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THE PRINCIPAL ACTS
OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
CLASS 1 ACTS – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Act 1 – The Sustentation Fund

Number 1 of Class 1

Category Mission & Ministry

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly, with the consent of Presbyteries, desiring arrangements regarding the Sustentation Fund be clarified and updated, enact and ordain as follows:

1. Congregations

1.1 A Sustentation Fund Schedule, drawn up by the Mission Board, shall be filled up on behalf of each congregation seeking to be given permission to call a minister. Vacant congregations fall into one of the three following financial categories: (i) financially viable; (ii) financially marginal; and (iii) financially non-viable. The said definitions are explained in the Ministry Handbook issued by the Mission Board and are set in consultation with the Board of Trustees.

1.2 The Mission Board will normally receive a Schedule for full-time ministry under the provisions of the Sustentation Fund only from congregations which are defined as financially viable or financially marginal. A Schedule from a financially non-viable congregation will not be considered for ministry under the provisions of this Act.

1.3 It shall be the duty of the Interim-moderator of a vacant congregation, in consultation with the Kirk Session, the Deacons' Court and Congregation, to fill up the Schedule and submit it to the Mission Board through the Presbytery of the bounds.

1.4 The Schedule shall require the congregation to promise that, in the event of a settled full-time ministry, it shall remit to Central Funds at least the Ministry Levy and the appropriate level of the Administration and Training Levy from its ordinary income. The congregation's ability to meet the said cost will be demonstrable from remittances to Central Funds in the previous five years.

1.5 The Mission Board may also require questions to be answered in the Schedule which will enable them to assess the congregation's remittances to Central Funds, the provision the congregation intends to make to meet the minister's expenses, the suitability of the manse and of the property used for holding services, and any anticipated major congregational expenses.

1.6 In exceptional circumstances, a Sustentation Fund Schedule may be submitted from a congregation which is not able to meet the Ministry Levy and the Administration and Training Levy from ordinary income, but which is able to do so with the support of congregational reserves. In such cases, the Schedule should be accompanied with a development plan for ministry for the congregation, approved by the Kirk Session and the Presbytery.

2. Presbyteries

2.1 The Sustentation Fund Schedule shall be submitted to the Presbytery of the bounds for approval. In the light of its knowledge of local circumstances the Presbytery shall be asked if it considers the financial commitment promised, and the proposals made, to be adequate in the light of the congregation's resources and prospects.

2.2 When a congregation is considered to be financially viable, and able to meet the required levies of the remittances scheme, the Presbytery shall forward the Schedule to the Mission Board recommending that the congregation be granted permission to call a minister without restriction.

2.3 When a congregation is considered to be financially marginal, the Presbytery shall ensure that a development plan for ministry in the congregation is submitted to the Mission Board with the Schedule. The Presbytery shall request that permission be granted to call a minister on a five-year terminable/renewable appointment.

2.4 When a congregation's ability to meet the costs of the Ministry Levy and the Administration and Training Levy is dependent on local congregational reserves, the Presbytery shall be required to report to the Mission Board on why the congregation should be given permission to call a minister and what steps are being taken to increase its ordinary income. The Presbytery shall also submit a development plan for ministry in the congregation in the first five years of a settled full-time ministry.

2.5 A Presbytery shall not moderate in a call until the Mission Board has intimated that the congregation has been given permission to call a minister.

3. *The Mission Board*

3.1 The Board shall not consider a Schedule until it has been approved by the Presbytery of the bounds.

3.2 The Board shall scrutinise each schedule to ensure that the requirements of Clause 1.4 of this Act are met, and that the responses given in terms of Clauses 1.5 and 2.4 of this Act are satisfactory. The Board may only approve Schedules which have been validly completed in all these respects.

3.3 If the congregation is financially viable and has promised to remit at least the Ministry Levy and the appropriate level of the Administration and Training Levy, and if the Board is satisfied with the responses given to the other questions asked in the Sustentation Schedule, then the congregation will be given permission to call a minister without time restriction on his appointment.

3.4 If the Congregation is considered to be financially marginal and has promised to remit at least the Ministry Levy and the appropriate level of the Administration and Training Levy, and if the Board is satisfied with the responses given to the other questions asked in the Sustentation Schedule, then the Board may give restricted permission to call a minister. In these circumstances, a minister inducted to the charge shall be on a five-year terminable/renewable appointment, and a review of the congregation's situation shall take place four years after an appointment has been made.

3.5 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 Mission Board.

4. *Union of Neighbouring Congregations*

On a vacancy occurring in a pastoral charge the Presbytery, before considering a Sustentation Fund Schedule, shall give consideration to whether in the light of their overall Strategy Plan it is desirable for the vacant congregation to be linked or united with another congregation whether vacant or not; and only when this possibility has been fully explored and departed from shall they approve a Schedule. In submitting the Schedule, they shall report to the Board the steps taken and the reasons for departing from any such linking or union.

5. *Special Arrangements*

5.1 Notwithstanding the above regulations, the Board may recommend to the General Assembly that in special circumstances congregations be given permission to call a minister on conditions to be submitted by the Board 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 passed by the Assembly shall be reviewed every five years.

5.2 The Sustentation Fund Schedule submitted by such a congregation must express its financial commitment as a percentage of the Ministry Levy, and its remittances shall be monitored by the Board in terms of Clause 7 below.

5.3 Before a Presbytery gives its approval to a Schedule seeking permission to call a minister in terms of special arrangements, the Presbytery shall carry out a visitation of the Congregation to consider the prospects for ministry in the Congregation in the short term and in the long term. The Presbytery shall agree a development plan for ministry in the congregation which shall be submitted to the Board along with the Schedule. The development plan shall also include a detailed analysis of the local context of the ministry showing the basis on which potential for growth is perceived to exist. Permission to call a minister under special arrangements shall not be granted until all the documentation has been considered by the Board.

6. Five-year Terminable/Renewable Appointments

6.1 In situations where a minister has been appointed on a five-year terminable/renewable appointment, a review of the congregation will commence four years after an appointment has been made. The congregation will then submit a new Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Mission Board through the Presbytery of the bounds.

6.2 If when a new Schedule is submitted, the congregation has (i) met the requirements of the Remittances Scheme in the last five years; and (ii) has become a financially-viable congregation according to Clause 1 of this Act, the five-year time-restriction on the minister's induction to the charge may be removed. The Board will report on the matter to the ensuing General Assembly so that the minister's induction to the charge may be declared to be free of time-restriction as in Clause 2.2 of this Act.

6.3 If when a new Schedule is submitted, the congregation (i) continues to be classed as financially-marginal as per Clause 1 of this Act; (ii) has met the requirements of the Remittances Scheme in the last five years; and (iii) the Board is satisfied with the Schedule in this and all other respects, then the Board may extend the minister's appointment for a further five years from the date of termination of the original appointment. A further review of the congregation shall be carried out nine years after the appointment to the charge was made, and every five years thereafter.

6.4 If at the time of a review the Congregation is unable to promise to remit at least the Ministry Levy and the appropriate level of the Administration and Training Levy, or if the Board adjudge the congregation's promised commitment to be unrealistic, the Board shall report this to the next General Assembly, and unless exceptional circumstances are shown to exist, the Board shall recommend that the minister's appointment be not renewed at the end of his current appointment.

6.5 When the contract of a minister in a terminable appointment is not renewed by resolution of the General Assembly, the Presbytery of the bounds shall direct that his name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, Eligible for Call

7. Financial Viability Review

7.1 When any congregation, whose minister is appointed under the terms of this Act, fails to remit the Ministry Levy and the appropriate level of the Administration Levy 100%, the Mission Board shall draw the attention of the Congregation and the Presbytery to this fact. On receipt of such notification the Presbytery shall initiate a Review and Audit of the Congregation as in Clause 7.2 of this Act. The Board shall also report to the General Assembly that such a review has been initiated. The purpose of this review is to make a decision regarding the long-term viability of a congregation whose numerical and or financial strength has become seriously weakened with the result that it has become financially non-viable. The review period shall be twelve months during which the following steps must be taken:

7.2 Presbyteries

7.2.1 The Presbytery, on receipt of notification from the Mission Board that a congregation's remittances have fallen below the level of the Ministry Levy and the appropriate level of the Administration Levy, shall initiate a thorough review of the congregation. This review shall include a thorough audit of the congregation, giving due consideration to (i) the likely causes of the fact that its numerical and financial strength has become seriously weakened; and (ii) the future prospects for ongoing full-time ministry in the congregation, including any potential for growth perceived to exist. On completion of the review, the Presbytery shall give a Report of its findings to the Board.

7.2.2 The Presbytery shall be required to meet with the congregation in order to explain the procedures to be followed as a result of the fall in the numerical and or financial strength of the congregation. The Presbytery shall consult fully with the congregation during the review period in order to agree an achievable way forward for ministry in the congregation.

7.2.3 If the Presbytery finds that the provision of a full-time ministry in the congregation is no longer financially-viable but that there is potential for growth in the congregation and that there is reason to believe special evangelistic effort on the part of the denomination could lead to realising this potential, then the Presbytery shall consider making application for ministry under one of the following provisions: (i) Locally-subsidised Charges – Act 14, Class 2, 2013; (ii) Alternative Ministerial Arrangements – Act 13, Class 2, 2014; or (iii) Redevelopment status in terms of Act 34, Class 2, 1988. In each case, the Presbytery shall formulate a development plan for ministry in the congregation and recommend accordingly to the Mission Board.

7.2.4 If the Presbytery finds that the provision of a full-time ministry in the congregation is no longer financially-viable, and that there is no evident potential for growth leading to a viable congregation in the short term or the long term, then it shall report to the Mission Board in these terms. The Presbytery shall also arrange a meeting with the congregation in order to explain its findings and to discuss options for future ministry in the congregation.

7.2.5 The Presbytery shall submit its Report to the Mission Board by 14th February in the calendar year after which the review was initiated.

7.3 *Mission Board*

7.3.1 On receipt of the Presbytery's Report that a full-time ministry is now financially-viable in a congregation, the Board shall remove the time limit on the minister's appointment as in Clause 3.4 of this Act and declare that his appointment is without restriction. The Board shall include details of this change to the next General Assembly.

7.3.2 On receipt of the Presbytery's Report that a full-time ministry is no longer financially-viable in a congregation, and that there are no recommended alternatives for regular ministry in the congregation, the Mission Board shall include this in its Report to the next General Assembly recommending that (i) the minister's pastoral link with the congregation be severed within six months and his name added to the Register of Ministers Without Charge, Eligible for Call; and (ii) that the Presbytery be instructed to make arrangements for linkage or union with another congregation as may be appropriate in the locality.

7.3.3 On receipt of the Presbytery's Report that a full-time ministry is no longer financially-viable in a congregation, and that there is a recommendation for another option for ministry in the congregation as listed in Clause 7.2.3 of this Act, the Mission Board shall include this in its Report to the next General Assembly recommending the continuity of ministry under one of the follow provisions: (i) Locally-subsidised Charges – Act 14, Class 2, 2013; (ii) Alternative Ministerial Arrangements – Act 13, Class 2, 2014; or other arrangements has the General Assembly may ordain from time to time.

