

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

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH MAY 2015

WITH THE
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THAT ASSEMBLY
AND THE
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY



FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, THE MOUND, EDINBURGH
(Scottish Charity Number: SC012925)

MMXV

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

None

CLASS II – ACTS THAT ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

Act I - Act appointing a Business Committee for the General Assembly
(No 1 of Class II)

Monday 18th May 2015

The General Assembly appoint a Business Committee of Assembly, comprising the Principal Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Clerks of all the home Presbyteries. The Committee shall meet at a convenient point not later than 15th April annually to examine all papers in the hands of the Principal Clerk due to come before the Assembly. The Committee shall appoint its own Convener annually at its April meeting and the Principal Clerk shall act as Clerk to the Committee. The Convener shall be responsible for introducing the Lord High Commissioner to the Receiving Party and to the Moderator, as well as delegates and others to the Moderator, apart from the children receiving Youth Awards. The Committee shall present its Report to the Assembly at the first sederunt. The Report shall incorporate a Report from the Clerks' Office and shall be bound with all the other Reports to be distributed in advance of the Assembly.

The General Assembly authorise the Business Committee, to designate as routine those Petitions they consider ought to be in this category, and to recommend this to the Assembly in their Report, at which point amendments to the contrary may be given in without prior notice, the final decision on whether any Petition be so treated to lie with the General Assembly. The General Assembly instruct the Clerks' Office to amend Standing Order III.3 accordingly.

Act II – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross
(No 2 of Class II)

Monday 18th May 2015

The General Assembly appoint Mr James M. Fraser, elder at Kiltarlity, to be General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.

Act III - Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery
(No 3 of Class II)

Monday 18th May 2015

The General Assembly appoint Mr Norman Macleod, elder at Knockbain, to be General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly

Act IV - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen
(No 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly the 19th day of May 2015, 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 congratulate Your Majesty on the safe birth of your great granddaughter, Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, and pray the Lord's blessing on her and all the Royal Family. We give thanks for the continued good health of Prince Philip. We remember in our prayers His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and the busy programme he undertakes both nationally and internationally.

We express with profound gratitude to Almighty God, that this September, God willing, Your Majesty will become the longest-reigning British monarch, a long and prosperous reign with which our nation has been blessed. We are thankful that in a year of significant political events, including the Scottish referendum and the United Kingdom General Election, your majesty remains the embodiment of stability.

The Free Church of Scotland is particularly grateful to Almighty God that at a time of considerable hostility towards the Christian foundations of our society for Your Majesty's continued defence of the Faith by word and example.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of your Majesty's Armed Forces. We acknowledge the military service rendered by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales. We are thankful for the safe withdrawal of Your Majesty's forces from Afghanistan and continue to pray for the peace of that nation. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, 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 Airmens Scripture Readers Association.

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, at home and abroad, that devolve upon Your Majesty's servants.

We give thanks for Your Majesty's continued recognition of the work and ministry throughout the United Kingdom of the Free Church of Scotland by the annual visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hope, to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Your Majesty, as ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland, it is our duty and privilege, regularly to uphold your Majesty's person, family and governments, before the throne of grace. We commit ourselves and our congregations to do so in obedience to the exhortation of the Word of God, 'that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence'.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of your Majesty's Armed Forces. We acknowledge the military service rendered by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales. We are thankful for the safe withdrawal of Your Majesty's forces from Afghanistan and continue to pray for the peace of that nation. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, 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 Airmens Scripture Readers Association

Act V - Act anent Stipend and Related Salaries

(No 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,000 from 1st January 2015. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

Act VI - Act anent Compliance and Risk Management

(No 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. The General Assembly instruct any congregation, committee or board to make early contact with the Church's Compliance Officer for advice when considering employing any person from outside the European Union, whether in a paid or unpaid role and regardless of the length of stay.
2. The General Assembly, considering there is a need to raise the awareness of charity trustees at congregational and central level of their responsibilities in relation to legal compliance, instruct the Board of Trustees to conduct a careful assessment of priority areas and to develop guidance materials where appropriate.
3. The General Assembly note the development of a Conflicts of Interest Policy as a code for good governance at committee and board level. They instruct all Presbyteries to review the policy with a view to developing and adopting a similar policy to deal with potential conflicts at Presbytery level. They also support the Board's view that there is a need to develop procedures that would help address potential conflicts of interest that might arise during Assembly business and to that end instruct the Assembly Clerks' Office to undertake a review and to report to the 2016 Assembly through the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly note the Board's ongoing work in assessing the risks facing the Church. They instruct the Board to keep these risks under review.
5. The General Assembly instruct all Kirk Sessions to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PVG Scheme, seeking advice from the Church's Compliance Officer. They note, with disappointment, that some ministers have not yet applied for membership of the PVG Scheme and, where this is the case, instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that steps are taken to rectify the situation as soon as possible. They instruct the Board of Trustees to write to all Presbyteries asking for confirmation that all ministers within their bounds are, or have applied to become, members of the PVG Scheme. They empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this matter.
6. The General Assembly instruct the Board to keep developments in relation to safeguarding matters under review and to provide support to congregations in implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines.

Act VII - Act anent Communications Strategy
(No 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly note the production of a communications strategy and endorse the aims of providing a compelling Christian voice in Scottish public life and improving internal communications across the Church. They also support the proposal to develop a pool of people from around the Church with the expertise to assist in the preparation of policy papers across a range of contemporary issues. To this end, they instruct the Board to write to Kirk Sessions setting out the disciplines to be covered and the competencies sought.

Act VIII - Act anent appointment of the Editor of *The Record*
(No 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. The General Assembly note with regret the resignation of Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean as Editor of *The Record*. They thank Dr Maclean for all his work during his tenure as Editor and are grateful to him for agreeing to continue in post for the remainder of 2015.
2. The General Assembly support the Board's recommendation that the Editorship of *The Record* should not be restricted to ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland.
3. The General Assembly direct that the qualifications for appointment as Editor of *The Record* shall be as follows:
 - 3.1 The Editor shall be a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland and a person of some maturity in Christian life.
 - 3.2 The qualifications and experience of the candidate shall be matched as closely as possible to the remit for the post as drawn up by the Board of Trustees.
 - 3.3 The term of appointment will be for seven years, with eligibility for reappointment.

- 3.4 The Editor will be accountable to the Board of Trustees.
- 3.5 Remuneration and conditions of service shall be set by the Board of Trustees.
4. When a vacancy occurs, the following procedures will be followed:
- 4.1 The Secretary of the Board of Trustees will circulate all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions of the Church setting out the key elements of remit and requesting nominations for the post.
- 4.2 The Board of Trustees will arrange for an appropriate interview panel to meet with the short listed candidates and make recommendations thereafter to the Board.
- 4.3 The Board will recommend its preferred candidate to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may accept the Board's recommendation, or if not, may only choose another candidate from those previously interviewed by the Board.
5. The General Assembly repeal Act XXX, 2007, and also any other previous acts inconsistent with the foregoing.

Act IX - Act anent Review and Oversight of Magazines
(No 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. The General Assembly authorise the Board of Trustees to undertake a detailed review of the Church's publications, including *The Record*. They recognise that the time involved in conducting such a review has prevented the nomination to this Assembly of a proposed candidate to take over as Editor of *The Record*. In light of this, they empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this topic with a view to the appointment of a new Editor who will take up the position from the beginning of 2016.
2. The General Assembly approve the clarification of the arrangements for the oversight of the Church's magazines and to that end direct that the Board shall have oversight responsibility for *The Record*, *Compass* and *Free*. The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the oversight of the Church's magazines.

