progress and put forward amendments if necessary.

(c) If during the period of this agreement, one of the parties believes that it is advisable to modify, amplify or exclude any point of the present agreement, they must inform the other parties not less than 90 days before the tripartite meeting so that the matter may be studied adequately.

(d) On expiry of the present agreement the parties will carry out an overall evaluation to assess progress, and if the agreement is deemed renewable, it will be done with whatever alterations are necessary in the prevailing circumstances.

XXV. - Act anent Secondment of Missionary Volunteers (No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly approve of the Board's proposal for the secondment of missionary volunteers to other Churches and mission societies on the following conditions:

i) The candidate will first of all have volunteered for work in the foreign missions of the Free Church of Scotland.

ii) The Board will be satisfied as to the suitability of the candidate for foreign missionary work but have no opening to employ him/her.

iii) The Board will enquire from Churches loyal to Reformed Standards or Societies of whose basis of faith they approve - as to the possibility of their accepting the volunteer by secondment from the Free Church of Scotland.

iv) The terms of secondment shall be negotiated by the Board and the employing agency and the missionary volunteer.

v) The missionary so appointed shall report regularly to the Board and subject to the conditions of secondment shall be available for transfer to a Free Church missions area should an opening occur there.

vi) Service by secondment may be treated as qualifying service in the Free Church of Scotland for pension purposes subject to such treatment being negotiated, in the light of all the known circumstances, with the Committee responsible for the Pension Schemes of the Church.

XXVI. - Act anent Terms of Appointment of Worker to Asian Outreach

(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly recognising the value of the work of Asian Outreach would be greatly benefited by the services of someone fluent in one or more of the dominant languages of the resident Asian community in Glasgow, authorise the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board to appoint to the work in Glasgow a male worker with these qualifications on the following terms:

i) The person appointed shall be a member of the Free Church of Scotland willing to sign a statement to the effect that the Westminster Confession of Faith represents his understanding of Biblical teaching:

ii) that the appointment shall be for a period of three years with the possibility of renewal at the end of that period on existing or revised terms:

iii) notwithstanding (ii) above review shall be possible at an earlier date than three years if circumstances indicate the desirability of such earlier review:

iv) the person appointed shall work in cooperation with Rev. Ian McKenzie and Miss Julia MacKenzie under the Asian Outreach Committee with the Minister of Grant Street Free Church having an advisory role:

v) salary shall be at the level of that of a resident lay missionary with relevant expenses and accommodation provided.

XXVII. - Act anent Reappointment of Rev. I.J. McKenzie

(No. 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1988

The General Assembly recognising the value of the work he has already done and noting the ever growing opportunities continue the appointment of Rev. Ian McKenzie for a further three years on the terms set out in Act XXI (Class II) 1984.

XXVIII. - Act anent Appointment of Presbytery Strategy Committees
(No. 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly direct each Presbytery of the Church to set up a Strategy Committee to elaborate and maintain a coherent vision for outreach and development within its bounds, or else to assign that responsibility to some other specific committee of presbytery: such a committee being required to report to presbytery on its deliberations at least twice a year.

XXIX. - Act anent Register of Probationers
(No. 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly enact and ordain that:

- (1) Clerks of Presbyteries shall send the names and addresses of all who may be licensed by them as Probationers, with dates of licence, within one week thereafter, to the Principal Clerk of Assembly;
- (2) the Principal Clerk shall prepare and maintain a Register of all Probationers of the Free Church according to date of licence;
- (3) the Principal Clerk shall furnish the Sustentation and Supply Committee annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Register of Probationers (together with the names of those on the Register of Resigned Ministers, available for call), and the Committee shall incorporate into its report to the General Assembly the list of names;
- (4) no name shall remain on the Register of Probationers for more than six years, except as provided for in (5) and (6) below;
- (5) at any time between the sixth and tenth anniversaries of his name having been placed on the Register of Probationers, an individual may petition the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides to have his name restored to the Register, and the Presbytery, if it sees good cause, shall inform the Principal Clerk who shall restore the name to the Register where it shall be retained until ten years have elapsed from the initial registration;
- (6) after ten years have elapsed from a name being added to the Register of Probationers, it shall not continued except by direct instruction of the General Assembly upon consideration of a petition for that purpose, supported by the Presbytery within whose bounds an individual then resides, and presented through the Committee on Sustentation and Supply. The General Assembly repeal all previous Acts anent Register of Probationers, excepting so far as they

may be embodied in this Act; or are referred to herein for purposes of amplification.

XXX. - Act anent Quinquennial Visitation Procedure

(No. 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

1. The General Assembly direct the Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance Committee to issue to presbytery clerks copies of the Recommended Procedure for Quinquennial Visitation and copies of visitation schedules, to receive representations from presbyteries as to how improvements might be made in the recommended procedure and visitation schedules, and to incorporate such modifications as it considers necessary.
2. The General Assembly draw the attention of presbyteries to the Recommended Procedure for Quinquennial Visitation contained in the Appendix to the Report of the Strategy Committee and to visitation schedules issued by the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance, and urge that they adopt this procedure as far as is applicable to their circumstances and that they take full advantage of the availability of standard questionnaires in conducting quinquennial visitations.

XXXI. - Act anent Maintenance of Buildings

(No. 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly, desiring that the fabric of churches, halls and manses be preserved from decay, that the cost of repairs be lessened by constant attention to the condition of buildings, and that the church be not burdened by the upkeep of buildings no longer fully utilised, enact that;

(1) the Deacons' Court of each congregation shall give regular attention to, and promptly see to the making good of, defects in all congregational property;

(2) the Committee on Buildings Maintenance shall prepare, and revise as necessary, an appropriate Buildings Return to be filled in by the Deacons' Court at the time of each quinquennial visitation; this Return shall give details of the properties held by the congregation, of the Buildings Certificate required in (4) below, and of major repairs carried out since the last such return;

(3) at least three months before the date on which the Presbytery shall resolve to conduct a quinquennial visitation, the Presbytery Clerk shall send to the Clerk of the Deacons' Court a copy of the Buildings Return specified in (2) above so that it may be timeously filled in and returned before the visitation takes place;