7.3.4 The Mission Board shall make careful examination of each case where a ministry is being terminated, that due pastoral care has been offered and other possible avenues of service have been examined.

7.4 *Terms of Re-appointment*

When a congregation with a settled ministry is removed from the Equal Dividend Platform (able to meet the costs of ministry) and the minister placed on a renewable appointment the following conditions will apply:

7.4.1 The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of Equal Dividend each year with the shortfall between congregational remittances to central funds and the rate of Equal Dividend being borne by the Mission Board.

7.4.2 The congregation shall contribute towards pay a sum for the reimbursement of the minister's travelling and other expenses, the maximum of which sum shall be fixed in agreement with the Mission Board and reviewed annually during the appointment.

7.4.3 The minister placed on a five-year appointment shall devote his whole time to the congregation and work under the supervision of the Presbytery of which he is a member, in conjunction with the Mission Board.

7.4.4 The minister shall report at least annually to meetings of his Presbytery and the Presbytery shall report by 14th February each year to the Mission Board, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the congregation. The Presbytery shall also ensure that all support-structures agreed in the development plan are being implemented.

7.4.5 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 full stipend 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 Principal Clerk of Assembly so that his name may be included on the Register of Ministers without Charge, Eligible for Call.

8. *Scope of this Act*

8.1 The terms of this Act shall hereafter apply to all congregations for which Sustentation Fund Schedules come before the Presbytery of the bounds for scrutiny and approval.

8.2 Where a Schedule has already been forwarded by the Presbytery of the bounds to the Board, the Schedule shall be approved in terms of this Act.

8.3 Settlements that have taken place under previous regulations shall now be monitored in terms of this Act.

8.4 The General Assembly hereby repeal Act 1, Class 1, 2013.

CLASS 2 ACTS – ACTS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

Act 2 – The Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen

Number 1 of Class 2

Category General Assembly

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly called for the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen, which was given in by the Moderator. The Report was adopted, and the address as follows was agreed to and appointed to be duly signed and transmitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland, with a letter from the Clerk.

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly on the 22nd day of May 2018, humbly offer Your Majesty the expression of our continued loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne and to the Constitutional Monarchy of which You are the honoured Head and Representative.

We thank Your Majesty for Your service to our nation and to the Commonwealth. Following the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, we give thanks for the appointment of His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, as Your Majesty's designated successor in that important responsibility which binds together well over two billion people from fifty-three nations.

We warmly congratulate Your Majesty on attaining the 70th Anniversary of Your marriage, last November. We continue to pray for His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, wishing him all God's grace and the blessing of a full recovery of health and strength.

We rejoice with Your Majesty in the happy marriage of the Earl and Countess of Dumbarton at Windsor on 19th May 2018. We pray all God's kindness and grace to bless their marriage and their future life together.

We rejoice that God has blessed the Earl and Countess of Strathearn with the safe delivery of their youngest child, Prince Louis, praying that he will be a great delight to Your Majesty and to his parents. We pray that this child and his sister and brother will know the light and salvation of the Lord through all of their days.

We note the dutiful service of Your Majesty's family, who do so much to assist in Your Royal and Constitutional duties and to promote very many charities and good causes.

We pray for Your Majesty's Parliaments in Westminster and Holyrood, especially remembering the Prime Minister and First Minister and their Governments in the many responsibilities that devolve upon Your Majesty's servants at home and abroad.

We thank Your Majesty for recognising the work and ministry of the Free Church of Scotland by the welcome visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. We look forward to receiving His Grace, The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, into our Assembly.

Our Moderator looks forward to welcoming Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, to his church at Dingwall Free Church of Scotland, on 5th July 2018, in her capacity as Chancellor of the University of the Highlands and Islands. We remember with gratitude her visit to our 2017 General Assembly and note with admiration her sterling work for many good causes throughout the year.

We rejoice in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. His birth, death and resurrection all provide Good News of great joy for all peoples. We thank Your Majesty for your steadfast and gracious service to the Lord Jesus Christ, evidenced by your devoted service to the Church and your personal remarks in your annual Christmas broadcast. These bring great joy to our hearts.

This year is the solemn centenary of the end of the Great War. As we mourn past conflicts and the high cost paid by so many for our freedoms, we pray peace and concord for Your Majesty's Realms, and for all the armed forces who serve in Your Name. We lift up to Almighty God all who have lost loved ones in the service of the nation, and those who have suffered injury in mind and body. We thank Almighty God for the work of Your Majesty's chaplains to the Armed Forces, and the ministry of the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association. We encourage all our people to spend the 100 days leading up to Remembrance Sunday in praying for peace, supporting our military and taking every opportunity to share the love of Jesus the Prince of Peace in their communities.

We commend Your Majesty and all the members of the Royal Family into the care and protection of the God of Wisdom, the One by whom "*Kings reign, and princes decree justice.*" May God grant Your Majesty length of days, the blessing of health and strength, keeping You in his comfort and love, causing You and all the members of Your family to walk in the light of Christ, leading lives full of purpose as an example to the nation.

Your Majesty, as Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, be assured that we pray regularly for Your Majesty's person, family and governments. We commit ourselves and our congregations to do so willingly and as we are encouraged to do by God's Holy Word.

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

Act 3 – The Review of the Practice and Procedures of the Church

Number 2 of Class 2

Category *General Assembly*

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly endorse the steps being taken by the Board of Trustees to review the practice and procedures of the Church with a view to improving accessibility and clarity and diminishing unnecessary administrative burdens. They instruct the Board to set up a Project Management Group, initially comprising the Assembly Clerks and the Chief Executive Officer, *ex officio* members, plus a representative of the Board, to scope the review project and to plan its outputs and delivery. They authorise the Board to appoint additional members to the Group as required to bring the project forward. They direct the Board to consult with all the Courts of the Church and also with all General Assembly Boards and Committees. They further instruct the Board to report back to successive General Assemblies with a progressive revision to the Church's business procedures.

Act 4 – The Recording of Business in Church Courts, Boards and Committee of the Church

Number 3 of Class 2

Category *General Assembly*

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly, recognising the need to revise and update regulations for preparing and storing records electronically, enact and ordain as follows regarding the records of all Church Courts, General Assembly Boards and Committees, and congregational Finance Committees.

1. **Recording of Business.** All minutes and records which are prepared electronically on personal or office computer shall be printed out on A4 size paper.

1.1 The minutes of each meeting shall record the day, the date, and the year on which the meeting took place.

1.2 All pages within the record of each meeting shall be numbered consecutively in the 'page x of y' format, with the numbering of the pages in the record of the following meeting restarting at page number one.

1.3 All page of the minutes, with the exception of the last page, shall be initialled by Moderator/Chairman/Convener or Clerk adjacent to the page number.

1.4 Blank spaces left on the last page of the minute where there is insufficient text to fill the page shall be line-crossed horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

1.5 The reverse side of pages which contain no text shall be marked 'this page was intentionally left blank'.

1.6 The final page of the minute shall be signed by the Moderator/Chairman/Convener and the Clerk. The minutes of meetings at which a temporary appointment has been made regarding Moderator/Chairman/Convener or Clerk shall be signed by the permanent appointee and the temporary appointee in each case.

1.7 All Church Courts, Boards and Committees shall comply with relevant Data Protection laws and regulations as appropriate.

2. **Confidential Business.** In the course of meetings where a detailed record is necessary for items of business which have been held in private, a separate record book shall be held in which such a detailed record can be stored with the permanent records of the relevant court. This separate record book shall be referenced in the regular minute book so that the separate record is easily tracked.

3. **Printed Copies.** Individual members of a court requesting personal copies of minutes shall receive them only at the discretion of the relevant court, who shall take into consideration the need to limit the number of copies in circulation when the nature of the business is private, such as meetings of Kirk Sessions, and when confidential matters, such as cases of discipline, have been discussed.

4. **Filing of Records.** Once the minutes have been approved and have been signed by the Moderator/Chairman/Convener and Clerk, the pages shall be inserted and secured in an Ergogrip or similar standard 4-ring A4 binder in normal book page order. This binder shall be the only record of business of meetings of the court.

4.1 Minor manuscript adjustments such as spelling errors shall be initialled by the Moderator/Chairman/Convener and Clerk; if any substantial adjustments have to be made, a revised 'clean copy' shall be produced. The use of correction fluids such as tippex shall be avoided.

4.2 All minutes and records shall be transferred from the Ergogrip or similar 4-ring A4 binder to hardcover sewn-bound format for the permanent record on a regular basis. This shall be done at least every five years.

5. **Storage of Records.** The General Assembly instruct Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions, Deacons Courts and Finance Committees to identify a suitable public archive for storage of records and to pass records of churches within their bounds to the public storage where the records are 100 or more years of age with the proviso that Presbyteries are permitted at their discretion to pass records which are less than 100 years old to the same public storage. They further instruct Presbyteries to ensure that (i) where records are being kept locally, they ensure the place of storage is known, suitable and secure; and (ii) that where no suitable storage is available for records not deposited in a public archive such records are passed to the church offices in Edinburgh for storage until such time as they are eligible for storage in a public archive.

Act 5, Class 2, 2002 and Act 15, Class 2, 2016 are hereby repealed.

Act 5 – Amending Act 15, Class 2, 2017 regarding Categories and Register of Ministers

Number 4 of Class 2

Category General Assembly

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Overture of the Free Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. They declare that ministers on the Roll of Ministers Without Charge shall be eligible to petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside for a seat in the Presbytery and also to be eligible for nomination to the membership of General Assembly Board and Committees while they remain on the said Roll.

They amend Act 15, Class 2, 2017, § 2.1 to read as follows: ‘Ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* who become unavailable for call must inform their Presbytery, who shall in turn direct the Principal Clerk to transfer their name to whichever category is relevant to their circumstances. While remaining on the Roll of Ministers Without Charge Available for Call, ministers shall be eligible to Petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside for a seat in the Presbytery and to be eligible for membership of Assembly-appointed Boards and committees of the Church.’

The revised Act concerning Categories and Register of Ministers is as follows:

The General Assembly ordain that the following categories and related stipulations shall apply to all ordained ministers of the Free Church of Scotland from the close of this Assembly. The Principal Clerk of Assembly shall maintain a complete record comprising the names of all those listed in the categories below. He shall produce the complete list annually and shall report the same to the General Assembly through the report of the Board of Ministry.

1. General. Presbytery Clerks and Clerks of Boards and Committees of the Church are responsible for informing the Principal Clerk in all instances specified below. For the sake of clarity, the following points should be noted:

1.1 The names of all Free Church ministers serving in a charge (i.e. a congregation, a mission field, or a position equivalent to a charge such as full-time appointments by induction in the Edinburgh Theological Seminary) will be held on the appropriate *Roll of Presbytery*, as will the names of other ministers who have been granted a seat in a Presbytery of the Church. All other names of Free Church Ministers in good standing must appear on one or other of the lists specified below.