Act X - Act anent fixed terms of appointment for Clerks to Committees, Boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly
(No 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that it is desirable to set fixed terms of appointment for clerks of committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly, enact that, from May 2015, the following shall apply:

1. Clerks of standing committees and boards of the General Assembly shall be appointed for an initial four year term, renewable for a further term of four years. This provision shall not apply in the case of the Board of Trustees, the Missions Board and the Seminary Board where secretarial services are provided by the Chief Executive Officer, the Missions Co-ordinator and the Seminary Secretary respectively.
2. Clerks of Presbytery, the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of six years. A formal nominations process shall be conducted at least six months prior to the completion of these initial six-year terms with incumbents being eligible for nomination for one further six-year term. In the case of the appointment of Assembly Clerks, the nominations process shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees. Presbyteries shall conduct their own nominations process for appointments of Presbytery Clerks.
3. In order that the terms of office of the Principal Clerk of Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of Assembly do not expire at the same time, the General Assembly direct that the first term of six years for the Assistant Clerk shall begin at the 2015 Assembly and the final term of six years for the Principal Clerk shall be taken as from the 2013 Assembly.
4. The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the periods of appointment of the clerks to committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly.

Act XI - Act authorising the appointment of a Missions Director
(No 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly, recognising that the part-time Missions Development Officer post is coming to an end and that it is necessary to have a dedicated resource to support the work of the Missions Board in championing the work of home and international mission throughout the Church, approve the creation of the post of Missions Director. They instruct the Missions Board to undertake a recruitment process aimed at identifying a candidate with a demonstrable passion for mission, proven pastoral experience 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 Missions Board no later than six months prior to the end of the initial three-year term.

**Act XII - Act authorising the appointment of Deacons as members of the Board of Trustees
and other matters**
(No 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. The General Assembly, noting the Board's recommendations in respect of the possibility of Deacons serving as members of standing committees and boards, hereby amend § 1.1.4 of Act VI, 2014 to read as follows:

1.1.4 Membership: Thirteen members in total including the Principal Clerk of Assembly *ex officio*. The remaining membership shall comprise at least four ministers and at least six office bearers of whom up to two might be deacons. Members shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The General Assembly shall appoint one of the Board, who shall always be an elder, as Chairman, for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three trustees.

2. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to continue its consideration of areas in the work of standing committees and boards where it might be appropriate for non-ordained members of the Church to serve in a more formal capacity and to bring forward proposals in this regard to the 2016 General Assembly.

Act XIII - Act appointing a Missions Board to replace the Home and International Missions Boards
(No 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly, noting that no substantive issues have been identified that would prevent the appointment of a unified Missions Board, appoint a Missions Board to discharge the functions of the Home Missions Board and the International Missions Board as presently constituted. The Board shall assume responsibility for developing appropriate denominational partnerships at home and abroad, as well as partnerships with other organisations and agencies, in order to enhance the Church's ability to reach out with the Gospel. Membership of the Board shall be eight members in total comprising six ministers and two elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

**Act XIV - Act authorising the Board of Trustees to deal with Petitions relating to Properties
held under the Model Trust Deed**
(No 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Board of Trustees in relation to an expedited process for dealing with petitions relating to properties held under the Model Trust Deed. They enact and ordain as follows:

1. The General Assembly, with reference to the Acts of the General Assembly hereinafter referred to and to the title deeds of properties held in terms of the Model Trust Deed, hereby nominate and appoint the Board of Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, as successor to the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland in terms of Act XXIII, 2007 of the General Assembly (the said Board of Trustees being herein referred to whenever the expression “the Board of Trustees” is used), as the body to whom the General Assembly hereby delegate (but subject to the terms hereof) all the powers conferred upon or reserved to the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly by (One) (a) Condition SIXTHLY of the Model Trust Disposition (the said Model Trust Disposition being herein referred to whenever the expression “the Model Trust Deed” is used), narrated within Act XVIII, 1844: Act Anent the Trust Deed, (b) Act VIII, 1863, (c) Act X, 1875, and (d) Act IV, 1889, all as the said four aforementioned Acts are amended by Act V, 1967, (e) Act II, 1968, (f) Act II, 1982, and (g) Act XXXI, 2009 and (Two) the terms of the titles of heritable properties where the trustees holding the same are, due to such terms, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal of the properties or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, so that the Board of Trustees may hereafter (subject to the provisions for review aftermentioned) be the sole determining body in relation to the powers hereby delegated. For the avoidance of doubt, the powers hereby delegated will include powers to revoke or modify any existing determinations made in Acts or deliverances by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in regard to the matters hereby delegated.

2. Without prejudice to section 5 hereof, all applications to the Board of Trustees for authority to sell or otherwise dispose of any property where the trustees holding the same are, in terms of the title deeds, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal thereof or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, any property held in terms of the Model Trust Deed under the powers hereby delegated shall proceed from the Deacons’ Court or Finance Committee with the concurrence of the Kirk Session and of the Congregation, and shall have obtained the sanction of the Presbytery of the bounds. Such applications shall state the reasons for the application and the purpose to which it is desired that any proceeds of sale be applied.

3. The Board of Trustees will be bound, upon making a determination hereunder, to intimate such determination forthwith by notice in writing to the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned and also to the Deacons’ Court or Courts or Finance Committee or Committees of the Congregation or Congregations directly affected; on receipt by the Clerk of the Presbytery of the notice of the determination of the Board of Trustees, it will be his duty to give sufficient intimation of the same to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery thereafter; but notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 hereof, any Presbytery concerned or any Deacons’ Court or Finance Committee having title or interest and who considers any such determination by the Board of Trustees to be unreasonable may within two months of the date of the meeting of Presbytery to which intimation has been made as aforesaid, lodge with the Clerks of Assembly a Petition to the General Assembly for review of any such determination; provided always that in such circumstances a review will be competent only if the Petition therefor is lodged timeously with the Clerks of Assembly and written intimation thereof given at the same time to the Board of Trustees.

4. With reference to sections 2 and 3 hereof, in any case where, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees special circumstances exist, including, without prejudice to that generality, the situation where the property is held for other than congregational purposes or a Congregation has dissolved, an application may proceed otherwise than is provided in the said section; and the whole provisions of the said section, including those relative to determination and right of appeal, will have effect with regard to such application and determination, all with such modifications as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

5. In the event of the Board of Trustees being of the opinion that any individual matter hereunder should be determined by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, they are empowered *ex proprio motu* to bring such matter before the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly for determination.

6. Where any funds which are or may be subject to the terms of this Act are to be applied in the purchase of any heritable property, the Custodier of Titles is directed to see the transaction carried into effect and also to see that the title deeds of the new property are either (a) taken in the same terms as those of the old, or in terms of the Model Trust Deed or (b) vested in the Board of Trustees.

7. Where the proceeds of sale of a property are not to be immediately applied to the purchase of another property, they shall be deposited or invested, in the meantime, in the name of the Board of Trustees, for behoof of the Congregation.

8. It is hereby declared that any determination made under the powers hereby delegated authorising the sale or disposal of property will (unless acted upon) lapse after a period of five years from the date thereof.

9. Act VIII, 1963 and Act IV, 1889, both as amended by Act V, 1967, are hereby repealed.

10. Act XVIII, 1844 is from the date of this Act to be interpreted so that the consent of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, as delegated to the Board of Trustees in terms of this Act, shall be evidenced by a certificate issued by the Custodier of Titles or the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

XV - Act anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds
(No 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. **Applecross** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Lochcarron and Applecross Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Free Church Manse at Applecross, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent, and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the General Trustees and that the congregation have access to these funds for the repair, maintenance and development of existing congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
2. **Scalpay** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Scalpay Free Church and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation be given access, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to the sum of £15,000 held by the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of replenishing the congregation's savings.
3. **Perth** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Knox Free Church, Perth, and grant its crave. They authorise the congregation to have access to the surplus funds from the sale of the manse at Pitlochry held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to facilitate the taking on of a Ministry Apprentice/Assistant to support the furtherance of the gospel in Perth.
4. **Tarbert** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Finance Committee of Lochgilphead and Tarbert Free Church at Tarbert and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation have access to the sum of £4,710.37 held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for repairs to the church building at Tarbert.