(4) the Deacons' Court shall prior to each quinquennial visitation of the congregation by the Presbytery provide the Presbytery with a Buildings Certificate dated in the previous three months and under the hand of a qualified person, such a Certificate attesting that the fabric of

all congregational property is in a good state of repair, subject to such defects (if any) as exist and are specified; the Deacons' Court shall also complete the Buildings Return;

(5) the Presbytery shall consider the particulars of the above-mentioned Buildings Certificate and Return, and shall transmit a copy of the Buildings Return to the Clerk to the Buildings Committee, with their comments thereon. In particular the Presbytery shall formulate a view, conjointly with the congregation, as to whether sufficient use is being made of each property as to warrant its continued upkeep;

(6) the Committee on Buildings Maintenance shall not approve of applications for buildings grants and loans on property for which a duly completed Buildings Return has not been provided during the previous five years;

(7) if a congregation does not have a Deacons' Court, the Finance Committee shall assume the functions and responsibilities allocated above to the Deacons' Court:

(8) Acts V, 1939 and VIII, 1948 are hereby repealed.

XXXII. - Act anent Church and Manse Building Fund

(No. 32 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly authorise the Committee on Buildings Maintenance to give at its discretion grants and/or loans from the Church and Manse Building Fund in the following circumstances:

(1) where assistance is needed with the cost of a survey required in connection with a quinquennial visitation Buildings Certificate;

(2) where assistance is needed with the cost of changing the title deeds of a congregation's property to conform to the Model Trust Deed.

(3) where assistance is needed with the cost of obtaining valid titles to existing buildings, provided that such titles conform to the Model Trust Deed.

XXXIII. - Act anent Outreach Charges (modifying Act 11, Class II, 1979.)

(No. 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly direct that no further Outreach Charges shall be created after the close of this Assembly. Act XI, 1979 is retained only in reference to existing outreach charges.

XXXIV. - Act anent Redevelopment Charges

(No. 34 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly, wishing to give a high priority to the revitalization of run-down congregations which have potential for development, institute REDEVELOPMENT CHARGES, and enact and ordain as follows:

1 Definition: The General Assembly may designate a congregation a redevelopment charge when the following criteria all apply:

1.1 its numerical or financial strength has become seriously weakened,

1.2 it is situated in an area where there is reason to believe that special evangelistic effort on the part of the denomination could lead, with the blessing of God, to substantial growth,

1.3 it has been recommended for such status by the Sustentation Committee on the advice of the presbytery of the bounds and after consideration of the general circumstances of the Church.

2. Process of Application:

2.1 Each presbytery shall require its Strategy (or equivalent) Committee to review annually the situation of all congregations within its bounds so that those suitable for redevelopment status may be identified.

2.2 On the recommendation of the Strategy (or equivalent) Committee of the presbytery, or by application from the Kirk Session of the congregation, the presbytery will meet with the congregation and fully satisfy itself that it falls within the requirements of 1.12 and 1.2 above.

2.3 The presbytery shall record what it considers necessary for the potential for growth in the congregation to be realised.

2.4 The presbytery shall ensure that the kirk session of the congregation is sufficiently strong, and shall undertake to organise with them an appropriate long-term programme of visitation in consultation with the Sustentation Committee.

2.5 The presbytery shall then petition the General Assembly through the Sustentation Committee that the congregation be designated a redevelopment charge.

2.6 On being advised of the petition the Sustentation Committee shall recommend only such congregations as it deems suitable to the General Assembly for designation as redevelopment charges. In doing this, the Committee shall limit the number of its recommendations to what seems appropriate in the light of the general circumstances of the church, and the Committee's budget for this purpose.

2.7 When the General Assembly designate a congregation a Redevelopment Charge the Sustentation Committee shall be empowered, in the event of a vacancy, in agreement with the presbytery of the bounds, to appoint a person suitably gifted for the task of redevelopment to the pastoral oversight of the redevelopment charge.

2.8 When the person to be appointed is a minister already in a charge the procedure for his appointment will be that the Committee on Sustentation in consultation with the redevelopment charge will approach the Presbytery within whose bounds the charge is situated requesting them to approach the Presbytery in which the minister is settled to ask that he be released from his charge to enable him to take up appointment in the redevelopment charge.

2.9 In the event of a congregation which is vacant when the General Assembly designates it a redevelopment charge not having an appointment made to it within two years, the Presbytery will be required to reapply for redevelopment status for the congregation.

2.10 In the event of a congregation becoming vacant after it has been designated a redevelopment charge and thereafter not having an appointment made to it within two years, the Presbytery will be required to reapply for redevelopment status for the congregation.

3 Conditions of Appointment of Minister or Probationer to a Redevelopment Charge

3.1 The appointment must be agreed upon by the Sustentation Committee, the Presbytery of the bounds, and a majority of the membership, in conformity with 2.7 above.

3.2 The appointment will be, in the first instance, for a period of five years. If the appointment be that of a probationer, it will include his ordination to the pastoral ministry in the usual way.

3.3 (1) The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of Equal Dividend each year and shall be borne by the Committee on Sustentation.

(2) The congregation shall pay a sum for his travelling and other expenses, which sum shall be fixed in agreement with the Sustentation Committee and reviewed annually during the appointment.

3.4 (1) The Committee on Sustentation shall be responsible for payment of his annual premium to the Widows' & Orphans' Fund.

(2) The congregation shall meet the minister's GEAS contributions annually.

3.5 The congregation shall also bear the entire annual burden on the manse together with the repairs, redecoration or maintenance costs which may be necessary during the five-year period.

3.6 The congregation shall be responsible for the normal local expenses of running the congregation and shall, in addition, make an annual contribution to the central Funds of the Church; that contribution shall be fixed for the first year of the appointment at a figure approved by the Sustentation Committee in the light of the congregation's financial income in the year prior to the appointment, and in order to secure the appointment for the whole five-year period, the sum should show a significant and satisfactory increase over each year of the appointment, and shall subsequently be set by the Sustentation Committee in such a way that (a) the sum contributed to Central Funds shall not in any year be a lesser proportion of the Equal Dividend than it was in the year of the appointment and (b) over the five year

period the sum contributed shall show a satisfactory increase.

3.7 The minister appointed shall devote his whole time to the redevelopment charge and work under the supervision of the Presbytery of which he is a member, in conjunction with the Sustentation Committee.