1.2 Ministers who resign their charge and become ministers in another denomination cannot remain under the jurisdiction and discipline of two denominations concurrently, so their names must be removed from Free Church listings. Should such ministers wish to re-enter the Free Church ministry they must petition the General Assembly through the Board of Ministry.

2. Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call. The *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* shall comprise all ordained ministers (for Probationers see 5 below) of the Free Church in good standing who are in a position to receive a Call. Only those whose names are placed on this Roll shall be available for a call, and placement on this Roll shall be taken to imply an individual’s sincere readiness to accept a call in appropriate circumstances. Congregations may only address calls to ministers already in a charge, or whose names are on this Roll, or whose names appear on the Roll of Probationers.

2.1 Ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* who become unavailable for call must inform their Presbytery, who shall in turn direct the Principal Clerk to transfer their name to whichever category is relevant to their circumstances. While remaining on the Roll of Ministers Without Charge Available for Call, ministers shall be eligible to Petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside for a seat in the Presbytery and be eligible for membership of Assembly-appointed Boards and Committees of the Church.

2.2 In no case shall the name of a minister remain on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* for more than three years from the date of inclusion in the Roll unless application for a further period of three years be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the initial three-year period. Should he have taken up residence out-with the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, his application for retention on the Roll shall be made to the Presbytery within which he last resided. In no case shall a name remain on the Roll for more than six years, after which names shall be transferred to the *Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call*.

2.3 Ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence outwith the bounds of any Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, while on this Roll, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.

2.4 The General Assembly direct that each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* who are under their jurisdiction and shall inform the Assembly Clerk accordingly at the beginning of each calendar year. This annual review shall include due investigation that they continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland. Should the Presbytery find otherwise regarding any minister on this Roll, the Presbytery may declare that he is no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and, after due intimation to the individual concerned, may thus order his name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found. The Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly accordingly.

3. Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call. The *Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call* shall comprise all ordained ministers of the Free Church in good standing who are not in a position to receive a Call but who are not retired or have not resigned their charge.

3.1 Ministers on this Roll who wish to be available for Call must petition the General Assembly through the Board of Ministry, with support from the relevant Presbytery, for transference to the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call*.

3.2 A minister on this Roll who wishes a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides, may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery on condition that (a) he is engaged in work which may be deemed by the Presbytery to be analogous to a pastoral charge; and (2) he can demonstrate to the Presbytery's satisfaction that this work is of benefit to the Presbytery or to the wider Free Church. He shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery for the duration of the period in which he is engaged in this work and should he cease this work his membership of Presbytery shall lapse and his name shall be placed on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call*, or the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call*, whichever is the more appropriate. The Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly accordingly.

3.3 Ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call* shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation to which they belong, provided they have not resigned from this charge previously, but they may not be elected, as Ruling Elders or appointed as Assessor Elders, either to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery and Synod, or as Commissioners to the General Assembly

3.4 Ministers on the Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. A minister on this Roll who takes up residence outwith the bounds of any Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.

3.5 The General Assembly direct that each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge not Available for Call* who are under their jurisdiction and shall inform the Assembly Clerk accordingly at the beginning of each calendar year. This annual review shall include due investigation that they continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland. Should the Presbytery find otherwise regarding any minister on this Roll the Presbytery may declare that he is no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and, after due intimation to the individual concerned, may thus order his name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found. The Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly accordingly.

4. Roll of Retired Ministers. The *Roll of Retired Ministers* shall comprise all ordained ministers of the Free Church in good standing who have retired but do not have a seat in Presbytery, including those who have been received from other denominations since retiring. Retirement in this sense, whether by a minister in a pastoral charge or otherwise, should be seen as distinct from a minister choosing to receive certain retirement benefits prior to actual retirement.

4.1 A minister may apply for permission to retire on attaining the age of 65 years.

4.2 Applications for earlier retirement on the grounds of ill health shall be subject to the rules of the Free Church of Scotland Pension Scheme or the rules of such other pension arrangement(s) as may be in place at the time.

4.3 Those ministers with qualifying service in the Free Church of Scotland Pension Scheme shall address applications for payment of retirement benefits to the Trustees of the Scheme. Applications for payment of pension benefits in respect of service after 31st December 2007 shall be directed to the third-party administrator. All ministers are encouraged to seek independent financial advice when considering options for retirement.

4.4 All applications for retirement from ministers in a charge must be supported by extract minutes from the relevant Kirk Session and Presbytery and these must show that the applicant has 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. Retirement shall involve the surrender of the emoluments of the Charge, and the vacation of the manse unless the Deacons' Court permits continuing occupation for a period; the congregation shall be deemed to be and declared to be vacant by order of the Presbytery after the specified retirement date has been reached.

4.5 Ministers retiring upon attainment of retirement age, or on the grounds of ill health, may petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they are to reside, for a seat in that Presbytery. Should their request be granted their name will be added to the *Roll of Presbytery* and the Clerk of Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly and he shall remove their name from the *Roll of Retired Ministers*. Upon relocation to another Presbytery they may apply for a seat in that Presbytery by petition, otherwise their names shall be added to the *Roll of Retired Ministers*. In the case of ministers who take up residence in a Presbytery other than that receiving their application to retire, an extract minute from the Presbytery receiving their application to retire in support of the Petition for a seat shall be obtained.

4.6 All ordained ministers of the Free Church retiring through attainment of retirement age, or for health reasons, or from service in international mission fields where this has been under the supervision of the Mission Board, may similarly petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they are to reside, for a seat in that Presbytery. In this case the supporting extract minute shall be provided by the Board.

4.7 Ministers serving under the oversight of the Mission Board, who at retirement choose not to apply for a seat in a Presbytery, shall continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident, and their names shall be held on the *Roll of Retired Ministers*.

4.8 Retired ministers, unless granted a seat in a Presbytery, shall not be eligible to serve on Assembly-appointed Boards and Committees of the Church.

4.9 For disciplinary purposes a retired minister is accountable to the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides.

4.10 Retired ministers, unless granted a seat in a Presbytery, shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation to which they belong, provided this be not their last charge before retirement, but they may not be elected as Ruling Elders or appointed as Assessor Elders either to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery and Synod or as Commissioners to the General Assembly.

4.11 The General Assembly direct that each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the *Roll of Retired Ministers* who are under their jurisdiction and shall inform the Assembly Clerk accordingly at the beginning of each calendar year. This annual review shall include due investigation that they continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland. Should the Presbytery find otherwise regarding any minister on this Roll the Presbytery may declare that he is no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and, after due intimation to the individual concerned, may thus order his name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found. The Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly accordingly.

5. Roll of Resigned Ministers. The *Roll of Resigned Ministers* shall comprise all ordained ministers of the Free Church in good standing who have resigned their charge and have not become ministers of another denomination.

5.1 This list comprises the following:

- (a) Ministers who resigned their charge due to a breakdown in health;
- (b) Ministers whose resignation is due to non-censurable incompatibility with a congregation;
- (c) Ministers whose resignation is required for secondment by a responsible Board or Committee of the Free Church to other pastoral or para-pastoral work.
- (d) Ministers who resigned their charge and are employed by other agencies and are financially supported by the Free Church but not seconded by a Board or Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, provided they have not become ministers of another denomination.

(e) Ministers who resigned their charge and are employed by other agencies but are not financially supported by the Free Church, provided they have not become ministers of another denomination.

(f) Ministers whose names by order of the General Assembly, other than for reasons in (a)-(e) above, are to be held on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers*.

5.2 When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery (or, in the case of a Mission Board Charge, the Secretary of the Mission Board) shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by Extract Minute. The Extract Minute shall include the resolution of the Presbytery to place the name of the minister on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers*. If the Presbytery resolve to place the name on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call*, they must minute positive reasons for such placement on it, or subsequent continuance on it, and the Extract Minute furnished to the Principal Clerk shall contain these reasons.

5.3 If a minister whose name has been placed on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* shall be admitted to the ministry or other full-time employment of another Church other than by secondment, his name shall be removed from the Roll.

5.4 A minister whose name is placed on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* is required to notify the Clerk of Presbytery of any change of address. If a minister takes up residence within the bounds of another Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall also inform the Clerk of that Presbytery of his address and thereafter he shall come under the jurisdiction of that Presbytery. In such a case the Presbytery Clerk shall advise the Principal Clerk of Assembly.

5.5 A minister whose name is on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* and who desires to have his name transferred to the *Register of Ministers without Charge Available for Call* shall petition the General Assembly through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time. The Petition shall give positive reasons for transference to it otherwise it shall not be deemed competent.

5.6 A minister, who has resigned his charge to accept an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland, and who seeks a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides, may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery. He shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery for the duration of the period in which he holds the appointment on the basis of which he is granted his seat; and on ceasing to hold such an appointment his membership of Presbytery shall lapse and his name placed on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers*.

5.7 Ministers whose names are held on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation to which they belong but they may not be elected, as Ruling Elders or appointed as Assessor Elders, either to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery and Synod, or as Commissioners to the General Assembly

5.8 Ministers on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence outwith the bounds of any Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.

5.9 A request by an individual whose name is on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* to have his name removed therefrom shall be dealt with by the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides. That Presbytery after due investigation and on due grounds shown (such as, the individual concerned no longer associates with the Free Church of Scotland) may declare him to be no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and order that his name be removed from the Roll.

5.10 The General Assembly direct that each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* who are under their jurisdiction and shall inform the Assembly Clerk accordingly at the beginning of each calendar year. This annual review shall include due investigation that they continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland. Should the Presbytery find otherwise regarding any minister on this Roll the Presbytery may declare that he is no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and, after due intimation to the individual concerned, may thus order his name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found. The Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly accordingly.

6. Roll of Probationers. The *Roll of Probationers* comprises all Probationers in good standing licensed by the Free Church of Scotland and who are available for Call. Probationers who no longer wish to be available for Call shall inform their Presbytery specifying the reasons. If their request to be removed from the *Roll of*

Probationers is granted the Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute authorising him to remove their name from this list.

6.1 A Probationer is a candidate for the ministry who has completed the course of studies required by the Board of Ministry and has been licensed to preach by a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland.

6.2 Clerks of Presbyteries shall send the names and addresses of all who have been licensed by them as Probationers, with dates of licence, within one week thereafter, to the Principal Clerk of Assembly with a copy to the Clerk to the Board of Ministry.

6.3 The Principal Clerk shall prepare and maintain a *Roll of all Probationers* of the Free Church according to date of licence and shall provide the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Roll, and the Board shall incorporate the list into its report to the General Assembly.

6.4 A Probationer's name shall remain on the *Roll of Probationers* for six years, before the end of which he may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides, to have his name retained on the Roll for a further three years. In no case shall a name remain on the Roll for more than nine years, after which names shall be removed.