Act VI - Act appointing the Judicial Commission
(No 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. The General Assembly reappoint the Judicial Commission as follows:

Rev. A. J. Macdonald	[4/2]
Rev. Professor J. R. McIntosh	[4/2]
Mr J. MacRae	[4/2]
Mr D. W. Matheson	[4/2]
Rev. A. J. Howat	[4/2]
Rev. A. Cowie	[4/2]
Mr Evan MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr Norman Smith	[4/2]
Rev. Gordon Mair	[4/2]
Rev. D. C. Meredith	[4/2]
Mr Andrew Murchison	[4/2]
Dr Gordon Fraser	[4/2]
Rev. Duncan Macleod	[4/2]
Rev. I. MacAskill	[4/2]
Mr David Lipp	[4/2]
Dr James Skinner	[4/2]
Rev. John H. MacLean	[4/2]
Rev. D. G. MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr John A. Gillies	[4/2]
Mr Robert MacDonald	[4/2]
Rev. James Maciver	[4/2]

Rev. Malcolm Macleod	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Macleod (Lochs)	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway)	[4/2]
Chairman:	Rev. A. J. MacDonald
Clerk:	Principal Clerk

Act XVII - Act anent Synods
(No 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

1. The General Assembly remind Synod Clerks to ensure that the requirements of Act XXXIX, 2009, paragraphs 3-4 and 6-8, are implemented annually in accordance with the terms set out.

2. In accordance with the requirements of Act V, 2002, paragraph 2.1, the General Assembly appoint the Northern Presbytery as Assessor Presbytery to the Western Synod; the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross as Assessor Presbytery to the Southern Synod; and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth as Assessor Presbytery to the Northern Synod. The General Assembly remind the North American Synod that such cases as require either of the two Presbyteries comprising that Synod to be at the bar of Synod should be forwarded directly to the General Assembly, or Commission of Assembly, whichever is the more appropriate.

Act XVIII – Act appointing Assistant Clerk of Assembly
(No 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. His duties shall be in accordance with the job description approved by this Assembly. His remuneration and conditions of service will be in accordance with current practice, his duties to commence no later than the close of this Assembly.

Act XIX - Act granting Rev. Ruairidh Maclean a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll
(No 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly grant Rev. Ruairidh Maclean a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery in connection with his current position as Scottish Deputation Secretary at Christian Witness to Israel and on condition that he reports annually to the Presbytery of his ministry with CWI.

Act XX - Act terminating the Post of Development Officer
(No 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly thank Rev. Neil MacMillan, Development Officer, for his Report and for his faithful and versatile work on behalf of the Home Missions Board over the whole period of his appointment. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they terminate the Development Officer's post effective from 30th June 2015. They declare that Mr MacMillan's name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and they instruct the Home Missions Board to pay Mr MacMillan at the current rate of stipend for a period of six months from the expiry of his appointment or until his induction to another charge if earlier, according to the terms of Act IX, Class II, 2012, Paragraph Missions, 1.8. The General Assembly repeal Act IX, Class II, 2012.

Act XXI - Act anent Future of Asian Outreach Work in Glasgow
(No 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly thank Rev. Duncan Peters and his wife Christine for their work in Asian Outreach, Glasgow. They terminate his appointment under the terms of Act XII, Class II, 2010, Act XVI, Class II, 1999, and Act VII, Class II, 1997, and repeal the said Acts. They appoint Rev. Duncan Peters to the work of Asian Outreach in Glasgow under the general terms of Act XV, Class II, 2013 anent Church Planting and Evangelism and in association with the terms of the Board's Project Development Plan in order to secure a self-supporting Church Plant congregation under the blessing of Almighty God. They declare the appointment to be continuous with his original induction to the work. They instruct the Board in consultation with the Presbytery to appoint suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide day-to-day management for the work until such time as Assessor Elders have been appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to form a Kirk Session with a specific and committed interest to the development of cross-cultural ministry. They further instruct the Board to make suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4, and they direct the Board to report to the 2016 General Assembly on such arrangements and on proposals for the overall financial strategy for the mission work of the Church. They declare that the funding of the Asian Outreach work will continue according to the current arrangements until such time as the 2016 General Assembly rules on revised funding arrangements in the context of the Board's overall financial strategy for mission work.

Act XXII - Act anent Training of Church Planters and Evangelists
(No 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly thank the Home Missions Board for work done liaising with the Board of Ministry to identify suitably gifted church planters and evangelists who are eager to bring the good news to communities with little or no gospel witness, and also liaising with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Board to develop training suitable to church planters and evangelists at the Seminary. They welcome the training initiatives carried out in association with Porterbrook Scotland and under the guidance of Rev. Neil MacMillan. They instruct the Board to (1) continue its communication with the Board of Ministry and the College Board in seeking to identify and train suitably gifted church planters and evangelists; (2) co-operate with 20 Schemes to consider ways in which the Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland can support and initiate church planting or revitalisation works in those areas of greatest social need in Scotland; and (3) report on its progress to the 2016 General Assembly.

**Act XXIII - Act anent Ministerial Arrangements in the Redevelopment Charge
of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus**
(No 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly note the terms of Act XI, Class II, 2010 renewing the redevelopment status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and declare that the current five-year term of redevelopment status be extended to the date of the March 2016 Commission of Assembly. They empower the said Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Home Missions Board on future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus as required by Paragraph 5 of Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to proceed without delay to prepare such a report so that it is in the hands of the Missions Board by 1st December 2015.

Act XXIV - Act anent North-East Glasgow Team Ministry
(No 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

1. The General Assembly note the update on the Team Ministry in the North East area of Glasgow, and in particular the ongoing vacancies in the Team. They thank the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for its role in supporting the Team Ministry arrangements. They also thank the current Team members for their ministry. They call on the Church to continue in prayerful support of the work in the North East of Glasgow and that the ongoing vacancy in the Team will be filled.

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. Noting the particular circumstances of this vacancy to which Act I, 2011, provides no remedy, they waive the requirements of Act I, 2011, § 5.5 to the extent (1) in the event of the Team Ministry arrangement being terminated at

the end of the current five-year period, any minister appointed hereafter may then be appointed to one of the constituent congregations in the Team Ministry for the remainder of the period of his terminable appointment subject to the submission by the Presbytery of a suitable ministerial plan to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board and a guarantee that the congregation is able to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry, or that any shortfall will be met by the Presbytery in terms of Act XIV, 2013; (2) that similarly any presbytery worker appointed shall be permitted to complete his three-year term on the provision of similar funding guarantees to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.

**Act XXV - Act terminating the North Coast Team Ministry and Arrangements
for Ministers and constituent Congregations**
(No 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly note the outcome of the review of North Coast Team Ministry completed by the Northern Presbytery. They receive the Petition of the Presbytery and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they grant its crave. They terminate the North Coast Team Ministry arrangements with effect from 30th June 2015. They thank all the members of the Team for their faithful ministry in the area since the Team's inception. With effect from the same date: (1) they terminate the appointment of Rev. Howard Stone to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries. They declare that Castletown and Community congregation be granted Alternative Ministerial Arrangements according to the provisions of Act XIII, Class II, 2014 and according to the terms of the Ministry Development Plan agreed by the Presbytery, the congregation and the Home Missions Board, and under the ministry of Rev. Howard Stone with his appointment continuous with his previous induction to the charge; (2) they grant the congregation of Thurso and North Coast the status of a fully sanctioned charge with permission to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund. They terminate the appointment of Rev. Hugh Ferrier to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries with his name being added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, Eligible for Call; (3) they instruct the Northern Presbytery to proceed immediately to take the necessary and appropriate steps to fill the vacancy in the fully sanctioned charge of Thurso and North Coast in order to secure the continuity of Rev. Hugh Ferrier's ministry there should that be the will of the congregation; (4) they grant the congregation of Wick and Keiss permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund with all the costs of ministry funded from reserves held by the congregation and with the Ministry Levy payable from the date of induction of a minister; (5) they also grant Helmsdale and Kinbrace permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, with the financial arrangements such that the congregation is required to remit at least 100% of the stipend payable from the date of the induction of a minister and should there be any shortfall from the requirements of the ministry and administration levies, the Northern Presbytery shall seek to secure the balance via local support or by way of an application to the Development Fund; and (6) they terminate the appointment of Mr James Morrison as Auxiliary Worker for the Team and direct that he be paid at the rate of 80% of the current stipend until the end of December 2015. They instruct the Northern Presbytery to provide pastoral support to Mr Morrison and to investigate the possibility of arriving at a local ministry arrangement in Lybster whereby he could continue to serve the Church. The General Assembly repeal Act VIII, Class II, 2011.