3.8 The minister shall report at least annually to meetings of his Presbytery and the Presbytery shall report by 14th February each year to the Sustentation Committee, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the congregation.

3.9 During the five years of his initial appointment, a minister appointed to a redevelopment charge will not be eligible for a call to another charge. If his appointment is extended beyond the initial five-year period, he shall then be eligible for call to another charge.

4. Settled Charges

When a settle congregation is proposed for redevelopment status then prior to considering a petition to the General Assembly, the Presbytery shall inquire of the minister if he is willing to accept the terms of 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7 and 3.8 above, and shall report on this to the Sustentation Committee when it transmits its petition through them to the Assembly.

5. Review Procedure

5.1 At the end of five years, or if the charge was vacant when redevelopment status was granted, five years after the date of the appointment of a minister, the Presbytery on the advice of its Strategy (or equivalent) Committee, and in consultation with the Sustentation Committee, shall formulate proposals regarding the future of the congregation, and shall pass them on to the Sustentation Committee.

5.2.1 If the congregations circumstances have sufficiently improved, then the Sustentation Committee may place the congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform in terms of the prevailing regulations, and so report to the General Assembly.

5.2.2 If in the circumstances of 5.2.1, if the minister in the charge was inducted prior to the granting of redevelopment status, his situation is unchanged.

5.2.3 If in the circumstances of 5.2.1 the minister has been appointed to the charge in terms of this legislation, then the presbytery shall visit the congregation and ascertain if it is their cordial desire that he remain as their minister, and shall ascertain if the minister is willing to remain in the charge. If both these conditions are met, then the presbytery shall petition the General Assembly to remove the restriction on the minister's induction to the charge.

5.2.4 If the minister's link with the congregation is severed at the end of the five-year period, then he shall be treated as a minister without charge, except that he shall be paid at the rate of the then current Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner, and the Presbytery shall inform the Assembly Clerk so that his name may be included on the Register of Ministers without Charge.

5.3.1 If the congregation's circumstances are such that an extension of redevelopment status is desired, then the presbytery shall so petition the General Assembly through the Sustentation Committee. The General Assembly may grant a further five-year period of redevelopment charge status to the congregation. In normal circumstances there shall be no further extending of such status beyond this period.

5.3.2 A minister appointed to the redevelopment charge may then have his appointment extended for a further five years.

5.3.3 If at the time of the five year review the minister does not wish reappointment, or the Committee does not reappoint, then the conditions of 5.2.4 apply.

5.4 If the congregation is not placed on the Equal Dividend Platform, or if the congregation is not granted an extension of redevelopment status, then when the minister of the congregation was inducted prior to the granting of redevelopment status, the position of both the congregation and the minister shall revert to their former status; but if the minister has been appointed to the redevelopment charge, 5.2.4 above shall apply.

XXXV. - Act anent Board of Pastoral Advice
(No. 35 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly, recognising that ministers and Church courts from time to time face perplexing problems which are not open to formal process and which do not obviously fall within the remit of any existing body, resolve that there be instituted a BOARD OF PASTORALADVICE to which such problems may be referred.

It is therefore enacted that:

1.1 The Board of Pastoral Advice shall consist of seven persons of mature experience and known ability in the realm of personal relations.

1.2 Of the ministers and elders comprising the Board, at least two shall be elders.

1.3 They shall be recommended by presbyteries and nominated to the General Assembly by the Nominations Committee who are charged to secure representation of each of the three synods, and who shall nominate the Convener

1.4 The term of service shall be four years and initial appointments will be so arranged as to achieve a smooth rotation from year to year thereafter.

1.5 Those whose term of service terminates will be eligible for immediate re-appointment.

2.1 The function of the Board shall be advisory and supportive. At no time shall they exercise judicial powers or intrude upon the domain of Church courts.

2.2 The proceedings of the Board shall be strictly confidential, and a private minute book shall be kept which will not be subject to examination except by direct order of the General Assembly in relation to a specific matter

2.3 The Assembly Clerks' Department shall be responsible for the keeping of the minutes.

2.4 The Board shall report annually in general terms to the General Assembly.

XXXVI. - Act anent Constitution of Livingston as a Fully Sanctioned Charge

(No. 36 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Livingston Congregation and grant its crave The General Assembly constitute the Congregation of Livingston a fully-sanctioned Charge and place the Congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform for a period of 3 years in terms of Act XII 1984. The General Assembly remove any restriction imposed on the duration of the appointment of Rev J.A.M. Mackay by Act XXII 1975, and declare him to be Minister at Livingston ad vitam aut culpam.

XXXVII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 37 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev Prin. C. Graham named by the Moderator:- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the second Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining

in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXXVIII. - Act appointing next General Assembly
(No. 38 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1988

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday 23rd May 1989 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

**I. - Act anent Consolidation of Congregations of Shiskine, Slidery and Whiting Bay,
and of Kilbride and Lochranza**

Edinburgh, 7th October 1987

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the congregations of Shiskine, Slidery and Whiting Bay and of Kilbride and Lochranza and grant its crave. They enact that:

1. The Congregation of Kilbride and Lochranza be consolidated with the Congregation of Shiskine, Slidery and Whiting Bay, the consolidated charge to be known as the Arran Congregation;
2. There be one Kirk Session for the Arran Congregation and the organisational structure of the congregations be worked out within a period of five years under the direction of the Kirk Session and with the approval of the Presbytery of Glasgow, the agreed arrangements being reported to the General Assembly through the Committee on Sustentation and Supply;
3. The minister of the consolidated charge be entitled to the assistance of supply each week as shall be arranged by him and the Kirk Session, that supply being residential in the summer

months.

4. The cost of supply be shared by the Congregation and the Supply Committee in accordance with current supply arrangements;
5. Until a settlement is achieved, present supply arrangements continue, that is by the employment of two preachers entitled to fee each Lord's Day.