6.5 A Probationer is not eligible to conduct Marriage Services or dispense the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

6.6 Probationers are subject to the oversight of the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside, though the Presbytery may choose to exercise pastoral care through the Kirk Session of the congregation of which he is a member. The Presbytery has a responsibility to meet with Probationers under their oversight regularly and shall meet in private for this purpose.

6.7 A Kirk Session shall not issue a Disjunction Certificate to a Probationer awaiting a call without prior reference to the Presbytery.

6.8 Where a Disjunction Certificate is granted to a Probationer, the Presbytery Clerk shall forthwith inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly; and likewise, when the Probationer subsequently comes under the pastoral oversight of another Presbytery, the Presbytery Clerk shall inform the Principal Clerk so that the Probationer's name be continued on the Roll of Probationers.

6.9 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 Roll of Probationers.

7. The General Assembly hereby repeal Act 33, Class 2, 2012 and Act 34, Class 2, 2012.

Act 6 – The Quinquennial Review of Edinburgh Theological Seminary

Number 5 of Class 2

Category *General Assembly*

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

1. The General Assembly appoint a Committee to carry out the Quinquennial Review of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

2. The General Assembly appoint the Rev. Ivor MacDonald of Hope Church, Coatbridge as Convener of the Quinquennial Review Committee.

3. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees, the Board of Ministry and the Mission Board, at their next regular meetings, to nominate one of their number to serve on the Quinquennial Review Committee.

4. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Alasdair Macleod of Smithton-Culloden Free Church as a member of the Quinquennial Review Committee.

5. The General Assembly instruct the Quinquennial Review Committee not to engage in an assessment of the quality of the academic provision given in ETS or to consider the doctrinal orthodoxy of ETS Staff.

6. The General Assembly instruct the Quinquennial Review Committee to make use of suitable advisers, including the chairmen of the Board of Ministry and the Board of Edinburgh Theological Seminary, as well as a student from Edinburgh Theological Seminary, and a Free Church minister having recently graduated from ETS.

7. The General Assembly instruct the Quinquennial Review Committee to consider the governance, academic strategy, and sustainability of ETS as set out in Appendix One Sections 1-3 as well as the opinions of the various customers who use ETS as specified in Appendix One Section 4 regarding the scope of the review. Further, the Committee should consider the place of ETS within the wider ministry training structures and strategy of the Church.

8. The General Assembly instruct the Quinquennial Review Committee to follow the process of producing the review as laid out in Appendix One, Section 5.

9. The General Assembly instruct the Quinquennial Review Committee to investigate whether recommendations from the previous Quinquennial Review were implemented.

10. The General Assembly instruct the Quinquennial Review Committee to produce a report for the 2019 General Assembly in which they shall make a judgement as to the fitness of the education and the training provided by ETS and make such recommendations as it sees fit for ensuring that the education and training meets the needs of the students and those who send the students to the Seminary.

APPENDIX ONE	
1 - Governance – Institutional & Academic	Assessed in terms of:
<p><i>1.1 Institutional Structures.</i> ETS Board – Role of and function Relationship and interaction with Principal, Senate and Assembly</p>	Likelihood of delivering fit for purpose efficiently and effectively.
<p><i>1.2 Senate</i> Role, Composition and operation of Senate; functions – content of meetings and involvement of all academic staff Other Committees</p>	
<p><i>1.3 Delivery Structures</i> Functions, powers etc of departments and course leaders.</p>	
<p><i>1.4 External Relationships</i> Other institutions –rationale and impact</p>	
2 - Academic Strategy	
<p><i>Educational Philosophy – What is it? Rationale?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Training – is there a focus on how to use the knowledge that is provided in classes? • Core v Electives / General v Specialist • Product rationale – content and structure • External and internal infusion 	Are rationale and structure likely to deliver training appropriate to purpose?
<p><i>Academic Product</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product variety and output. • Delivery modes and models – this includes distance learning and face to face instruction. • Input from customers • Academic input and feedback from students and from student providers – potential for 	Will content and structure deliver the type of training needed – competence, skills, knowledge and character?

critique, infusion of new ideas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memoranda of agreements and statements of co-operative intent and impact on academic strategy and practice. • Future plans and development 	
<i>Staffing</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment process • Desired profiles • Succession Planning • Ongoing professional training and personal development • Review and Assessment • Scholarship. Research and Knowledge – Application • Full-time and occasional staff • Managing occasional staff • Role of occasional staff 	Are there staff appropriate for the training purposes?
<i>Activity - Teaching and Learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the predominant teaching methods and what is the rationale for them? • Teaching versus learning – balance and rationale. • Self-learning <i>Assessment:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology and rationale 	<p>Is the conduct of the activity in tune with the desired outputs in terms of competences, skills, knowledge and character?</p> <p>Are we measuring the right outputs?</p> <p>What constitutes student success?</p> <p>What constitutes student failure?</p>
	<p>Fitness for purpose</p> <p>Fitness for ministry and for modelling a Christian lifestyle</p>
3- Sustainability	
<i>3.1 Resources</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Plant –buildings, equipment • Staffing levels <i>3.2 Planning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision/ Mission • Process of formulation and revision • Methodology • Staff involvement • Customer involvement e.g. Board of Ministry and others <i>3.3 Management of Risk</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Register – major risk and contingency scenarios • Funding from official organisations • Relationship with Glasgow University • Importance of degree for all students? 	<p>Are the resources and the way they are used likely to deliver the intended purpose?</p> <p>How is sustainability sought?</p>
4 - Customer Feedback	
Customers	
Feedback from the primary customer – students	
Feedback from the suppliers – the Board of Ministry, FIEC etc	

Impact of feedback	
Feedback on teaching, learning, assessment and support	
Feedback on ethos and culture	
Feedback on appropriateness of course to destination	

Act 7 – Annual Leave and Leave of Absence for Ministers in Pastoral Charges

Number 6 of Class 2

Category General Assembly

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly, recognising the need to update the legislation on Sabbatical Leave as found in Act 19, Class 2, 2010 Annual Leave of Absence for Ministers in Pastoral Charges to take account of ministers who have joined the Free Church from other denominations, revise Paragraph 3.3 of the said Act. The amended Act is as follows:

The General Assembly re-enact the regulations for Annual Leave and Leave of Absence for Ministers in Pastoral Charges for reasons other than Illness as follows: Absence from duty under this Act will fall into three categories as follows: (1) Annual Leave; (2) Compassionate Leave; (3) Special Leave.

1. *Annual leave.* Ministers are encouraged to take at least one day of rest a week. Presbyteries should encourage ministers to follow this practice through the normal course of the activities of its Pastoral Committee. Kirk Sessions should also encourage the minister to follow this practice and should make every effort to relieve the minister of regular pastoral duties on the designated day of rest. In addition to the weekly day of rest, ministers shall be entitled to annual leave as follows:

1.1 Ministers are entitled to 42 days annual leave of which six may be Sundays, in any one calendar year.

1.2 Any one holiday period shall not exceed 28 successive days without the minister informing the Presbytery of his proposed arrangements.

1.3 All holiday entitlement shall be taken up before 31st December or extended to 28th February of the following year with the agreement of the Presbytery.

Ministers are encouraged to plan their holidays well in advance and to make timeous arrangements for cover. Deacons' Courts are expected to pay for pulpit supply during the minister's holiday periods as per Act 27, Class 2, 2005.

2. *Compassionate leave.* Compassionate leave on grounds of bereavement, family illness or special circumstances may be granted to the minister by the Presbytery. The Presbytery Clerk (or other appointed Presbytery representative) is to be authorised to make interim arrangements after consultation with the minister and then report to the Presbytery. The Presbytery, acting through its Pastoral Committee, will take all reasonable pastoral care of the minister and his family during such occasions where Compassionate Leave is considered appropriate.

2.1 *Bereavement.* In the event of a death in the minister's family, or of a near relative, or of a dependant, the Minister shall be entitled to receive bereavement leave with pay for up to five working days.

2.2 *Family Illness.* In the event of serious family illness where the minister's ability to focus wholly on his duties is impaired, he shall be entitled to compassionate leave. The period of compassionate leave shall be determined by the Presbytery in consultation with the minister and giving due regard to the personal circumstances prevailing at the time.

2.3 *Special Circumstances.* Where special circumstances apply, it will be open to the Presbytery to extend the period of compassionate leave. The Presbytery, through its Pastoral Committee, shall monitor closely the specific circumstances in each case. The Pastoral Committee may be authorised to make interim arrangements (e.g. appoint Interim Moderator or arrange supply), after consultation with the minister, and then report to Presbytery.

3. Special leave. Special Leave for ministers in pastoral charges may be granted by the Presbytery under the following conditions:

3.1 *To undertake work within the Free Church of Scotland*, e.g. as a delegate, at the specific request of a department of the Church. In each case the department shall obtain the permission of the Presbytery and the concurrence of the Congregation. The full cost of the minister's absence shall be borne by the department concerned.

3.2 *To undertake work for any organisations outside the Free Church of Scotland.* This would involve secondment to an organisation and the organisation concerned would meet the full cost of the minister's absence, including pension costs. In granting such leave the Presbytery shall have the concurrence of the Congregation.

3.3 *To undertake sabbatical leave* for study, writing or extra-denominational work. A minister shall be entitled to sabbatical leave for every seven years of service since ordination. Such leave may be granted where the minister has served at least three years in his present charge or position. Such leave of absence, on full stipend, may be granted up to a maximum of four months. The Presbytery shall consult with the Kirk Session and the Mission Board before a final decision is taken. The Congregation and the Mission Board shall have the right of appeal.

3.3.1 The minister shall bring firm proposals for study, writing or extra-denominational work to the Presbytery when submitting his application for sabbatical leave.

3.3.2 The minister shall bring a report to the Presbytery and the Mission Board when the period of sabbatical leave has been completed.

3.3.3 A minister shall, at all times, inform his congregation of his proposed absence and of pastoral arrangements during such absence.

3.3.4 The pension rights of ministers shall be conserved as long as paid leave extends.

Act 8 – Rev. John T. Mann & The Roll of Ministers Without Charge Available for Call

Number 7 of Class 2

Category *General Assembly*

Monday 21st May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Northern Presbytery regarding Rev. John T. Mann grant its crave. They declare that the name of Rev. John T. Mann remains on the Roll of Ministers Without Charge Available for Call for a second three-year term according to the provisions of Act 15, Class 2, 2017, with this second term to commence at the rising of this General Assembly.

Act 9 – The Discipline of Rev. Christopher MacRae

Number 8 of Class 2

Category *General Assembly*

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the correspondence of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross regarding the case of Rev. Christopher MacRae. They endorse the disciplinary process followed by the Presbytery in response to the fama and the confession communicated to the Presbytery by Mr MacRae.

The General Assembly, noting the terms of Act 1, Class 1, 2010, Paragraph 3.14, and giving due consideration to the gravity of the case, suspend Rev. Christopher MacRae *sine die* from the duties of office and from sealing ordinances. They instruct that his name be removed from the Roll of Resigned Ministers. They instruct the Assembly Clerk to inform Mr MacRae, the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross, and Niddrie Community Church, of the General Assembly finding. They commend Mr MacRae to the grace of God and to the prayers of the Church.