**Act XXVI - Act admitting the Congregation of Covenant Church, Newmilns,
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**
(No 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Covenant Church, Newmilns and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant the body of Christians worshipping in Covenant Church, Newmilns, the status of a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Covenant Church, Newmilns (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to meet *in hunc effectum* at Dowanvale Free Church, Glasgow on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 6.30 pm (1) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship to welcome them formally into the Presbytery. They direct the congregation to submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Home Missions Board with income-based confirmation of their ability to meet the full costs of ministry. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

Act XXVI I- Act anent arrangements for the Congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church
(No 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Ministry at Cobham and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave to the extent that they declare the congregation of Cobham to be financially non-viable. They thank Rev. David D. Miller for his unstinting and faithful service during his twelve years as minister there. They sever Rev. David D. Miller's pastoral tie with the congregation on the said date, adding his name to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and declare that he shall be eligible for six months stipend from the date of termination according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund paragraph 6.3.5, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to complete the consultation process to satisfy the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2013, paragraphs 6.1.5 and 6.2.1 and to report on the completed consultation to the October 2015 Commission of Assembly. They further instruct the Presbytery to meet as soon as possible after the rising of the Assembly in order to initiate the said process.

**Act XXVIII - Act renewing permission for the Appointment of an Assistant Minister
for Downvale Free Church, Glasgow**
(No 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant permission to the congregation of Downvale to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2017.

**Act XXIX - Act renewing the appointment of Rev. Calum MacMillan
as Assistant minister of Rosskeen Free Church**
(No 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant permission to the congregation of Rosskeen to reappoint Rev. Calum Macmillan as Assistant Minister for a further three-year term in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships.

**Act XXX - Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive a Report from the Missions Board
regarding Ministerial Arrangements for Harris Free Church**
(No 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly thank the Presbytery of the Western Isles for the ongoing consultation with the congregation of Harris regarding future ministry in the congregation. They authorise the October 2015 Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Missions Board regarding arrangements for ministry at Harris.

Act XXXI - Act anent Reporting of Congregations to the General Assembly
(No 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly note that references to the percentage of stipend in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund are now obsolete and declare that the Home Missions Board should only report on cases where a review has been initiated in consultation with the Presbytery.

**Act XXXII - Act anent Regulations for appointment of a Principal
of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary
(No 32 of Class II)**

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the appointment of Principal to Edinburgh Theological Seminary:

1. *The Resignation of the Principal*

A Principal who is due to retire, or who intends to resign from his duties, shall intimate this fact, whenever possible, to the Seminary Board by 1st May of the year which precedes his final year in office.

2. *The Remit of the New Principal*

On receiving notice of such intention to retire, or on a vacancy otherwise occurring in the Principalship, the Board shall consider the remit of the Principal in the light of the most recent revision of the Five-year Plan and make any necessary adjustments.

3. *Nominations for the New Principal*

The Seminary Board shall write to Presbyteries informing them of the impending vacancy in the office of Principal, drawing attention to the terms of the Remit and the following requirements and asking for two nominations:

3.1. The remit of the Principal is to further the key mission objectives of the Seminary.

3.2. In fulfilment of these objectives, the Principal's remit shall normally include co-ordination, administration, supervision and part-time teaching internally, and representation, promotion of the Seminary and its mission objectives externally.

3.3. All suitable candidates must subscribe to the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and be ordained ministers in the Free Church of Scotland.

3.4. As the remit of the Principal will normally including part-time teaching and supervision within the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, the Seminary Board must ensure that the teaching of core subjects is carried out by staff who are suitably qualified at postgraduate level, in terms of Act XXVI, 2014 and reformed in doctrine, worship and practice.

3.5. The Principal is expected to uphold the witness, dignity and prestige of the Seminary without detriment to good relations, and also takes note of any actions or proposed actions on the part of others that could either benefit or prejudice the Seminary.

3.6. Any new additions to the remit arising from the review of the key mission objectives contained in the Edinburgh Theology Seminary Vision Five-year Plan mentioned above.

4. *Interviews for New Principal*

4.1. The Seminary Board shall appoint an interview panel from its own members, and identify a suitable list of candidates for interview from the nominations listed above, in addition to any new Seminary Board nominees.

4.2. Upon completion of all interviews the interviewing panel will make a recommendation to the Seminary Board. If the Seminary Board agrees with the recommendation, the successful candidate will be informed as soon as possible as to the Board's decision and asked to accept the appointment within a timeframe set by the Board.

5. *Appointment of New Principal*

In the event of his willingness to take up the appointment, and if the appointee is already an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, he will be inducted to the position by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth after following a procedure on the analogy of a call to a pastoral charge, all parties retaining the right of Appeal or Dissent and Complaint to the General Assembly. The new Principal will be granted a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

6. *Remuneration*

A full time Principal will be remunerated at a salary set by the Seminary Board in keeping with its budget constraints. The total remuneration package of a Principal must not be less than that of a minister in a pastoral charge in the Free Church of Scotland.

7. *Terms of Appointment*

The newly appointed Principal must sign Terms of Appointment as agreed by the Seminary Board.

8. *Term of Office*

The term of office for a Principal will normally be five years, renewable with the consent of the Principal and the Seminary Board.

9. *Call to Principal*

In the event of a Principal of the Seminary accepting a Call to a pastoral charge, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth are empowered. to loose him from his charge. The Presbytery shall immediately inform the Seminary Board of such a Call.

Act XXXIII - Act appointing Rev. Iver Martin as Principal of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary (No 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

1. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Iver Martin, B.Sc., as Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary in accordance with current legislation.
2. The General Assembly hereby release Mr Martin from his present pastoral charge at Stornoway Free Church and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps to induct him to the post of Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary not later than 15th August 2015, his relationship to his present charge to continue until he be inducted to the post aforesaid.
3. The General Assembly grant Rev. Iver Martin a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth from the date of his induction for as long as he remains Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
4. The General Assembly direct that in the event of the termination of Mr Martin's appointment his name shall be placed on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call and he shall receive his remuneration for a period of six months from that date or until such time as

Act XXXIV - Act disjoining the former Congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and uniting it with the Congregation of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill (No 34 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2015

The General Assembly disjoin the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from Glen Urquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church and unite the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass with Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Free Church, the united congregation to be known formally as Kiltarlity, Kirkhill and Beaully Free Church, with freedom to use whatever name seems best for local publicity purposes, the united congregation having one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court. The General Assembly repeal Act XI, 2008.

Furthermore they authorise the united congregation to reclaim, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property in Beaully in the interests of the gospel and for the good of the congregation, any transaction to be carried out under the oversight of the Free Church legal officer, and that any capital released and any interest payable upon the capital to be held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation, with the interest and capital being made available to the congregation on due application for the provision of a manse or for other congregational purposes.

Act XXXV- Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of Applications from Ministers of other Denominations for admission to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
(No 35 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly, in view of the ongoing uncertainty of the church scene in Scotland at present, waive the requirement of Act XXXV, 2005, that authority to grant admission to ministers of other denominations lies solely with the General Assembly and empowers the Commission of Assembly at its meetings before the General Assembly of 2016, to receive and dispose of any such applications seeking admission to the Free Church ministry duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry.

Act XXXVI - Act anent Applications for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland and Ministry Apprenticeships
(No 36 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

1. The General Assembly remind Presbyteries to take great care when processing Applications for the Ministry to ensure that referees have the knowledge to make judgements on an applicant's character and skills, following up references where necessary, and making a proper assessment of the applicant's giftedness for teaching, preaching, interpersonal skills, Christian character and temperament.
2. The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry on routes into ministry, declare that it shall no longer be the normal requirement for applicants under the age of thirty to possess a qualification at degree level prior to being accepted as a candidate for the ministry. The General Assembly direct the Board of Ministry to advise each applicant individually on the best course of action to take preparatory to obtaining formal training for the ministry.
3. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to consult the Missions Board and the Presbyteries of the Church on appropriate routes into ministry and the varying types of ministry model that are biblical and necessary for the health of the church.
4. The General Assembly note Appendix One in the Report of the Board of Ministry anent Ministry Apprenticeship training and instruct the Board of Ministry to consult with Presbyteries and other Boards as appropriate and to bring forward proposals on Ministry Apprenticeship training to the 2016 General Assembly.