II. - Act anent Consolidation of Nairn, and Croy, Cawdor and Ardersier

Edinburgh, 7th October 1987

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness and grant its crave to the extent that:

1. they consolidate the congregations of Nairn, and of Croy, Cawdor and Ardersier into a single charge to be known as the charge of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier, each congregation retaining its own Kirk Session and Deacons' Court or Finance Committee;
2. the continuance of these three Kirk Sessions shall be for one year during which the Presbytery of Inverness are directed to seek their union into one, and report on the result of their endeavours to the 1989 General Assembly through the Committee on Sustentation and Supply;
3. they authorise that any minister settled in the consolidated charge shall have the assistance of one person as supply each Sabbath, the expenses and fee being paid by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply in accordance with current supply regulations.

III. - Act anent Authorisation of Sale of Manse at Leith

Edinburgh, 9th March 1988

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Elder Memorial Church, Leith and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at 11 Rosslyn Terrace, Leith, subject to such conditions as the titles may impose, the proceeds to be held by the General Trustees and applied to the acquisition of a more suitable property; the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

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

MAY MCMLXXXIX (1989)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

I. - Act anent Retiral of Ministers

(No 1 of Class I)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly, with consent of Presbyteries, enact and ordain that a minister inducted to a charge or appointed to a full-time post in the Church subsequent to this General Assembly, shall demit such a charge or post with effect from 30th September following his attainment of the age of 70 years, and shall retain his seat in presbytery.

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 23rd May 1989

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 devoted servants, ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland convened in General Assembly on this 23rd day of May 1989, gladly affirm our wholehearted loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We are profoundly thankful for the stability of the constitutional Monarchy with which our nation is blessed and gratefully acknowledge the debt which, under Providence, we owe to Your Majesty and, indeed, to all Your Majesty's Royal Household for the high regard in which the British Throne is held throughout the world.

Your Majesty is constantly remembered before the Eternal Throne in the public and private prayers of our Church, and we give thanks that, during the many years of Your gracious reign, God has granted health, wisdom and grace to enable your Majesty to carry through your arduous programme and to bear well the heavy duties and responsibilities of your exalted station.

Your Majesty's consistent example of diligence and devotion to duty, high regard for family life and regular attendance on Divine worship is a valued inspiration and encouragement to the nation.

We acknowledge gratefully the very many worthy causes which engage the interest and enjoy

the active support of members of Your Royal House. In particular we mention the compassionate interest in and concern for AIDS sufferers and for those exposed to and victims of the widespread scourge of drug abuse shown by Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales and her reaffirmation of the importance of the family unity which has won the admiration and gratitude of your people.

The birth of a daughter to their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York has given unqualified pleasure to us all. We express our prayerful good wishes for the future well-being and happiness of her Royal Highness The Princess Beatrice.

We continue to pray that a spirit of reconciliation will put an end to the strife in Northern Ireland so that your Majesty's subjects may enjoy life in quietness and security.

With the rest of the nation we have been horrified by the appalling loss of life in the dreadful tragedies of recent months and pray that the Father of mercy and God of all comfort will bring the consolations of His grace to all who were suddenly and sorely bereaved. We hope that, warned by these events, Your Majesty's Ministers and others will take measures to prevent their recurrence.

Because we believe that the country's stability, prosperity and hope is bound up with national godliness we pray that, as in times past, our God would send to our nation revival of true religion that would promote in our land righteousness and Godly fear expressing itself in a love for God's word, delight in His day and a spirit of love and harmony among all your people.

May blessings of Divine grace continue to rest on Your Majesty and each member of Your Royal House.

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

III. - Act anent Duration and Programme of the General Assembly

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

1. The General Assembly approve of Committees releasing to the Press newsworthy items in their Reports prior to the full reports being sent to Commissioners.
2. The General Assembly direct that future Assemblies convene on Monday evenings and the sittings of Assembly continue until Friday of the same week.
3. The General Assembly whilst reserving to the Business Committee of future Assemblies recommendations as to the order of business, accept as a general pattern for guidance the programme as listed in Appendix I to this Deliverance.
4. The General Assembly recommend that Reports which deal largely with financial matters be not taken consecutively.

IV. - Act anent Appointment of General Trustees

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly appoint Mr James MacKenzie Fraser and Rev. Alexander Murdo Macleod as General Trustees.

V. - Act anent Sales of Properties

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Fearn and grant its crave. They renew the authority to sell the Church which is presently in disuse and direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees and the income applied to congregational purposes. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Olig, Watten and Bower and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse in Castletown, the proceeds of sale to be invested with the General Trustees until they are required for the purchase or erection of a more suitable building. The income in the meantime to be accumulated with the Capital until required for the new manse. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

3. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Dumfries and grant its crave. They authorise the Deacons' Court, assisted by persons to be appointed by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and advised by the Church's Law Agents to enter into negotiation with the Regional Council with a view to receiving the best possible replacement for the present Church Building. The new building is to be taken under the terms of the Model Trust Deed and the transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

VI. - Act amending Standing Order II.7

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly amend Standing Order II.7 by substituting 28th February for 15th March so that the first sentence of Standing Order II.7 now reads "These regulations shall not apply to Petitions for authority to sell congregational property, which Petitions shall not be transmitted through the Bills and Overtures Committee, but in the case of those addressed to the General Assembly shall be forwarded through the regular channels so as to be in the hands of the Principal Clerk not later than 28th February in each year."

VII. - Act anent Release of Congregational Money (Alligin)

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation at Alligin and grant its crave. They authorise the General Trustees to release so much of the capital rendered by the sale of the Alligin Mission House as will be required to have electricity introduced to the Church at Alligin, the Church wired and storage heaters installed. Any capital remaining will continue to be held by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation and the interest paid to congregational funds.

VIII. - Act anent Union of Finance Committees of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill and grant its crave. They amend Act XVII, 1967 to allow the Finance Committees of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill to unite to form one joint Finance Committee.

IX. - Act anent Constitution of Smithton-Culloden as a Fully Sanctioned Charge

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Smithton-Culloden and grant its crave. They accord to the Congregation the status of a fully-sanctioned charge and place it on the Equal Dividend Platform subject to the three-year review procedure of Act XII, 1984. The General Assembly also remove the restriction on the duration of Mr Meredith's induction and declare him to be Minister at Smithton-Culloden.

X. - Act anent Date of Meeting of Southern Synod

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly receive the Petition "A" from the Southern Synod. They amend the decision of the General Assembly in Act VIII, 1983, as far as it refers to the Southern Synod and appoint the Synod's statutory date of meeting as the third Tuesday in April.