Act 10 – Appointing the Commission of Assembly

Number 9 of Class 2

Category General Assembly

Thursday 24th May 2018

The General Assembly hereby appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of this General Assembly along with Rev. Iver Martin named by the Moderator to be their Commission.

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 3rd October 2018 and Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7 o'clock in the evening, and at other times and places as may be required with power to choose their own Moderator.

The quorum shall be any twelve or more of their number, of whom four at least are always to be ministers.

The General Assembly empower this Commission, or their quorum, to take up and dispose of any matter referred to them by the General Assembly or arising out of any Act or finding of the Assembly in accordance with the instructions given by the Assembly; to give attention to the interests of the Church in every respect to ensure that the Church does not suffer or incur any prejudice which it is possible for their powers to prevent, as they will be answerable. This however shall not apply to particular affairs or processes before Presbyteries or Synods which have only a local relevance and have no reference to the whole Church.

Furthermore, the said Commission are hereby authorised to receive and dispose of applications duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry from ministers of other denominations seeking admission to the Free Church ministry;

Furthermore, the Commission are authorised to receive and dispose of applications through Presbyteries from any congregation wishing to join the Free Church of Scotland submitted in accordance with the procedures laid down by the General Assembly;

Furthermore, the Commission is empowered to receive and dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Mission Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Mission Board; to appoint Ministers to overseas appointments and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church;

Furthermore, the Commission is empowered to receive and dispose of a Report from the Mission Board on the following matters: (i) the dissolution of the Union between Lochgilphead and Tarbert; (ii) the dissolution of the Union between Downvale and Paisley.

Furthermore, the Commission is empowered to determine any matter relating to the sale of property or release of funds which in the view of the Board of Trustees should be determined by the Commission and brought by the Board on its own initiative; and to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks in relation to the records of the Presbytery of Glasgow & Argyll, the Psalmody & Praise Committee, the Presbytery of North America, and other items specified in the report of the Committee appointed to examine records.

The Commission shall give such a lead as they are able on moral issues and provide advice and assistance to [Synods], Presbyteries and Committees and Boards of the General Assembly upon their making application.

It shall not be competent for the Commission to become involved in matters other than those committed and referred to them as above. All their proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Acts and Constitution of the Church, avoiding anything which is contrary or prejudicial to such Acts and Constitution.

The General Assembly further declare that in all their proceedings they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly as they may find reason.

This Commission shall remain in being until another Commission is appointed. All members are required to attend the diets of the Commission.

The General Assembly declare that no other Court of the Church may meet on the dates on which the Assembly has appointed its Commission to meet.

Act 11 – Appointing the 2019 General Assembly

Number 10 of Class 2

Category General Assembly

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday 20th May 2019 at 6.00pm.

Act 12 – The Minister’s Stipend

Number 11 of Class 2

Category Governance & Finance

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £23,500 effective from 1st January 2018. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

Act 13 – London City Presbyterian Church & the Former Cobham Manse

Number 12 of Class 2

Category Governance & Finance

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly note the difficulties experienced by the Board of Trustees (“the Board”) and the Deacons Court of London City Presbyterian Church (“LCPC”) in fulfilling the terms of Act 25, Class 2, 2017.

1. The General Assembly thank the Board and the Deacons Court of LCPC for reaching an agreement in respect of the former Cobham Manse, 11 Ferndown Gardens, Cobham (“the Property”).
 2. The General Assembly instruct that the Property be placed on the open market for sale forthwith and be sold as soon as reasonably practicable for the best price that can reasonably be obtained.
 3. The General Assembly direct that the whole net free proceeds of sale (net free proceeds being defined as the sale price after deduction of the reasonable estate agency and conveyancing fees, VAT and outlays incurred in connection with the sale) be remitted by the selling agents to the Board, immediately after completion of the sale, to be dealt with as follows: (a) the sum of £325,473 (“the Board’s share”) to be retained by the Board in full and final settlement of all outstanding amounts in relation to the former congregation of Cobham with the surplus as a ‘freewill gift’ from the LCPC congregation to the central funds of the church; and (b) the remainder of the net free proceeds (“LCPC’s share”) to be held by the Board for behoof of the Deacons’ Court of LCPC for the purposes of the purchase of property, suitable for the use of a ministerial assistant, within the area of ministry of LCPC. The Deacon’s Court of LCPC will have access to LCPC’s share, upon due application to the Chief Executive Officer, for the said purposes agreed.
 4. The General Assembly instruct the Deacons’ Court of LCPC to engage with estate agents and solicitors to act in connection with the sale, the said estate agents and solicitors to be agreed in advance in consultation with the Board of Trustees, and subject to the transaction being overseen by the Church Solicitor or Law Agent.
 5. The General Assembly repeal Act 25, Class 2, 2017.
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Act 14 – The Charity Constitution of Deacons Courts and Finance Committee

Number 13 of Class 2

Category Governance & Finance

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

The General Assembly note the issues arising from the present wording of clause 26 of the congregational constitutions, in particular the sentence “Neither the Deacons’ Court/Finance Committee nor trustees holding property under the Model Trust Deed have the right to use such property as security for a loan except in cases where loans are provided by the Board of Trustees”. They note that this wording is open to misconstruction as to the circumstances in which congregational trustees may grant securities over congregational properties, as the Model Trust conditions can be used in whole or in part, with or without the Model Trust condition relating to borrowing, and the granting of such securities is governed by the terms of the title deeds of individual properties.

They further note the recommendation by the Board of Trustees that, in circumstances where permitted in terms of the titles, and where the proposed granting of a security is agreed to by the Board of Trustees, congregational trustees may be authorised to grant securities over congregational property. Accordingly, the General Assembly amend clause 23, clause 24 and clause 26 of the congregational constitutions approved under Act 5, Commission of Assembly, January 2007, as amended by Act 13, Class 2, 2007 and Act 31, Class 2, 2009. They delete clause 25 of the said congregational constitutions with the following clauses renumbered accordingly. The revised Act is as follows:

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the report of the Stewardship and Policy Committee. They approve the congregational constitutions attached and thank the Committee.
2. The Commission of Assembly support the view of the Committee and instruct all congregations to submit an application for registration for separate charitable status as soon as practically possible, and not later than 31st March 2007. The Commission of Assembly direct Kirk Sessions to appoint a congregational meeting to adopt the constitutional form as approved and appropriate to their particular congregation, as included in the Appendices to the Committee’s Report.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct congregations already holding separate Charity Registration to adopt the constitutional form appropriate to their particular congregation and submit this to OSCR as a replacement for their existing constitution.
4. The Commission of Assembly recognise ongoing discussions with OSCR and empower the Assembly Clerk, the Convener and Vice Convener of the Stewardship and Policy Committee to respond to any observations and to make any minor amendments as necessary.
5. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Committee to continue to work with congregations and the staff in the Church Offices to identify where additional support will be required and subsequently identify the best means for providing such support.
6. The Commission instruct the Stewardship and Policy Committee to bring a full report on all relevant matters to next General Assembly.

Appendix One

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Draft Constitution for Congregations with a Deacons’ Court

DEED OF CONSTITUTION

CONGREGATION

PRESBYTERY

Congregational	1. The Congregation aims to maintain the public worship of God and to foster Christian
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Aims	fellowship; to evangelise the local area by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, to exercise pastoral care and practical compassion for those in need; to uphold and further the interests of the Free Church of Scotland; and to participate in the worldwide promotion of Christian fellowship and the advancement of the Christian faith. All the business and proceedings of the Congregation shall be conducted in accordance with the constitution of the Free Church of Scotland, under the supervision of the Presbytery of the bounds, and in terms of the Acts, deliverances or directions of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.
General Duties & Responsibilities of the Deacons' Court	2. The control of the whole temporal affairs of the Congregation shall be vested in the Deacons' Court, subject as hereinafter mentioned, to any Acts, deliverances or directions of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.
Membership of the Deacons' Court	<p>3. The Deacons' Court shall consist of the Minister, Assistant Minister (where such exists), <i>bona fide</i> acting Elders and Deacons of the Congregation. The Minister and Assistant Minister (where such exists) become members of the Deacons' Court on being inducted to the charge by the Presbytery of the bounds after a free election by communicant members of the Congregation. Elders and Deacons are elected on the initiative of the Kirk Session by the communicant members of the Congregation in accordance with the procedures of the Church. Elders and Deacons hold office for life and remain members of the Deacons' Court until they cease to be members of the Congregation, or their resignations from office are accepted, or they have been deposed from Office.</p> <p>3.1 In the event of a vacancy in the pastoral charge, the Presbytery of the bounds has the right and duty to appoint a Minister, who is a member of Presbytery, to act as interim Moderator of the Kirk Session, and he becomes a member of the Deacons' Court with the same rights and duties as the minister in that regard during the term of his appointment.</p> <p>3.2 In the event of there being no <i>bona fide</i> acting Elders, or only one, the Presbytery has the right to appoint one or more assessors from within their own bounds to act for a stated period, which may thereafter be extended, as General Assessors to the Congregation. Such General Assessors become members of the Deacons' Court during the term of their appointment.</p> <p>3.3 If the Congregation faces circumstances of particular difficulty, the Kirk Session may request the Presbytery to augment its numbers by the appointment of Special Assessors, or the Presbytery may do so on their own initiative. Such Special Assessors do not become members of the Deacons' Court unless the Presbytery explicitly stipulates this in the terms of their appointment.</p>
Convening of Meetings	4. A meeting of the Deacons' Court shall be convened by due notice through pulpit intimation, church intimation or by personal notice to the members thereof, and is called by authority of the Minister, or at the requisition of any three members—said requisition being addressed to the Minister, or, in time of a vacancy of the pastoral charge, to the Clerk of the said Court. The ordinary business of the Deacons' Court may not be transacted on the Lord's Day. The Deacons' Court shall not meet at the same time as the Presbytery or Synod of the bounds or the General Assembly.
Chairman & Quorum	5. The minister shall preside in the meeting of the Deacons' Court, when he is present; and, in his absence, any Elder or Deacon whom the meeting may appoint. Three members form the quorum of a Deacons' Court.
Constituting Meeting	6. Every meeting of the Deacons' Court is both opened and closed with prayer. The Minute shall always bear at the outset that the Deacons' Court was <i>constituted</i> , and at the end that the meeting was <i>closed with prayer</i> . No Extract Minute shall be received which does not bear that the Deacons' Court was constituted, and which is not certified by the Clerk as having been extracted by him from the Records of the Court.
Conduct of Business	7. The Chairman may introduce any business to the Deacons' Court and may address them regarding it. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of members attending. The Chairman has only a casting vote.
Clerk to the Deacons' Court	8. The Deacons' Court shall appoint a Clerk, usually from among their own number, who shall write up the minutes of each meeting and take care of such of its papers, books and documents as are not entrusted to the custody of a Treasurer. In the absence of the Clerk, the