Act XXXVII - Act anent Practical Training of Students
(No 37 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly approve of proposals to give candidates for the ministry increased opportunities to earn and gain skills and experience in pastoral work through involvement in local churches during term time. The General Assembly repeal the preamble to Act XX § 6, 1985 and Act XX § 6.II.10, 1985, relating to the number of times students are permitted to preach and instruct the Board of Ministry to keep the frequency of student's preaching under regular review in conjunction with the Pastoral Theology department at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

Act XXXVIII - Act anent Scripture Examinations and Presbyterial Oversight of Students
(No 38 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly approve of the general principles set out in Appendix Two to the Report of the Board of Ministry anent Scripture Examinations and presbyterial oversight of candidates for the ministry, namely that an annual written scripture examination shall be set and marked by the Board of Ministry, covering the whole Bible in three years, with some biblical books set for private study and some set for written examination and that presbyteries shall examine candidates orally on the doctrine of *Shorter Catechism* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and on books in practical and pastoral theology recommended by the Board of Ministry according to a three year schedule. The General Assembly enact and ordain that these shall be the regulations for Scripture Examinations and Presbyterial oversight of students from this General Assembly, and empower the Board of Ministry to modify and publish amended regulations

from time to time consistent with these general principles. Candidates already under the care of a Presbytery may elect to follow the previous syllabus for Presbytery oversight for one year only, by arrangement with their Presbytery. The General Assembly repeal Act XXXVI, 2011, Act XXVI 2003, Act XXIII, 2002, and any other Acts inconsistent with this new Act.

Act XXXIX - Act anent Pastoral Care of Ministers and their Families
(No 39 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly note that a Panel of Pastoral Care has been appointed by the Board of Ministry, and is available to give advice and support to ministers and their families. The General Assembly thank the members of the Panel (Rev. Angus MacRae, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Robert MacLeod, Rev. D. Iain MacDonald, Dr Martin Walker, Dr Colin Mackay and Mrs Helen Mackay) and commend the Panel and Presbytery Pastoral Panels to the prayers of the Church.

The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry, through its Panel of Pastoral Care, to consult with Presbyteries as to how a more effective and practical support can be provided for ministers and their families during periods of long-term absence from work through ill health. They further instruct the Board to formulate a policy on the pastoral care of ministers, on the completion of the said consultation, showing (1) the role of the Panel in relation to the Presbytery's Pastoral Support Committees; (2) a plan for the pastoral care of ministers and their families; (3) how such a plan will be implemented; and (4) how the implementation of that plan will be monitored, assessed and reviewed.

Act XL - Act anent Licensing of Students
(No 40 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly, recognising that only those who are duly qualified should be licensed to preach the gospel, ordain that:

1. A student applying for licence shall inform the Clerk of their presbytery and the clerk to the Board of Ministry, normally by 31st December in the year prior to licence. No student should be taken on trials for licence unless the Clerk to the Board of Ministry has circulated a minimum notice of three months to each presbytery.
2. If no objection is received from any presbytery before 30th April, or as a minimum within three months of notice being given, the licensing presbytery shall be entitled to proceed.
3. The Presbytery shall fix a date for trials for license observing the following directions:
 - 3.1 the Presbytery shall meet in private when discussing each stage in the process;
 - 3.2 if the student has been resident outwith the bounds of the Presbytery they shall satisfy themselves that the applicant is a proper person to be taken upon trials for licence;
 - 3.3 no student shall be taken on trials for licence who is under twenty-one years of age;
 - 3.4 no student shall be taken on trials for licence unless he has been a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland (or a sister church) for a minimum period of two years prior to the date of his being taken on trials, or unless the presbytery has satisfied itself with the *bona fides* of the candidate and has obtained the agreement of the Board of Ministry to proceed;
4. Any presbytery that objects to the licensing of an applicant shall be entitled to send representatives to state its objections at the bar of the presbytery to which the student has applied. These objections shall be heard when the presbytery is considering the motion to proceed to trials. If these representatives find themselves unable to acquiesce in the presbytery's decision they shall have the right to appeal; and such an appeal shall automatically sist procedure until a final decision is pronounced by the superior court.
5. Before proceeding to trials a presbytery must have before it the following documents:

5.1 a completion certificate from the Senate of Edinburgh Theological Seminary indicating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed his studies, including the Free Church Ministry Module; and that his conduct, so far as is known to the Senate, is consistent with the high office he has in view;

5.2 a completion certificate from the Board of Ministry;

5.3 a copy of his Seminary Dissertation duly sustained. At its discretion the Presbytery may also ask for copies of any essays or assignments submitted by the student as part of his programme of studies.

6. The Presbytery shall satisfy itself that the student is competent to preach and conduct public worship, and shall normally arrange for the student to conduct public worship, including sermon, and shall appoint representatives to attend and report on the competence of the student. If they report themselves dissatisfied, the presbytery shall resolve to proceed no further and inform the student that they cannot grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

7. The General Assembly remind presbyteries to bear in mind that the student has already satisfied both the Seminary Senate and the Board of Ministry as to his academic proficiency. Trials should accordingly normally consist of oral examination, making appropriate use of the Dissertation and other written assignments submitted by the student. Trials should seek to establish that the student is in a position honestly and intelligently to sign the Formula and is a proper person to be eligible for a call to a charge. The trials should establish that:

7.1 the student has a well-informed grasp of the whole doctrine of the Confession of Faith and is prepared to subscribe to it unreservedly;

7.2 he sincerely and intelligently adheres to the principles of the Free Church of Scotland;

7.3 he has a sound working knowledge of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland and is able to play a part in church courts;

7.4 he has an evangelistic vision and sense of mission such that “zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and desire of saving souls” are “his great motive and chief inducement to enter the holy ministry”;

7.5 he has sufficient experience of human life, sufficient sympathy with his people and knowledge of practical theology to enable him to lead, counsel, encourage and warn the people of God;

7.6 he is firmly committed to maintaining the unity and peace of the Church and does not pursue practices likely to be divisive.

8. The student having gone through the trials for license, the Presbytery shall proceed as follows:

8.1 it shall take a careful and combined view of the trials;

8.2 if it forms the opinion that the student is not properly qualified to sign the Formula and to perform the duties of a minister of the Gospel it shall not grant him a licence. Since the Presbytery are the sole hearers of the trials (and therefore the only party competent to judge them) its decision shall be final. No member of the court shall have the right of Dissent and Complaint; and neither the student nor any other party shall have the right of Appeal. The Moderator of Presbytery shall, however, inform the student that he has the right to apply to be taken on trials again by this, or any other, presbytery of the Church, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3 (2) above;

8.3 if, upon review of the trials, the Presbytery is fully satisfied with the student, the Moderator shall inform him and the presbytery shall record the decision in its Minutes;

8.4 the Presbytery shall then meet in open court;

8.5 the Presbytery shall then, or at a later public meeting of Presbytery, put to the student the Questions appointed for Probationers by Act XII, 1846. Having given satisfactory answers, the presbytery shall require the student to subscribe the Formula. No student shall be licensed will not give explicit and satisfactory answers and subscribe the Formula;

8.6 the Moderator, in the name and by the authority of the presbytery, shall solemnly license the student as a preacher of the Gospel; and the presbytery clerk shall issue him an extract of his Licence;

8.7 within one week the Clerk of Presbytery shall forward the name and address of the licentiate, with the date of his Licence, to the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly.

9. The General Assembly repeal Act XX, 2001, and any Acts not consistent with this Act and declare that this Act contains the whole of the Assembly's directions relating to the Trials of Students and the Licensing of Probationers.