XI. - Act anent Synod Business Committees

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1989

The General Assembly receive the Petition "B" from the Southern Synod and grant its crave. They ordain:

(1) that Synods are permitted, if they so choose, to appoint annually a Standing Committee on

business;

(2) that such a Committee's responsibilities may include the following: to examine Presbytery Records; to examine Presbytery programmes of Quinquennial Visitation; to prepare a report on deceased ministers and elders; to examine Bills, Overtures and Correspondence and to bring to the Synod a report on the business to be transacted; to report on changes in the ministerial membership of the Synod; to make recommendations re the appointment of corresponding members of Synod; to make recommendations re the personnel for the Standing Business Committee of Synod and in general to prepare routine business for the consideration of the Synod;

(3) that in the appointment of this Committee the Synod will ensure that all the Presbyteries within the bounds of the Synod are represented.

XII. - Act anent Funding of Pensions and Calculation of Equal Dividend (amending Act XIII, 1977)

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

1. The General Assembly in order to help meet the additional cost of funding the pension obligations adjust Act XIII, 1977 to the extent that the level of 75% of the National Average Wage as a standard Equal Dividend be reduced to 72% and that this 72% of National Average Wage be adhered to as far as possible but subject to adjustment should the Sustentation and Finance Committees be so compelled by severe financial considerations.

2. The General Assembly approve the recommendation that in each of the years 1990 and 1991 the increase in stipend be restricted to 2% below the rate of increase in the National Average Wage, thus giving a stipend in 1991 of 72% of the National Average Wage, provided it has been possible to adhere to that standard otherwise.

XIII. - Act anent Benefits to Spouses of Deceased Members of the Church's Pension Schemes

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

The General Assembly direct that, subject to Inland Revenue and actuarial agreement and advice as to content and timing, increased benefits be provided by the Church's Pension Schemes to the surviving spouses of deceased members using the principle that a pension be provided of one-half of the pension or prospective pension of the deceased member.

XIV. - Act anent Appointment of Trustees for the Church's Pension Schemes

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

The General Assembly authorise the appointment, in due time of the Free Church of Scotland

General Trustees Nominees and The Wyatt Company (U.K.) Limited as trustees of the Church's Pension Schemes.

XV. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £8,950 from 1 January 1989 exclusive of the premiums paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve the past effort to maintain the stipend at 75% of the National Average Wage.

XVI. - Act anent Extension of Special Arrangements for Glenelg and Arnisdale

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

The General Assembly approve that the congregation of Glenelg and Arnisdale be placed on Special Arrangements for a further period of three years.

XVII. - Act anent Granting of Redevelopment Charge Status

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

(a) The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Ross and grant its crave. Having noted the recommendation of the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance they confer the status of Redevelopment Charge on the congregation of Tarbat under the provisions of Act XXXIV, 1988.

(b) The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness and grant its crave. Having noted the recommendation of the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance they confer the status of Redevelopment Charge on the congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier under the provisions of Act XXXIV, 1988.

(c) The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. Having noted the recommendation of the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance they confer the status of Redevelopment Charge on the congregation of Campbeltown under the provisions of Act XXXIV, 1988.

XVIII. - Act anent Supply Fees

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

1. The General Assembly authorise the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance in exceptional circumstances to pay Supply Fees other than those detailed in the Scale of Fees provided that they then report the circumstances and their action to the General

Assembly.

2. The General Assembly amend Act XIV, 1988 by the following addition:
Weekend Supply Unemployed Persons £20.

**XIX. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to the Churches and Universities (Scotland)
Widows' and Orphans' Fund**
(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

The General Assembly convey their thanks to Dr G N. M. Collins for his long and valued services as a Trustee of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund. With regret they comply with his wish not to be re-appointed. The General Assembly appoint the Rev. Professor John L. Mackay a Trustee of the Fund for the normal period of four years from 1st June 1989.

XX. - Act anent Extension of Development Status to Lennoxton
(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1989

The General Assembly grant Lennoxton congregation a further three-year extension of Development Status and reappoint Rev. I. Beaton to the charge for that period.

**XXI. - Act anent Appointment of Advisory Panel to the Public Questions, Religion and
Morals Committee and the Asian Outreach Committee**
(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1989

The General Assembly note the Committee's report on the remit from last year's Assembly about the possibility of obtaining the services of someone to advise the Church on promoting the Gospel in the Muslim community in Scotland. They approve the proposal to set up a panel to study the issues involved with a view to advising the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee and the Asian Outreach Committee. The Panel is to comprise: a representative of the Asian Outreach Committee, Professor Alasdair I. Macleod and Principal-Emeritus C. Graham and is empowered to consult with persons of recognised knowledge and experience in Muslim belief and practice. Principal-Emeritus C. Graham to be convener.

**XXII - Act anent Appointment of Special Committee on the Social Responsibility of the
Church**
(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1989

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee (not exceeding seven in number) to

consider the returns from Presbyteries and other relevant material about The Social Responsibility of the Church. The Special Committee shall reflect on what may be legitimate and feasible for the Free Church in the direction of further social involvement having regard to the number of people supporting the Church, the Church's financial position and its resources in experienced personnel. The following to comprise the Special Committee: two representatives each from the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee and one representative (to be appointed by the General Assembly) from each Synod. The Special Committee is empowered to co-opt persons with relevant experience as they deem necessary. The Convener of the Special Committee to be one of the representatives of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee. The Committee to report to next Assembly.

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly in terms of the finding in paragraph 12 of the Deliverance of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee appoint the following representatives to the Special Committee on the Social Responsibility of the Church:

from the Northern Synod, Rev. C. J. G. Bell;
from the Southern Synod, Dr E. J. MacKay;
and from the Western Synod, Rev. A. M. Macleod.

XXIII. - Act anent Classes in Psalmody and Elocution in the Free Church College
(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1989

The General Assembly amend Sub-section 3 of Section II of Act II, Class II of 1985 to read: "The General Assembly ordain that classes in Psalmody shall be taken in either the first or the second year of a student's course, in accordance with the discretion of the Senate and that instruction in elocution be for the three years of the course."