	Deacons' Court shall appoint a replacement <i>pro tempore</i> , and this fact shall be noted in the minutes. The temporary clerk shall sign the minutes he has written as well as the regular clerk.
Treasurer	9. The Deacons' Court shall appoint one or more treasurers who need not be members of the Court, and whose term of office is as stipulated by the Deacons' Court. The Treasurer shall keep one or more bank accounts in the name of the Congregation and also detailed records of the income and expenditure of the Congregation as required by church regulations and civil legislation.
Powers of the Deacons' Court	10. The Deacons' Court has the management and charge of the whole property belonging to the Congregation and of all its temporal affairs with the determination of all questions relating thereto; and it is the province and duty of the said Court to transmit, from time to time, to the denominational Treasurer appointed by the General Assembly, or their Committee, the funds raised for the annual commitments toward stipends and other centrally funded work of the denomination, to apply the remaining congregational funds, in fitting proportions, to the support of the ministry, the payment of the salaries of the various support staff (who may or may not be members of the Deacons' Court), provision of indemnity insurance for members of the Deacons' Court and the defraying of all necessary charges connected with the property, or with the dispensation of Christian ordinances; to apply, moreover, any surplus, which may thereafter arise, to religious, ecclesiastical, educational or charitable objects. The Court may also organise designated collections of funds for other stated purposes of a religious, ecclesiastical, educational or charitable nature and accept similar funds for onward transmission to the denomination's central treasurer or committee, or charity in terms of the donor's wishes. Finally, the Court shall decide as to the payments to be made for the relief of the poor.
Nature of Meetings	11. The meetings of Deacons' Court shall not usually be open to the public, or the Congregation; but the Deacons' Court may hold open meetings if it sees special cause.
Maintenance of Church Property	12. While property belonging to the Congregation is held in the name of local trustees, the Deacons' Court is responsible for the maintenance of its fabric, keeping it in proper order and repair and fully insured against loss or damage by fire and also against loss or damage by such other risks or perils as appropriate.
Health & Safety	13. The Deacons' Court has the responsibility for discharging all duties imposed by Health and Safety and other civil law legislation pertaining to the properties owned or occupied by the Congregation or assigned by the Free Church of Scotland or one of its committees for the Congregation's use.
Use of Church Property	14. While the church is solely at the disposal of the Minister for all religious purposes, the consent of the Deacons' Court, as well as of the Minister, is necessary, before any meeting, not strictly of a religious, ecclesiastical, or charitable nature, can be held in it. It is, however, within their competence to make such charge for these uses as will defray costs falling on the Congregation.
Declaration of Interest	15. A member of the Deacons' Court who has a personal interest in any transaction or arrangement which the Court is proposing to enter into must declare that interest and is debarred from voting on whether or not the Court should enter into that transaction or arrangement. Provided this procedure has been followed, a member of the Deacons' Court is not debarred from entering into a transaction or arrangement with the Court in which a personal interest exists.
Application of Funds & Assets	16. The Deacons' Court shall apply the whole funds and assets of any description and under its control in any way, exclusively for the purposes of the Congregation and/or the Free Church of Scotland, unless such funds or assets are otherwise appropriated in law to a specific purpose, and in accordance with all relevant Acts, directions and deliverances approved by the General Assembly.
Examination of	17. The Minute Book of the Deacons' Court shall be exhibited to the Presbytery of the bounds at its first ordinary meeting after 31st January each year for the purpose of being

Records	examined and attested by the Presbytery at said meeting.
Examination of Accounts	18. The Treasurer's Accounts shall be prepared and examined in accordance with prevailing accounting regulations. The Accounts, once examined, shall be submitted to the Presbytery each year, and the Presbytery shall forward them to the Church's Finance Manager within three months of the financial year end. After the Finance Manager has acknowledged receipt of the Accounts, the Congregation shall forward them to the Charity Regulator along with their annual returns.
Annual Congregational Meeting	19. After the Minute Book of the Deacons' Court has been attested by the Presbytery and the Treasurer's Accounts duly examined; and preferably not later than 31st March, a Congregational Meeting shall be held, when the Deacons' Court shall present a report of its proceedings for the preceding year, give such information and explanations as may be asked for, and receive any suggestions which may be offered by members of the Congregation for the consideration of the Court, with reference to the future distribution of funds. The Congregational Meeting shall be convened by intimation from the pulpit, and the Minister, if present, shall preside at it.
Minutes of Congregational Meetings	20. Meetings of the Deacons' Court with the Congregation (that is, Congregational Meetings which do not require the Kirk Session's authority) should be duly minuted and the minutes engrossed in the Record of the Deacons' Court.
Dissent	21. So long as the Deacons' Court acts within the bounds of its authority as prescribed by Church law, decisions are regarded as final, and no dissent and complaint is competent. A simple dissent is, however, competent.
Petition against Decisions	22. Any member of a Congregation or of the Kirk Session may petition the Presbytery against the procedure of the Deacons' Court on the grounds that it has exceeded its powers or disregarded Acts of Assembly. It is competent also for the Presbytery to find that the Deacons' Court has exceeded its powers or disregarded the Acts, upon the periodical examination of the Record. The Presbytery may, in either of these cases, require the procedure to be altered, or censure the Deacons' Court, according to the nature of the case. The Deacons' Court may appeal to the Superior Courts in such cases. The petitioners against the Deacons' Court's procedure may also appeal to the Superior Court if the Presbytery reject their Petition.
Congregational Trustees	23. Property belonging to the Congregation, whether or not held in terms of the Model Trust Deed or any variation thereof, shall be held in the names of trustees elected by the Congregation. The duties of local trustees are to hold properties in trust and sign necessary documents connected with ownership or sale, when duly authorised. The trust conditions under which congregational trustees hold title shall be set out or referred to in the title deeds, or, failing that, in a separate Trust Deed. A list of local property trustees should be maintained by the Deacons' Court and included in the Treasurer's Annual Accounts. Duties of day-to-day management belong to the Deacons' Court.
Election of Trustees	24. Only persons whose names appear on the Communion Roll of the Congregation as duly attested by Presbytery have the right to vote in electing trustees. A Congregational meeting to elect trustees must be intimated from the pulpit after the forenoon service and the intimation must specify the reason for which the meeting is called. At least ten days' notice of such a meeting must be given.
Powers to Borrow	25. The Deacons' Court shall have power to borrow money for the purpose of implementing its duties and obligations but only if the Deacons' Court is satisfied that sufficient funds are available or are assured for the purpose of repaying the money borrowed. Congregational property may only be used as security for a loan in circumstances where (a) the granting of a security is not prohibited by the trust conditions under which the title is held by the congregational trustees; and (b) all procedures required in terms of the said trust conditions have been followed and all consents required in terms thereof have been obtained. Further, and for the avoidance of doubt and whether or not explicitly stated in the title or elsewhere, no standard security may be granted over congregational property without prior written agreement having been obtained from the Free Church of Scotland Board of Trustees.

Existing functions of Minister & Kirk Session reserved	26. Nothing herein contained shall interfere with the functions assigned either to the Minister or to the Kirk Session by the constitution of the Free Church of Scotland or by the Acts and Deliverances of its General Assembly.
Powers reserved to the General Assembly	27. It shall be in the power of the General Assembly or its Commission, to alter, revoke, amend or modify this Deed of Constitution, in whole or in part with the exception of para 1, or to substitute a new Deed of Constitution for this Deed of Constitution.

Appendix Two

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Draft Constitution for Congregations with a Finance Committee

DEED OF CONSTITUTION

CONGREGATION

PRESBYTERY

Congregational Aims	1. The Congregation aims to maintain the public worship of God and to foster Christian fellowship; to evangelise the local area by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ, to exercise pastoral care and practical compassion for those in need; to uphold and further the interests of the Free Church of Scotland; and to participate in the worldwide promotion of Christian fellowship and the advancement of the Christian faith. All the business and proceedings of the Congregation shall be conducted in accordance with the constitution of the Free Church of Scotland, under the supervision of the Presbytery of the bounds, and in terms of the Acts, deliverances or directions of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.
General Duties & Responsibilities of the Finance Committee	2. The control of the whole temporal affairs of the Congregation shall be vested in the Finance Committee, subject as hereinafter mentioned, to any Acts, deliverances or directions of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.
Membership of the Finance Committee	<p>3. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Minister, Assistant Minister (where such exists) and bona fide acting Elders of the Congregation along with those persons appointed members of the Finance Committee by the Congregation. The Minister and Assistant Minister (where such exists) become members of the Finance Committee on being inducted to the charge by the Presbytery of the bounds after a free election by communicant members of the Congregation. Elders are elected on the initiative of the Kirk Session by the communicant members of the Congregation in accordance with the procedures of the Church. Elders hold office for life and remain members of the Finance Committee until they cease to be members of the Congregation, or their resignations are accepted, or they have been deposed from Office.</p> <p>3.1 Each year at the Annual Congregational Meeting the Kirk Session should propose a suitable number of other persons to serve on the Finance Committee. Each of these persons shall be approved of by a majority of the Congregation to serve on the Finance Committee until the next Annual Congregational Meeting. Individuals shall be eligible for re-election from year to year.</p> <p>3.2 In the event of a vacancy in the pastoral charge, the Presbytery of the bounds has the right and duty to appoint a Minister, who is a member of Presbytery, to act as interim Moderator of the Kirk Session, and he becomes a member of the Finance Committee with the same rights and duties as the minister in that regard during the term of his appointment.</p> <p>3.3 In the event of there being no bona fide acting Elders, or only one, the Presbytery has the right to appoint one or more assessors from within their own bounds to act for a stated period, which may thereafter be extended, as General Assessors to the Congregation. Such</p>