10. To ensure that this Act is observed, the General Assembly ordain: that it shall be printed among their other printed Acts; that it shall be made available by itself and copies shall be placed on appropriate websites and lodged with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Senate and in the Seminary Library; and that a copy shall be transmitted annually by the Clerk to the Board of Ministry, and at the commencement of the Seminary session, to every candidate for the ministry who is entering his final year of study at Edinburgh Theological Seminary; and a copy shall likewise be sent to presbytery clerks for the use of their respective courts and members.

Act XLI - Act anent Award of Grants to Overseas Workers
(No 41 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly urge the Missions Board to consider the provision of adequate financial support for Miss Catriona Macdonald, a teacher in the Colegio San Andres, in 2016. They further instruct the Board to outline the criteria for the awarding of annual grants to overseas workers and report to the General Assembly of 2016.

Act XLII - Act appointing the Commission of Assembly
(No 42 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

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

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 7th October 2015 and Wednesday 2nd March 2016 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 the said 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, in view of unresolved matters concerning the Free Church Continuing, including legal processes, the occupation of property, the retention of other assets, and frozen bank accounts, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all necessary and appropriate steps in the interest of the Church in connection with these matters, and declare that meetings of the Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all such matters which may arise, provided always that notice of proposals in terms of this empowerment shall be sent to commissioners at least ten days before the Commission are to convene, this requirement not implying any curtailment or amendment to such proposals.

Furthermore the said Commission are hereby authorised to receive and dispose of any 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 fully dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Missions Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Missions Board; to appoint Ministers to overseas appointments and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board of Trustees on the application of Ministers to become members of the PVG scheme; to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board of Trustees concerning the Appointment of the Editor of *The Record*; 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 *ex proprio motu*; to receive a Report from the Missions Board on arrangements for future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus; and to receive a Report from the Missions Board on arrangements for future ministry at Harris; to receive a Report from the Missions Board in relation to Cobham Presbyterian Church; to receive a Report from the Assembly Clerks anent the Presbytery in North America.

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.

Act XLIII - Act appointing next General Assembly
(No 43 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2015

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act I – Act admitting Rev. David Macleod to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 1st October 2014

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. David Macleod, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland under the supervision of the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross.
 2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross to make arrangements for Mr Macleod to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
 3. The Commission of Assembly, in accordance with Act XXXIV, 2014, direct the Board of Ministry, in lieu of a revised Free Church ministry module currently in the process of development, to make suitable arrangements for Mr Macleod to receive mentoring in Free Church principles and practice on his anticipated relocation from the Skye and Wester Ross area.
 4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Macleod has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
 5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.
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Act II – Act admitting Rev. Roderick Macrae to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 1st October 2014

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Roderick Macrae, 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 Skye and Wester Ross to make arrangements for Mr Macrae to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly, in accordance with Act XXXIV, 2014, direct the Board of Ministry, in lieu of a revised Free Church ministry module currently in the process of development, to make suitable arrangements for Mr Macleod to receive mentoring in Free Church principles and practice and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Macrae has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act III – Act admitting the Body of Christians recently disjoined from Tarbert Church of Scotland to be a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 1st October 2014

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles, and grant its crave. They establish the congregation as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as North Harris Free Church of Scotland within the Presbytery of the Western Isles. They instruct the Presbytery of the Western Isles, at the first available opportunity, to appoint an Interim Moderator and General Assessor Elders so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible. They direct the congregation to submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Home Missions Board with income-based confirmation of their ability to meet the full costs of ministry. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter, subject to the approval of the Home Missions Board, to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

Act IV – Act admitting the congregation presently known as Stornoway High Fellowship as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 1st October 2014

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles and grant its crave. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they establish the body of Christians presently worshipping under the name of Stornoway High Fellowship as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as High Free Church, Stornoway within the Presbytery of the Western Isles. They instruct the Presbytery of the Western Isles, at the first available opportunity, to appoint an Interim Moderator and General Assessor Elders so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

Act V – Act anent Negotiations with the North American Synod

Edinburgh, 1st October 2014

1. The Commission of Assembly note the extract minute of the Synod of North America and thank the Synod for the action taken.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Synod to proceed with the disbursement of the funds in the Central Fund of the Synod of the Free Church of Scotland (North America) in accordance with their proposals and report to the Clerk of Assembly on completion of this.
3. The Commission of Assembly resolve to take no action with regard to the union of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island with the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada until these financial transactions are completed.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Assembly Clerk to report on these matters, with recommendations, to the next General Assembly.

Act VI – Act anent Sale of Property and Release of Funds

Edinburgh, 1st October 2014

1. Portree Manse

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the Report of the Custodier of Titles and thank the Custodier.
2. The Commission of Assembly waive the requirements of Act V, 1967, in this instance, on the grounds that, (a) the property was not in the possession of the congregation for the entire five-year permission lasted; (b) the Deacons' Court had inadvertently, not deliberately, failed to take account of the terms of Act V, 1967, having been engaged in attempts to recover the property during these years; (c) the minister Rev. Donald G. Macdonald was off work with illness for a prolonged period during this time.
3. The Commission of Assembly homologate the actions of the Custodier of Titles in issuing his advice, the Board of Trustees in upholding his advice and the Deacon's Court of Portree Free Church in proceeding with the sale of the manse at Portree despite permission to sell having lapsed.
4. The Commission of Assembly declare that their homologating of the action taken by Portree Free Church Deacon's Court be not seen as setting a precedent. They further call upon all Deacon's Courts and Finance Committees to take careful note of the terms of Act V, 1967, in all cases where permission to sell property has been granted by the Assembly or Commission of Assembly. To this end they instruct the Assembly Clerk to issue a copy of the said Act along with all extracts containing permission to sell property.

2 Pitlochry Manse The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Knox's Church, Perth, and waiving the stipulation that requests for permission to sell property which is not being replaced require to be addressed to the General Assembly, authorise the sale of the manse at Pitlochry, the transaction be carried out under supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, and the proceeds to be made available to the Deacons' Court for the renovation of the church and manse at Perth, any surplus to be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation.

3 Dingwall and Strathpeffer The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Dingwall and Strathpeffer and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the the manse at Dingwall and renew authority to sell all or any part of the congregational property held in Strathpeffer, under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, the proceeds to be held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation, and the sum lodged and any interest thereon to be made available upon due application for the purpose of purchasing land or property, or for repairing or improving congregational property, or for general congregational purposes including the funding of evangelistic or pastoral work carried out under the oversight of the Kirk Session.

4 Glenelg and Arnisdale The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of Glenelg and Arnisdale, Lochalsh and Glenshiel Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise

the sale of the Arnisdale and Glenshiel Church buildings and such proportion of the lands at Arnisdale held under trust as the congregation deems appropriate, under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, the proceeds to be held on behalf of the congregation by the Board of Trustees, to be made available upon application for the construction of a new Church at Glenelg as well as to revitalise the congregation and employ a pastoral worker, or to do otherwise as in their wisdom may seem best.

**Act VII – Act admitting Rev. Aonghas Iain Macdonald as a Minister
of the Free Church of Scotland**

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Aonghas Iain Macdonald, 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 Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to make arrangements for Mr Macdonald 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 Mr Macdonald has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers.
4. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act VIII – Act admitting Rev. Andrew McMillan as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Andrew McMillan, 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 Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to make arrangements for Mr McMillan 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 Mr McMillan has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr McMillan to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available online.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act IX – Act admitting Rev. Athole Rennie as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Athole Rennie, 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 Edinburgh and Perth to make arrangements for Mr Rennie 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 Mr Rennie has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Rennie to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available online.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

**Act X - Act admitting the Congregation of Grace Church, Leith,
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. They establish the Congregation of Grace Church, Leith, as a fully sanctioned charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Grace Church within the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth under the ministry of Rev. Athole Rennie with the effect from the date of his signing the formula, and from that date grant him a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth. They declare that Act II, 1991, shall not apply in this instance for the duration of his ministry. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth at the earliest opportunity (1) to appoint assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of officebearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to meet with the congregation for a diet of public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Athole Rennie.