XXIV. - Act anent Consultation with Presbyteries by Church Extension and Sustentation Committee
(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly considering that the Sustentation Committee and the Church Extension Committee should be informed of proposals before Presbyteries affecting charges within their bounds so that a good working relationship may be maintained between Presbyteries and these Committees enact that:

(1) The Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the Committees on Sustentation and Church Extension shall jointly hold discussions with each presbytery at least once every five years regarding proposals connected with the number and type of charges within their bounds, and particularly regarding situations which might lead to petitions for redevelopment or church extension status;

(2) Each presbytery shall prepare an outline of its proposals to form the basis for such discussions;

(3) Whenever a presbytery by readjusting congregational bounds can release manpower resources presently employed, then that presbytery may urge a prior claim to use within its bounds the resources so made available, and the Sustentation Committee and Church Extension Committee shall take this into account when considering applications for redevelopment and church extension status respectively.

XXV. - Act anent District Ministers

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly amend Act XIX, 1983, by substituting for “District Evangelist” on every occasion the term “District Minister”; by adding to paragraph (2) the sentence “Where the district crosses presbytery boundaries, there shall be agreement reached between the presbyteries concerned as to the presbytery of which the district minister shall be a member”; and by altering in paragraphs 4 and 12, the references to “three years” to “five years”.

XXVI. - Act anent Special Arrangements

(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly amend Act XII, 1984, by substituting for “triennially” at the end of section 4 “every five years”, so that the sentence now reads, “Each case so passed by the Assembly shall be reviewed every five years.”

XXVII. - Act anent Church Extension Charges

(No. 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly enact and ordain regarding Church Extension Charges as follows:
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1. Definition

Where as a result of Mission Outreach of an existing congregation of the Church a nucleus of a new congregation emerges which shows promise of development, and where it is felt that such development can be realised only if full-time pastoral care is given to the new congregation, it shall be designated for the purposes of this act as a Church Extension Charge.

2. Conditions of Application

2.1 The emerging congregation shall be under the care of a recognised Kirk Session for a minimum period of two years during which time regular services shall be held in the new

district and pastoral visitation undertaken. During this period the Church Extension Committee may on the request of the Kirk Session concerned and with the approval of the Presbytery of the bounds give such financial aid towards the expenses of the Mission as it deems appropriate.

- 2.2 When the caretaking Kirk Session shall adjudge that the work has developed as far as possible under their sole care, and that it shows promise of further advance if given more attention especially in pastoral visitation, they shall so report to their Presbytery.
- 2.3 When the Presbytery, being appraised as fully as possible of all the relevant facts and of the convictions and aspirations of local residents in the new area, are satisfied (a) that there is promise of growth which can be realised only if full-time pastoral care is given to the new congregation, and (b) that there exists a nucleus for potential development committed to further extension work and with the ability and desire to give further practical and financial support to the work, they shall petition the General Assembly through the Church Extension Committee for Church Extension status to be granted to the Congregation.
- 2.4 On being advised of the petition the Church Extension Committee shall recommend only such causes as it deems suitable to the General Assembly for designation as Church Extension charges. In doing this, the Committee shall limit the number of its recommendations to what seems appropriate in the light of the general circumstances of the church, and the Committee's budget for this purpose.
- 2.5 The Church Extension Committee shall recommend to the General Assembly that the congregation be designated a Church Extension Charge either:
 - (a) under the care of its own Kirk Session whose initial membership and Interim-Moderator shall be appointed by the Presbytery;
 - or (b) under the care of a named Kirk Session within the bounds of the Presbytery. In such circumstances, the Assembly shall authorise the Presbytery to institute a separate Kirk Session when they deem circumstances to be appropriate, and to report their action to the ensuing Assembly through the Church Extension Committee.
- 2.6 When the General Assembly designate the new congregation a Church Extension Charge, this will empower the Church Extension Committee in agreement with the Presbytery of the bounds to appoint a suitable person to the pastoral care of the Church Extension Charge. At the same time, the Assembly shall declare the Church Extension Charge to be equivalent to a fully-sanctioned charge for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund from the date of any subsequent appointment.
- 2.7 When, after consultation with the new congregation and the Presbytery of the bounds, the Church Extension Committee wish to appoint a minister already settled in a charge, they shall process their request through his Presbytery with a view to his being released from his charge to take up work in the new congregation.
- 2.8 A Church Extension Charge shall in the first instance retain that status for a period of five years from the date of the appointment of a minister.

- 2.9 In the event of no appointment within two years the Presbytery will be required again to petition the General Assembly as in 2.3 above.
- 2.10 When a Congregation designated a Church Extension Charge is unable, from its own resources, to provide accommodation for a minister or a suitable place of worship, the Church Extension Committee may apply to the General Trustees through the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, to borrow money to enable the purchase of buildings which shall be held in the name of the General Trustees for behoof of the Church Extension Committee until the conditions of 4.1 or 4.2 are satisfied.
3. Conditions of Appointment of Minister or Probationer in a Church Extension Charge
- 3.1 (1) The Call to the appointment must be agreed upon by the Church Extension Committee, the Presbytery of the bounds, and a majority of the membership.
(2) When the Church Extension Charge has its own Kirk Session induction will be to that Charge and the minister will be the moderator of that Kirk Session and have a seat in the Presbytery.
(3) When the Church Extension Charge is under the care of a neighbouring Kirk Session induction shall be as assistant to the moderator of that Kirk Session with special responsibility for the Church Extension Charge and the person inducted shall have a seat in the Presbytery.
- 3.2 The appointment will be, in the first place, for a period of five years. If the appointment be that of a Probationer, it will include his ordination to the pastoral ministry after regular trials duly sustained by the Presbytery involved.
- 3.3 (1) The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend each year and shall be borne by the Committee on Church Extension.
(2) There shall in addition be paid a sum, to be fixed and reviewed annually, for expenses. The figure to be paid shall be agreed and shared between the Extension Committee and the congregation.
- 3.4 (1) The Committee on Sustentation and Supply shall be responsible for payment of his annual premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in terms of Regulation 4 (a).
(2) The congregation shall meet at least one-half of the minister's GEAS contributions annually; the remainder to be paid by the Church Extension Committee.
- 3.5 The Committee on Church Extension shall agree with the congregation on the sharing of the entire annual burdens on the property in which he lives together with any repairs or decorations which may be considered necessary and reasonable.
- 3.6 The congregation shall be responsible for the normal local expenses of running the congregation and shall, in addition, make an annual contribution to the central Funds of the Church. That contribution shall be fixed for the first year of the appointment at a figure approved by the Church Extension Committee in the light of the congregation's financial income in the year prior to the appointment; and the contribution shall subsequently be set by the Church Extension Committee in such a way that (a) the sum contributed to central Funds shall not in any year be a lesser proportion of the Equal

Dividend than it was in the year of the appointment and (b) over the five-year period the sum contributed shall show a satisfactory increase.