	<p>General Assessors become members of the Finance Committee during the term of their appointment.</p> <p>3.4 If the Congregation faces circumstances of particular difficulty, the Kirk Session may request the Presbytery to augment its numbers by the appointment of Special Assessors, or the Presbytery may do so on their own initiative. Such Special Assessors do not become members of the Finance Committee unless the Presbytery explicitly stipulates this in the terms of their appointment.</p>
Convening of Meetings	<p>4. A meeting of the Finance Committee shall be convened by due notice through pulpit intimation, church intimation or by personal notice to the members thereof, and is called by authority of the Minister, or at the requisition of any three members—said requisition being addressed to the Minister, or, in time of a vacancy of the pastoral charge, to the Clerk of the Finance Committee. The ordinary business of the Finance Committee may not be transacted on the Lord’s Day. The Finance Committee shall not meet at the same time as the Presbytery or Synod of the bounds or the General Assembly.</p>
Chairman & Quorum	<p>5. The minister shall preside in the meeting of the Finance Committee, when he is present; and, in his absence, any Elder or member of the Finance Committee whom the meeting may appoint. Three members form the quorum of a Finance Committee.</p>
Constituting Meeting	<p>6. Every meeting of Finance Committee is both opened and closed with prayer. The Minute shall always bear at the outset that the Finance Committee was constituted, and at the end that the meeting was closed with prayer. No Extract Minute shall be received which does not bear that the Finance Committee was constituted, and which is not certified by the Clerk as having been extracted by him from the Records of the Committee.</p>
Conduct of Business	<p>7. The Chairman may introduce any business to the Finance Committee and may address them regarding it. Resolutions are passed by a simple majority of members attending. The Chairman has only a casting vote.</p>
Clerk to the Finance Committee	<p>8. The Finance Committee shall appoint a Clerk, usually from among their own number, who shall write up the minutes of each meeting and take care of such of its papers, books and documents as are not entrusted to the custody of a Treasurer. In the absence of the Clerk, the Finance Committee shall appoint a replacement <i>pro tempore</i>, and this fact shall be noted in the minutes. The temporary clerk shall sign the minutes he has written as well as the regular clerk.</p>
Treasurer	<p>9. The Finance Committee shall appoint one or more treasurers who need not be members of the Committee, and whose term of office is as stipulated by the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall keep one or more bank accounts in the name of the Congregation and also detailed records of the income and expenditure of the Congregation as required by church regulations and civil legislation.</p>
Powers of the Finance Committee	<p>10. The Finance Committee has the management and charge of the whole property belonging to the Congregation and of all its temporal affairs with the determination of all questions relating thereto; and it is the province and duty of the said Committee to transmit, from time to time, to the denominational Treasurer appointed by the General Assembly, or their Committee, the annual commitments towards stipends and other centrally funded work of the denomination; to apply the remaining congregational funds, in fitting proportions, to the support of the ministry, the payment of the salaries of the various subordinate functionaries (who may or may not be members of the Finance Committee), provision of indemnity insurance for members of the Finance Committee and the defraying of all necessary charges connected with the property, or with the dispensation of Christian ordinances; to apply, moreover, any surplus, which may thereafter arise, to religious, ecclesiastical, educational or charitable objects. The Committee may also organise designated collections of funds for other stated purposes of a religious, ecclesiastical, educational or charitable nature and accept similar funds for onward transmission to the denomination’s central treasurer or committee, or other charity in terms of the donor’s wishes. Finally, the Committee shall decide as to the payments to be made for the relief of the poor.</p>

Nature of Meetings	11. The meetings of Finance Committee shall not usually be open to the public, or the Congregation; but the Finance Committee may hold open meetings if they see special cause.
Maintenance of Church Property	12. While property belonging to the Congregation is held in the name of local trustees, the Finance Committee is responsible for the maintenance of its fabric, keeping it in proper order and repair and fully insured against loss or damage by fire and also against loss or damage by such other risks or perils as appropriate.
Health & Safety	13. The Finance Committee has the responsibility for discharging all duties imposed by Health and Safety and other civil law legislation pertaining to the properties owned or occupied by the Congregation or assigned by the Free Church of Scotland or one of its committees for the Congregation's use.
Use of Church Property	14. While the church is solely at the disposal of the Minister for all religious purposes, the consent of the Finance Committee, as well as of the Minister, is necessary, before any meeting, not strictly of a religious, ecclesiastical, or charitable nature, can be held in it. It is, however, within their competence to make such charge for these uses as will defray costs falling on the Congregation.
Declaration of Interest	15. A member of the Finance Committee who has a personal interest in any transaction or arrangement which the Committee is proposing to enter into must declare that interest and is debarred from voting on whether or not the Committee should enter into that transaction or arrangement. Provided this procedure has been followed, a member of the Finance Committee is not debarred from entering into a transaction or arrangement with the Committee in which a personal interest exists.
Application of Funds & Assets	16. The Finance Committee shall apply the whole funds and assets of any description and under its control in any way exclusively for the purposes of the Congregation and/or the Free Church of Scotland, unless such funds or assets are otherwise appropriated in law to a specific purpose, and in accordance with all relevant Acts, directions and deliverances approved by the General Assembly.
Examination of Records	17. The Minute Book of the Finance Committee shall be exhibited to the Presbytery of the bounds at its first ordinary meeting after 31st January each year for the purpose of being examined and attested by the Presbytery at said meeting
Examination of Accounts	18. The Treasurer's Accounts shall be prepared and examined in accordance with prevailing accounting regulations. The Accounts, once examined, shall be submitted to the Presbytery each year, and the Presbytery shall forward them to the Church's Finance Manager within three months of the financial year end. After the Finance Manager has acknowledged receipt of the Accounts, the Congregation shall forward them to the Charity Regulator along with their annual returns.
Annual Congregational Meeting	19. After the Minute Book of the Finance Committee has been attested by the Presbytery and the Treasurer's Accounts duly examined, and not later than 31st March, a Congregational Meeting shall be held, when the Finance Committee shall present a report of its proceedings for the preceding year, give such information and explanations as may be asked for, and receive any suggestions which may be offered by members of the Congregation for the consideration of the Committee, with reference to the future distribution of funds. The Congregational Meeting shall be convened by intimation from the pulpit, and the Minister, if present, shall preside at it.
Minutes of Congregational Meetings	20. Meetings of the Finance Committee with the Congregation (that is, Congregational Meetings which do not require the Kirk Session's authority) should be duly minuted and the minutes engrossed in the Record of the Finance Committee.
Dissent	21. So long as the Finance Committee acts within the bounds of its authority as prescribed by Church law, decisions are regarded as final, and no dissent and complaint is competent. A simple dissent is, however, competent.
Petition against Decisions	22. Any member of a Congregation or of the Kirk Session may petition the Presbytery against the procedure of the Finance Committee on the grounds that it has exceeded its powers or disregarded Acts of Assembly. It is competent also for the Presbytery to find that

	the Finance Committee has exceeded its powers or disregarded the Acts, upon the periodical examination of the Record. The Presbytery may, in either of these cases, require the procedure to be altered, or censure the Finance Committee, according to the nature of the case. The Finance Committee may appeal to the Superior Courts. The petitioners against the Deacons' Court's procedure may also appeal to the Superior Court if the Presbytery reject their Petition.
Congregational Trustees	23. Property belonging to the Congregation, whether or not held in terms of the Model Trust Deed or any variation thereof, shall be held in the names of trustees elected by the Congregation. The duties of local trustees are to hold properties in trust and sign necessary documents connected with ownership or sale, when duly authorised. The trust conditions under which congregational trustees hold title shall be set out or referred to in the title deeds, or, failing that, in a separate Trust Deed. A list of local property trustees should be maintained by the Finance Committee and included in the Treasurer's Annual Accounts. Duties of day-to-day management belong to the Finance Committee.
Election of Trustees	24. Only persons whose names appear on the Communion Roll of the Congregation as duly attested by Presbytery have the right to vote in electing trustees. A Congregational meeting to elect trustees must be intimated from the pulpit after the forenoon service and the intimation must specify the reason for which the meeting is called. At least ten days' notice of such a meeting must be given.
Powers to Borrow	25. The Finance Committee shall have power to borrow money for the purpose of implementing its duties and obligations but only if the Finance Committee is satisfied that sufficient funds are available or are assured for the purpose of repaying the money borrowed. Congregational property may only be used as security for a loan in circumstances where (a) the granting of a security is not prohibited by the trust conditions under which the title is held by the congregational trustees; and (b) all procedures required in terms of the said trust conditions have been followed and all consents required in terms thereof have been obtained. Further, and for the avoidance of doubt, and whether or not explicitly stated in the title or elsewhere, no standard security may be granted over congregational property without prior written agreement having been obtained from the Free Church of Scotland Board of Trustees.
Existing functions of Minister & Kirk Session reserved	26. Nothing herein contained shall interfere with the functions assigned either to the Minister or to the Kirk Session by the constitution of the Free Church of Scotland or by the Acts and Deliverances of its General Assembly.
Powers reserved to the General Assembly	27. It shall be in the power of the General Assembly or its Commission, to alter, revoke, amend or modify this Deed of Constitution, in whole or in part with the exception of para 1, or to substitute a new Deed of Constitution for this Deed of Constitution.

Act 15 – The Name Generation as the Visible Identity of the Mission Board

Number 14 of Class 2

Category Governance & Finance

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly approve the title 'Generation' as the name for the verbal and visual identity of the work of the Mission Board. They thank Mr Chris Lamont and Mr Matt Robinson of *Monumentum* for their work in this area. They commend this form of communication and pray that this will be a successful endeavour in communicating the work of the Board throughout Scotland and beyond.

Act 16 – The North East Glasgow Team Ministry

Number 15 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the report of the Mission Board the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding the North East Glasgow Team Ministry and future ministerial arrangements for the congregations covered by the Team. Noting that all other relevant documentation has been submitted by the Presbytery, they waive the requirement for the submission of a petition. They terminate the North East Glasgow Team Ministry arrangement with immediate effect. They thank the Presbytery and all the members of the Team for their faithful ministry since the Team's inception in 2012. They note the developments in the focus of ministry in the congregations covered by the Team since its inception and, desiring to secure the continuity of existing ministries, ordain as follows. They declare the congregation of Hope Church Coatbridge to be a fully sanctioned charge under the ongoing ministry of Rev. Ivor MacDonald, with Mr MacDonald's appointment to be on the basis of a five-year terminable/renewable appointment according to the terms of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, Paragraph 3.4, Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund, and his appointment being continuous with his original induction to the congregation on 6th July 2012. They declare the congregation of Cumbernauld to be a fully sanctioned charge under the ongoing ministry of Rev. Andrew Longwe with Mr Longwe's appointment to be on the basis of a five-year terminable/renewable appointment according to the terms of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, Paragraph 3.4, Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund, and his appointment being continuous with his induction to the Team on 31st October 2015. They declare the congregation of Bishopbriggs to be a fully sanctioned charge with permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable/renewable appointment according to the terms of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, Paragraph 3.4, Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund. They declare the congregation of Lennoxton to be financially non-viable. They authorise the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to appoint a Presbytery worker according to the provisions of Act 10, Class 2, 2006 anent the appointment of Presbytery Workers. The General Assembly repeal Act 1, Class 2, October 2012, Act 1, Class 1, 2011, and Act 24, Class 2, 2015.

Act 17 – Granting Dunfermline the Status of a Fully-sanctioned Charge

Number 16 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly note that the current five-year term of the Church Extension charge at Dunfermline terminates at this Assembly. They declare that the congregation be granted the status of a fully sanctioned charge, with Rev. Jeremy Ross appointment to the congregation without any restriction according to the terms of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, Paragraph 3.3, Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund.

Act 18 – Granting St Andrews the Status of a Fully-sanctioned Charge

Number 17 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly note that the current five-year term of the Church Extension charge at St Andrews, terminates at this Assembly. They declare that the congregation be granted the status of a fully sanctioned charge, with Rev. Paul Clarke appointment to the congregation without any restriction according to the terms of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, Paragraph 3.3, Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund.