**Act XI – Act admitting the Congregation of Christ Church, Edinburgh,
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, establish the body of Christians worshipping in Christ Church (Edinburgh) as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Christ Church (Edinburgh) within the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth under the present ministry of Rev. David Court and grant Mr Court a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth at the earliest available opportunity (1) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to meet with the congregation for a diet of public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. David Court.

**Act XII – Act admitting the Congregation of Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill)
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they establish the body of Christians worshipping in Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill) as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill) Free Church of Scotland within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll under the present ministry of Rev. Ian Watson, and grant Mr Watson a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to meet at the earliest available opportunity (1) to appoint general assessor elders to

the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Ian Watson.

Act XIII – Act placing the Name of the Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

The Commission of Assembly instruct the Clerk of Assembly to add Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg's name to the Register of Ministers eligible for Call with immediate effect and to inform the International Missions Board accordingly.

Act XIV – Act anent Sale of Property

Edinburgh, 4th March 2015

Kinloch Manse - The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the Manse of the Kinloch congregation under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the Board of Trustees to be made available to the congregation for the purchase of a suitable manse or the erection of a new one, with any surplus to be used towards the reduction of the existing loan debt.

DRAFT ACTS SENT DOWN UNDER THE BARRIER ACT

Act I – Act anent Representation of Presbyteries

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act:

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

1. Each Presbytery of the Church shall be represented in the General Assembly by a number of the Ministers and occupants of appointments as Course Organisers in Edinburgh Theological Seminary within the Presbytery, including Assessors and Ministers without charge who have been duly granted seats in the Presbytery, equal to but not greater than the number of Congregations and academic appointments as Course Organisers within the bounds of the Presbytery as set at any time by the General Assembly, together with an equal number of Elders who are *bona fide* acting Elders of Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in the same or other Presbyteries, and who shall have signed the Formula.
2. The term Congregation in this Act shall mean a body of Members of the Free Church of Scotland which is under the care and oversight of its own Kirk Session, including Kirk Sessions requiring Assessor Elders, and holding at least one service of public worship every Lord's Day. A consolidated Charge, if and when there shall be two or more Kirk Sessions, shall count as one Congregation for the purpose of Assembly representation. The provisions of Act XIII, 1863, "Declaratory Act anent Preaching Stations, Kirk Sessions therein, and Position of Elders in such Kirk Sessions", shall continue to apply.
3. The proportion of qualifying Congregations and academic appointments shall be set by the General Assembly from time to time without recourse to the Barrier Act through the report of the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly ordain that the proportion be set at 60% of Congregations as these are defined in 2 above, with effect from the General Assembly of 2017, subject to the finding of the 2016 Assembly anent this Overture.

5. The General Assembly repeal Act I, Class I, 1942.

Act II – Act authorising the Appointment of Additional Elders to the General Assembly in Cases where Elders are unable to attend for the whole Assembly.

Edinburgh, 19th May 2015

The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act.

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

1. In order to reduce the problem of a shortage of available elders, Presbyteries shall be authorised to elect elders who cannot attend for the duration of the Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 below.
2. In electing its Commissioners a Presbytery shall ascertain which days of the Assembly elders it wishes to commission are able to attend. If a Presbytery resolves to elect elders unable to commit to the whole of the Assembly, the Presbytery shall be free to appoint the required number in addition to those attending for the duration to make up the total allocation for each day of the Assembly. The Presbytery shall record this information in their minutes and on the Form of Commission produced by the Assembly Clerks' Office. The total number of elders allocated to each Presbytery shall not be exceeded on any day or sederunt of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall make every effort to ensure that the majority of their elected Commissioners are able to attend for the duration of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall not commission any elder for less than one whole day of the Assembly's meeting. Presbyteries shall ensure that the number of commissioners allocated to them shall not be exceeded at any meetings of the Commission of Assembly.
3. The stipulation contained in current Standing Order 5.8.2 shall continue to be observed, namely, *“That on a division being called for the Clerk shall announce that no member ought to vote against a motion or amendment who has not been in attendance during the discussion thereof.”*

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

HOLDEN AT EDINBURGH 18TH MAY MMXV

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall
the 18th day of May 2015 years at 6 o'clock evening*

1 Assembly Constituted Which day the Ministers and Elders, Commissioners from Presbyteries appointed to meet this day, were convened, and after sermon by Rev. David D. Miller, Moderator of last General Assembly, who preached from Exodus 34, v14: 'Do not worship any other god, for the Lord whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God', and the General Assembly was duly constituted.

2 Roll of Assembly The names of Commissioners, having been presented in a printed list and acknowledged as correct, were allowed to stand as follows:

ROLL OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015

WESTERN SYNOD

Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. John H. Maclean, Trotternish	Mr Ian MacDonald,
Rev. Roderick M. Rankin, Plockton and Kyle	Mr Martin Cunningham,
Rev. Alasdair Macleod, Lochbroom and Coigach	Mr Calum Nicolson
Rev. Donald G. Macdonald, Portree	Mr Donald J. Stewart,

Presbytery of the Western Isles

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Malcolm Macdonald, Callanish	Mr Angus Macdonald,
Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Shawbost	Mr Iain Macsween,
Rev. James Maciver, Knock	Dr Neil Galbraith,
Rev. Ewen Matheson, Cross	Mr Calum Mackinnon,
Rev. Murdo Campbell, Barvas	Mr Donald Morrison
Rev. Thomas Davis, Carloway	Mr Norman Macleod,
Rev. David Macleod, North Harris	Mr Malcolm Campbell,

Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. David Kirk, Assistant, Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan	Mr William MacLelland,
Rev. Joe Barnard, Kiltarlity and Kirkhill	Mr James Fraser,
Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean, Greyfriars-Stratherrick	Mr Sandy Finlay,
Rev. Dr John Ross, Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus	Mr Jim Chalmers,
Rev. Murdo Macleod, Assistant, Smithton-Culloden and Nairn	Mr Donald Macrae,

Monday 18th May, *Evening*

Session 1

Rev. Angus MacRae, Dingwall and Strathpeffer	Mr Sandy McLure,
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Northern Presbytery

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Douglas MacKeddie, Retired	Mr John Laing,
Rev. Dr Howard Stone, North Team Ministry	Mr John Ross,
Rev Iain Macaskill, Rosskeen	Mr Donald Stirling,
Rev Hugh Ferrier, North Team Ministry	Mr Hector MacIennan,

SOUTHERN SYNOD

Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Professor John R. McIntosh, Edinburgh Theological Seminary	Mr Hamish J. Sneddon,
Rev. Paul Clarke, St Andrews	Mr Hugh Henderson,
Rev. Jeremy Ross, Dunfermline	Mr Alastair Oliver,
Rev. David A. Robertson, Dundee	Mr R. Proudlove,
Rev. David Randall, Falkirk	Dr John Morrison,
Rev. David D. Miller, London Cobham	Mr Donald W. Matheson

Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Angus. J. Howat, Retired	Mr Colin Macdonald,
Rev. Kenneth Boyd, Govanhill	Mr Rod Morrison,
Rev. Seoras McGillivray, Asian Ministry	Mr Calum Ferguson,
Rev. Norman Mackay, Govan	Mr Evan Macdonald
Rev. Ivor Macdonald, North-East Glasgow Team	Mr John Mackenzie,
Rev. Alex Cowie, Partick	Mr Mark Macleod,
Rev. Robert Macleod, Lochgilphead and Tarbert	Mr G. Brotherston,
Rev. Iain Thomson, East Kilbride	Dr George Gray,

SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA

Presbytery of Prince Edward Island

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Kent Compton, Western Charge	Peter Aiken, Prince Edward Island

Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>

3 Thanks It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The General Assembly record their thanks to the Retiring Moderator for his sermon and for his services in the chair.

4 Election of Moderator The General Assembly then proceeded to elect a Moderator, when it was moved, seconded and agreed that the Assembly appoint Rev. David A. Robertson, minister at St Peter's Free Church, Dundee to be their Moderator. Intimation of his appointment was then made to Mr Robertson, who, having been introduced and welcomed, took the Chair and thanked the Assembly.

5 Presentation of Bible to the Moderator On behalf of the Scottish Bible Society, Ms Elaine Duncan presented a Bible to the Moderator.

6 Standing Orders It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The Standing Orders as in the print be taken as the Standing Orders of this Assembly.