- 3.7 The minister appointed shall not accept extra-ecclesiastical work or appointments, or appointments which require absence from the charge, so that he may devote his whole time to the Church Extension Charge, and he shall work under the supervision of the Presbytery of which he is a member, in conjunction with the Church Extension Committee.
- 3.8 The minister shall report in writing by 31st December and at other times in person as appropriate to meetings of his Presbytery and the Presbytery shall report by 14th February each year to the Church Extension Committee, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the congregation.
- 3.9 During the five years of a minister's initial appointment to a Church Extension Charge, no Presbytery shall sustain a call to him without the prior agreement of the Church Extension Committee. If his appointment is extended beyond the initial five-year period, he shall then be eligible for call to another charge in the normal way.

4. Review Procedure

- 4.1 Wherever (a) a Church Extension Charge shall in one calendar year have contributed from its ordinary income in excess of one-half of the then prevailing Equal Dividend to Central Funds, and (b) the congregation shall promise to continue to remit to Central Funds at least such a proportion of the Equal Dividend in subsequent years, the Church Extension Charge may with the Presbytery's consent ask the Church Extension Committee for permission to purchase a manse.
- 4.2 Wherever (a) a Church Extension Charge shall in one calendar year have contributed from its ordinary income in excess of two-thirds of the then prevailing Equal Dividend to Central Funds, (b) the congregation shall promise to continue to remit to Central Funds at least such a proportion of the Equal Dividend in subsequent years, and (c) when it shall also have from within its own resources gathered a capital sum equivalent to one-tenth of the anticipated cost of erecting or purchasing church premises, the Church Extension Charge may with the consent of the Presbytery ask the Church Extension Committee for permission to acquire church buildings.
- 4.3 At the end of five years, the Presbytery on the advice of its Strategy (or equivalent) Committee shall formulate proposals regarding the future of the congregation and shall pass them on to the Church Extension Committee.
- 4.4 If the congregation's circumstances have sufficiently improved for it to consider becoming a fully sanctioned charge, then the Church Extension Committee shall advise the Presbytery so to petition the General Assembly through the Sustentation Committee.
- 4.5 In the circumstances of 4.4 above, the Presbytery shall visit the congregation and ascertain if it is their cordial desire that their minister remain, and shall ascertain if he be

willing to remain in the charge. If both these conditions are met, then the presbytery shall petition the General Assembly to remove the restriction on the minister's induction to the charge.

- 4.6 When the minister's appointment is not continued at the end of the five-year period, he shall be treated as a minister without charge. In such circumstances the Presbytery shall inform the Assembly Clerk so that his name may be included on the Register of Ministers without Charge and the Committee shall both provide him with accommodation and pay him at the rate of the then current Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner.
- 4.7 If the congregation's circumstances are such that a continuation of Church Extension status is deemed advisable, then the presbytery shall so petition the General Assembly through the Church Extension Committee. The General Assembly may grant a further five-year period of Church Extension charge status to the congregation. In normal circumstances there shall be no further extending of such status beyond this period.
- 4.8 In no circumstances shall a continuation of Church Extension status be granted if a congregation's finances enable it to be placed in Groups I or II without prejudicing its ability to repay loans granted by the Church Extension Committee.
- 4.9 If a continuation of Church Extension status is granted under the procedure of 4.7, then a minister appointed to the Church Extension charge may have his appointment extended for a further five years by the Church Extension Committee.
- 4.10 If at the time of the five-year review the minister does not wish reappointment, or the Committee does not reappoint, then the conditions of 4.6 above apply.
5. The General Assembly direct that after the close of this Assembly no further development charges be created in terms of Act XII, 1975, and no further church extension charges in terms of Act III, 1962. These Acts are retained only in reference to existing development and church extension charges, but restrictions in them on Assembly representation for such charges are removed.

XXVIII. - Act anent Evangelism and Church Planting

(No. 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly, recognising the responsibility of the Church to the whole of Scotland and being aware that there are many large areas not served by the Free Church or by any Church fully committed to Reformed standards, resolve to plan and initiate a programme of evangelism and Church planting in such areas. They therefore enact and ordain as follows:

1. The Committee on Church Extension is charged to review the national situation so as to identify areas in which evangelistic and church planting missions are needed and have

some likelihood of favourable positive response. This review will be conducted on the basis of proposals forwarded by Presbyteries and Presbyteries are instructed to undertake some research as to conditions in the areas they recommend before submitting their recommendations.

2. When the Committee have agreed upon the area of operation they should seek the services of a minister deemed to have the gifts requisite for the enterprise and invite him to undertake it. If he be settled in a charge the invitation will be processed through his Presbytery following the analogy of a Call.
3. The invitation will specify the initial area of work and its aims and convey an undertaking by the Committee to support him for a minimum period of five years - not necessarily in the same area. During this five-year period the appointee will not be eligible for call elsewhere.
On the expiry of the five-year period the Committee may renew the appointment or continue support of the minister concerned for six months or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner.
4. Remuneration to be paid by the Committee will be at the rate of the Equal Dividend together with agreed sums for expenses and provisions normally made for ministers in settled charges.
5. Induction to the new work will be arranged at the Committee's request by the Presbytery whose seat is nearest the sphere of work and the minister appointed shall have a seat in that Presbytery. He shall report on his work periodically to the Presbytery, who shall transmit them to the Committee.
6. So that the minister will not be unduly isolated he shall be assisted as far as possible by a small council of advisers appointed by the Committee after consultation with the Presbytery involved. These advisers need not be from the personnel of Committee or Presbytery.
7. The minister appointed shall not accept extra-ecclesiastical work or appointments, or appointments which require absence from the designated sphere of labour, so that he may devote his whole time to the work.
8. If the Committee are persuaded that the initial stage of the new work requires the co-operation of two persons they may appoint a second on a one-year basis. This additional appointment may be of any suitably gifted person.
9. If circumstances are such that the Committee deem a one-year experiment would be helpful in a specific area they may seek the services of a minister in a settled charge by means of leave of absence for that year, or make some other suitable short-term arrangements.
10. The General Assembly hereby repeal Act XXII, 1979.