Act 19 – South Uist & Benbecula and Locally Subsidised Ministry

Number 18 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly note that the current five-year term of the Church extension charge at South Uist and Benbecula terminates at this Assembly. They grant permission to the congregation of South Uist and Benbecula to call a minister under the provisions of Act 14, Class 2, 2014 anent Establishment of Locally Subsidised Charges and according to the financial arrangements proposed by the Western Isles Presbytery and approved by the Mission Board, with the first three-year term of ministry to commence on the induction of a minister to the

charge. They instruct the Mission Board to make budgetary provision of £4,000 of grant aid to help cover ministry costs and expenses for the first three years of a settled ministry.

Act 20 – Centrally Supported Charges

Number 19 of Class 2

Category *Mission & Ministry*

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly note that arrangements for centrally-supported ministries under the provisions of Act 34, Class 2, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges, and Act 27, Class 2, 1989 anent Church Extension Charges are no longer required with the change of status of the congregations of Dunfermline, St Andrews and South Uist and Benbecula and that the said Acts have now become redundant. They repeal Act 34, Class 2, 1988 and Act 27, Class 2, 1989.

Act 21 – Disjoining Nairn from Smithton & Culloden

Number 20 of Class 2

Category *Mission & Ministry*

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross regarding the congregation of Smithton-Culloden and Nairn and grant its crave. They disjoin the preaching-station of Nairn from Smithton-Culloden Free Church to allow it to develop its future ministry independent of Smithton-Culloden Free Church. They grant the Nairn section of the current congregation the status of a fully sanctioned charge. They terminate the appointment of Rev. Murdo Macleod as Assistant Minister of Smithton, Culloden and Nairn and they appoint him as the minister of the fully sanctioned charge at Nairn. They declare his appointment to be continuous with his original induction as Assistant Minister, and that it be on the basis of a five-year, terminable/renewable appointment according to the terms of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, paragraph 3.4. The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Innes Macsween as Assistant Minister at Smithton and Culloden on 21st October 2017 under the terms of Act 34, Class 2, 2016. They revise the terms of the said Act to the extent that word ‘second’ is removed with reference to the Assistant Minister. They also repeal Act 45, Class 2, 2008, and Act 21, Class 2, 2014, under which terms Rev. Murdo Macleod was appointed as Assistant Minister in 2008.

Act 22 – Additional Worker for Smithton & Culloden

Number 21 of Class 2

Category *Mission & Ministry*

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross regarding the appointment of an additional worker in the congregation of Smithton and Culloden Free Church and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They note that the application for such a worker is on the basis that the Congregation qualifies for the appointment of a second Assistant Minister under the provisions of Act 18, Class 2, 2013, but that they desire the appointment of a Children and Schools Worker instead. They grant the congregation of Smithton-Culloden permission to appoint a Children and Schools Worker with the worker’s minimum remuneration to be 80% of stipend as required by Act 10, Class 2, 2006, Paragraph 3.1, and with the financial arrangements for the payment of the worker to be according to terms for the payment of a second Assistant Minister under the provisions of Act 18, Class 2, 2013, and the Congregation remitting the appropriate percentage of the Ministry Levy and the appropriate Administration Levy.

Act 23 – Dissolving the Congregation of Inverness-West Church

Number 22 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross regarding the congregation of Inverness-West Church and grant its crave. They dissolve the congregation of West Church, Inverness, with immediate effect. They thank the minister, Rev. Andrew MacMillan, and members of the West Church for their work since the inception of the congregation. They declare that Rev. Andrew MacMillan's name be added to the Roll of Resigned Ministers. They instruct the Board of Trustees to oversee all charitable and financial aspects of the dissolution of the Congregation. They encourage all the members of West Church to join with another congregation of the Free Church as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity of pastoral oversight and care. They repeal Act 21, Class 2, 2016.

Act 24 – Assistant Minister for Portree and Bracadale

Number 23 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Skye, Lochaber and Ross regarding an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Portree and Bracadale and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Portree and Bracadale to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2020.

Act 25 – Assistant Minister for St Columba's, Edinburgh

Number 24 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth regarding an Assistant Minister for the congregation of St Columba's and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of St Columba's Free Church to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2020.

Act 26 – Assistant Minister for Free North, Inverness

Number 25 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross regarding an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Free North and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Free North Free Church to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2020.

Act 27 – Assistant Minister for Stornoway

Number 26 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles regarding the appointment of an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Stornoway and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They declare that the appointment of Rev. Kenneth I. Macleod as Assistant Minister at Stornoway is extended for a further six-year term according to the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships and renewable by the Presbytery at the end of the first three years of the six-year term.

Act 28 – The Free Church Partnership with Operation Mobilisation

Number 27 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly approve the establishment of a formal partnership between the Free Church of Scotland and Operation Mobilisation for the benefit of mobilising the denomination in international mission. They commend this partnership to the wider denomination and encourage Presbyteries, local congregations and individuals to embrace the opportunities for mission which this partnership offers.

Act 29 – Appointment of a Camps Supervisor

Number 28 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly, recognising the need for greater flexibility in the appointing of a Camps Supervisor, authorise the Mission Board to make an appointment to the post when required.

Act 30 – The Appointment of Church Planting Director

Number 29 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly, recognising the need to have a dedicated worker to support the work of church planting, approve the creation of the post of Church Planting Director subject to budgetary provision and the agreement of the Board of Trustees. They instruct the Mission Board, on the successful completion of discussions with the Board of Trustees, to undertake a recruitment process aimed at identifying a candidate with a demonstrable passion for mission and in particular church planting, proven pastoral experience and fundraising ability, and the requisite leadership qualities for the post. They ordain that an appointment shall be made for an initial three-year term, renewable for a further three-year term subject to a full review of the post being carried out by the Mission Board no later than six months prior to the end of the initial three-year term.

Act 31 – Appointment of Dr Alistair Wilson as Lecturer in New Testament & Mission at ETS

Number 30 of Class 2

Category Admission & Training

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly endorse the appointment of Rev. Dr Alistair Wilson as lecturer in New Testament and Mission at ETS effective from 1st January 2018. They note his induction to the post by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth on 16th February 2018. They commend Dr Wilson to the prayers of the Church.

Act 32 – A Full-time Course Organiser in Church History at ETS

Number 31 of Class 2

Category Admission & Training

Wednesday 23rd May 2018

The General Assembly endorse the necessity of a full-time Course Organiser in Church History, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. They instruct the Seminary Board to consult with the Board of Trustees regarding budgetary provision for the post. They encourage the Seminary Board to identify a suitable appointee as soon as possible after the successful completion of the consultation with the Trustees.

Act 33 – Continuous Professional Development for Serving Ministers

Number 32 of Class 2

Category Admission & Training

Thursday 24th May 2018

The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry on the need for Continuous Professional Development in the ministry (CPD). The General Assembly enact as follows:

1. The General Assembly direct that all serving ministers commit to ongoing learning and Continuous Professional Development (CPD), to refresh and further equip their ministries. CPD shall include the four broad categories of: Bible and Theology; Leadership and Management; Pastoral Care and Ministry; and Contemporary Thought and Culture.
2. The General Assembly issue the following seven directives for CPD within the Free Church of Scotland:
 - 2.1 Ministers should aspire to complete 40 hours of CPD each year, formally recorded in a log.
 - 2.2 Presbyteries are encouraged to create space in their agenda for CPD activities.
 - 2.3 Presbyteries should appoint CPD Committees.
 - 2.4 Presbyteries should ensure that members are aware of appropriate resources for CPD.
 - 2.5 Deacons' Courts shall normally make provision to cover reasonable costs for CPD activities. Presbyteries are encouraged to provide support for CPD for ministers in charges with limited funds.
 - 2.6 Ministers should strive to achieve a measure of balance in the various categories of CPD.
 - 2.7 The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to liaise with other Boards and ensure that future General Assemblies shall normally include items in the programme relevant to CPD designed to be relevant and helpful to the ministers, elders and members of the Church.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act 1 – Admitting Rev. Jonathan de Groot as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland

Number 1 of Class 2

Category Admission & Training

Wednesday 4th October 2017

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Jonathan de Groot, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow & Argyll to make arrangements for Mr de Groot to sign the Formula under their supervision and immediately thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr de Groot has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr de Groot to complete the Presbyterian Church Ministry Module by Distance Learning available through Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 2 – Admitting Rev. Dr Rodger M. Crooks as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland

Number 2 of Class 2

Category Admission & Training

Wednesday 4th October 2017

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev Dr Rodger M Crooks, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow & Argyll, to make arrangements for Dr Crooks to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Dr Crooks has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Dr Crooks to complete the Presbyterian Church Ministry Module by Distance Learning available through Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 3 – Alternative Ministerial Arrangements at East Kilbride

Number 2 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 4th October 2017

The Commission of Assembly terminate the locally subsidised ministry arrangements at East Kilbride, granted in accordance with the provisions of Act 14, Class 2, 2013. They note with approval that the Mission Board has placed the congregation on Alternative Ministerial Arrangements according to the provisions of Act 13, Class 2, 2014, effective for a period of three years from 1st November 2017, and with the appointment of Rev. Iain Thompson to be according to the terms of the Ministry Development Plan agreed jointly by the Presbytery and the Board. They commit the ministry in East Kilbride to the prayers of the Church, especially as they begin this phase of ministry. They repeal Act 34, Class 2, 2017.

Act 4 – Ministry Arrangements at Elgin and Forres

Number 4 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 4th October 2017

The Commission of Assembly terminate the locally subsidised ministry arrangements at Elgin and Forres, granted in accordance with the provisions of Act 14, Class 2, 2013. They note with approval that the Mission Board has granted the congregation permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable/renewable appointment according to the provisions Act 33, Class 2, 2017 Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.4. The Commission of Assembly give thanks for recent developments in Elgin and Forres and commit the leadership and congregation to the prayers of the church. They repeal Act 35, Class 2, 2017.

Act 5 – Extending the Team Ministry Arrangements in North East Glasgow

Number 5 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 4th October 2017

The Commission of Assembly note that the current term of the North-East Glasgow Team Ministry is due to end at the Commission of Assembly according to the terms of Act 36, Class 2, 2017, but that the final review according to the terms of Act 1, Class 1, 2011, has not been finalised. They extend the Team Ministry arrangements until the March 2018 Commission of Assembly. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to complete the review without delay and to report to the Mission Board accordingly, enabling the Board to report to the March 2018 Commission of Assembly. They repeal Act 36, Class 2, 2017.

Act 6 – Uniting the Congregations of Knock and Point

Number 6 of Class 2

Category Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 4th October 2017

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Western Isles Presbytery regarding the congregations of Knock and Point and grant its crave. They unite the congregation of Knock with the congregation of Point with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court. They declare that the consolidated charge be known as Garrabost Free Church within the Western Isles Presbytery. They grant the united congregation the authority to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act 33, Class 2, 2017, Interim Act anent Sustentation Fund. They instruct the Presbytery of the Western Isles to meet with the congregation at the earliest available opportunity to formally constitute them as the new congregation of Garrabost Free Church of Scotland.