XXIX. - Act anent Pastoral Oversight of Probationers

(No. 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

With reference to the pastoral oversight of Probationers, the General Assembly ordain that:

1. the Minister and Kirk Session of the Congregation in which a Probationer awaiting a call has membership have primary responsibility for the pastoral oversight of the Probationer and should regularly report on his circumstances to Presbytery, which shall meet in private for this purpose;
2. a Session shall not issue a Disjunction Certificate to a Probationer awaiting a call without prior reference to the Presbytery;
3. where a Disjunction Certificate is granted to a Probationer, the Presbytery Clerk should forthwith inform the Clerk of Assembly; and likewise when the Probationer subsequently comes under the pastoral oversight of another Session, the Presbytery Clerk shall inform the Assembly Clerk so that the Probationer's name be continued on the Register of Probationers;
4. if when granted a Disjunction Certificate, a Probationer does not lodge it within six weeks with another Free Church congregation, he shall be deemed to have removed his name from the Register of Probationers.

XXX. - Act anent Budget of Church Extension Committee

(No. 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly direct (1) that the budget of the Church Extension Committee shall, in addition to those categories of expenditure arising from charges already assisted by the Committee, have in future three components: Extension Charge Stipends and Related Expenditure; Extension Charge Buildings Expenditure; and Evangelists: (2) that switching of funds between these three components of expenditure during the budget year shall not ordinarily be permitted; and (3) that in determining the percentage increase in expenditure over both components relating to Extension Charges there shall be disregarded in the calculation a sum equivalent to the contribution made to Central Funds by Extension Charges during the previous financial year. The General Assembly hereby repeal Act XX, 1984, as amended by Act XII, 1986.

XXXI. - Act anent Appointment of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

1. The General Assembly approve the recommendation by the Committee that an Advisory Group be set up, under the jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Psalmody, to expedite the work of obtaining or preparing alternative versions of the metrical Psalms.

2. The General Assembly appoint the following to constitute the Psalmody Advisory Group: All the members of the Select Committee on Psalmody, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. Fergus Macdonald, Rev. Professor Alasdair I. Macleod, Rev. I. D. Campbell, Mr D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr D. G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr G. F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr D. M. MacLeod (Livingston) and Mrs W. B. Scott (Dumfries). The Convener of the Advisory Group to be appointed by the Select Committee on Psalmody from their own membership and if Northern and Southern Groups are set up, the Select Committee on Psalmody will appoint both Conveners from the membership of the Select Committee.

XXXII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 32 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Prof. J. L. Mackay, named by the Moderator: To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is 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 first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 o'clock in the evening, 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 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 as 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, for authority to sell such property as it not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 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 do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, 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.

XXXIII. - Act appointing next General Assembly
(No. 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1989

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday, 21st May 1990, at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sale of Property

Edinburgh, 5th October 1988

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Dornoch and grant its crave. The Commission approve of the sale of the manse and recommend that the proceeds be invested with the General Trustees until required for the purchase or erection of a new manse. Interest accruing between transactions should be added to capital and any sum remaining after the acquisition of a new manse should be available for congregational purposes. The Commission recommend that the transaction be carried out by the Church's Law Agents and that the titles of a new manse be drawn in terms of the Model Trust Deed.

II. - Act anent Ordination of Missionary for Service in Southern Africa

Edinburgh, 5th October 1988

The Commission instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take Mr David D. Miller on trials for ordination and on the successful completion of these to ordain him with a view to his secondment to service in Southern Africa.

III. - Act anent Consolidation of Strathpeffer and Garve with Strathconon

Edinburgh, 8th March 1989

The Commission of General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Ross and grant its crave.

1. They consolidate the congregation of Strathpeffer and Garve with the congregation of Strathconon as a single Charge to be known as the congregation of Strathpeffer, Strathconon and Garve.
2. They enact that the congregation shall have one Kirk Session, consisting initially of the membership of both former Kirk Sessions, the union of the Kirk Sessions to take effect immediately upon the conclusion of the meeting of the Northern Synod on 28th March 1989. Each section of the congregation shall retain its own finances and Deacons' Court or Finance Committee as before the consolidation.
3. They authorise any minister settled in the consolidated charge to have the assistance of pulpit supply on Sabbaths when services are held in both Strathconon and Garve, the expenses and fees of such supply being a charge on the Sustentation and Supply Committee in accordance with current supply regulations.

IV. - Act anent Sales of Property

Edinburgh, 8th March 1989

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Plockton and Kyle and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and manse at Plockton subject to the right of pre-emption by the Superior and/or the necessity to obtain a Minute of Waiver. The transaction is to be carried out by or under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents and the proceeds of sale lodged with the General Trustees until required for the purchase/erection of a more suitable manse in Plockton or Kyle and place of worship in Plockton: interest accruing will be added to capital until the new buildings are acquired and any surplus will be held for behoof of the congregation with interest paid to congregational funds.
2. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Dingwall and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the south section of the existing manse feu, measuring 0.22 acre, subject to the congregation obtaining all necessary consents from the Superiors and the Planning Committee (and a Minute of Waiver, if necessary, from the Superiors of the existing feuing conditions) and retention of a sufficient and appropriate means of access to the manse, the proceeds of sale to be expended on the repair and maintenance of the Church and any surplus remaining to be invested with the General Trustees, and the income to be made available to the congregation for congregational purposes. The transaction is to be carried out by, or under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.
3. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kirkcaldy and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church at Kirkcaldy - the proceeds of the sale to be invested with the General Trustees pending application to the purchase/erection of a more suitable property. Interest accruing in the interim will be added to capital. The transaction is to be carried out by, or under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.