7 Committees to Expedite Business The General Assembly then proceeded to appoint Committees to expedite the business of the House.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

7.1 The General Assembly appoint a **Committee to prepare a Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen**, consisting of: Messrs. David A. Robertson, David D. Miller, John H. Maclean, John S. Ross, Douglas MacKeddie, John R. McIntosh, *ministers*; with Messrs. Neil Galbraith, Sandy Finlay, John Morrison, Evan Macdonald, Ian Macdonald, *elders*, with Rev. David Robertson as Convener.

7.2 The General Assembly appoint a **Committee to visit Presbytery, Synod and Committee Records**, consisting of: Messrs. Ewen Matheson, Roderick M. Rankin, Donald G. Macdonald, Malcolm Macdonald, Thomas Davis, Joe Barnard, Murdo Macleod, Iain Macaskill, Hugh Ferrier, David Randall, Kenneth Boyd, Ian Watson, *ministers*; with Messrs. Calum Nicolson, Angus Macdonald, Donald Morrison, Norman Macleod, William MacLelland, Jim Chalmers, Sandy McLure, John Laing, Hugh Henderson, Calum Ferguson, John Mackenzie, George Gray, *elders*, with Rev. Ewen Matheson as Convener.

7.3 The General Assembly appoint a **Committee to prepare a Minute on Deceased Ministers and Elders**, consisting of: Messrs. Alex Cowie, Murdo Campbell, David Kirk, Howard Stone, Jeremy Ross, *ministers*; with Messrs. Donald J. Stewart, Iain Macsween, Donald Macrae, Hector Maclellan, Colin MacDonald, *elders*, with Rev. Alex Cowie as Convener.

8 Representative from other Churches The following was introduced to the Moderator and welcomed to the Assembly:

Rev. Martin Keane United Free Church of Scotland

9 Assembly Clerks' Department The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Assembly Clerks, which being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Principal Clerk, who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

(A) GENERAL

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the report of the Clerks' Office and thank the Clerks.
2. The General Assembly appoint a Business Committee of Assembly, comprising the Principal Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Clerks of all the home Presbyteries. The Committee shall meet at a convenient point not later than 15th April annually, to examine all papers in the hands of the Principal Clerk due to come before the Assembly. The Committee shall appoint its own Convener annually at its April meeting and the Principal Clerk shall act as Clerk to the Committee. The Convener shall be responsible for introducing the Lord High Commissioner to the Receiving Party and to the Moderator, as well as delegates and others to the Moderator, apart from the children receiving Youth Awards. The Committee shall present its Report to the Assembly at the first sederunt. The Report shall incorporate a Report from the Clerks' Office and shall be bound with all the other Reports to be distributed in advance of the Assembly.
3. The General Assembly authorise the Business Committee, or Clerks' Office should the Committee not be appointed, to designate as routine those Petitions they consider ought to be in this category, and to recommend this to the Assembly in their Report, at which point amendments to the contrary may be given in without prior notice, the final decision on whether any Petition be so treated to lie with the General Assembly. The General Assembly instruct the Clerks' Office to amend Standing Order III.3 accordingly.

4. The General Assembly note the outstanding forms of commission and Elders' Certificates and remind Commissioners that no Commissioner may take his seat in the Assembly without a duly completed form of Commission from Presbyteries and also, in the case of all commissioned Elders, a duly completed Certificate from Kirk Sessions verifying that they are *bona fide* acting Elders.
5. The General Assembly approve the draft Assembly Programme distributed with the Assembly Reports.
6. The General Assembly note the arrangements made for the Moderator's Reception at the Edinburgh City Chambers and thanks Councillor Jeremy Balfour for his assistance with this.
7. The General Assembly welcome the visit of the Lord High Commissioner, the Rt. Hon. Lord Hope of Craighead, to the Assembly and note that the visit is due to take place on Thursday 22nd May at 12.00 noon.
8. The General Assembly commend to Commissioners the booklet on Assembly Procedure.
9. The General Assembly remind all speakers the need for care over what is said during live-streamed sessions of the Assembly.
10. The General Assembly call Commissioners to note Standing Order V.3.4 relating to when amendments are due to be given in.
11. The General Assembly welcome the appointment of Mr Andrew Longwe as Assembly Officer for the duration of the Assembly and thank him for his willingness to serve in this capacity.
12. The General Assembly thank Rev. William M. Mackay for agreeing to continue as Hospitality Co-ordinator.
13. The General Assembly thank Mrs Sharon Fraser for her contribution to producing the Assembly Reports and for making arrangements for Assembly delegates. They thank the Offices staff for the processing of items relating to the Assembly, and all involved in the supervision of the sound system and related technology. They also thank the students and others on door duty and those who clean the Assembly Hall.
14. The General Assembly appoint the Assembly Clerks to meet with commissioners from the North American Presbyteries to ascertain the current stage of proceedings anent the directions given by the 2014 General Assembly and that the Clerks report back at a suitable point prior to the rising of the Assembly.

(B) ASSEMBLY PAPERS

The General Assembly agree to pass in to the Assembly the following papers:

1. **Letters** (a) The letter from the Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands; (b) the letter from the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia; and (c) the letter from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
2. **Petitions** (a) The Petition from the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross; (b) the Petition from the Northern Presbytery; (c) the Petition from the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross; (d) the Petition from Rev. Ruairidh Maclean; and (e) the Petition from Rev Gordon Mair. They declare that Petitions (a) and (b) above be classed as routine Petitions to be disposed of through section (D) below. They direct that Petitions (c), (d) and (e) above be taken up at an appropriate time in the Assembly's business.
3. **Supplementary Reports** (a) The Supplementary Report of the Seminary Board; and (b) the Supplementary Report of the Board of Trustees. They direct that both these Reports be taken up and disposed of at an appropriate time in the Assembly's programme.

(C) LETTERS

1. The General Assembly receive the letter from the Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands and thank them for their greetings. They instruct the Principal Clerk to acknowledge the letter and reciprocate their greetings.
2. The General Assembly receive the letter from the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and thank them for their greetings. They note that the Moderator of the last General Assembly, Rev. David D. Miller,

conveyed greetings from the Free Church of Scotland when he visited the PCEA Synod meeting held 5th -7th May 2015. They thank Mr Miller for his visit.

3. The General Assembly receive the letter from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and thank them for their greetings. They instruct the Principal Clerk to acknowledge the letter and reciprocate their greetings. They also agree to appoint a delegate to attend the 2016 General Assembly of Orthodox Presbyterian Church as that denomination commemorates the 80th anniversary of their founding.

(D) PETITIONS

1. The General Assembly, waiving Standing Order III.3, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross and grant its crave. They appoint Mr James M. Fraser, elder at Kiltarlity, to be General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.

2. The General Assembly, waiving Standing Order III.3, receive the Petition of the Northern Presbytery and grant its crave. They appoint Mr Norman Macleod, elder at Knockbain, to be General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.

10 Adjournment The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall on Tuesday at 10.00 o'clock forenoon, whereof public intimation having being given, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall,
the 19th day of May 2015 years at 10 o'clock forenoon*

- 1 Assembly Constituted** The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.
- 2 Moderator's Address** The Moderator then addressed the Assembly on the theme 'Scotland turned upside down.'
- 3 Minutes** The minutes of yesterday's Sederunt were read and approved.
- 4 Loyal and Dutiful Address** 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 in accordance therewith, the address as underwritten was agreed to and appointed to be duly signed and transmitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland, with a letter from the Clerk.

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

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly the 19th day of May 2015, 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 congratulate Your Majesty on the safe birth of your great granddaughter, Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, and pray the Lord's blessing on her and all the Royal Family. We give thanks for the continued good health of Prince Philip. We remember in our prayers His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and the busy programme he undertakes both nationally and internationally.

We express with profound gratitude to Almighty God, that this September, God willing, Your Majesty will become the longest-reigning British monarch, a long and prosperous reign with which our nation has been blessed. We are thankful that in a year of significant political events, including the Scottish referendum and the United Kingdom General Election, your majesty remains the embodiment of stability.

The Free Church of Scotland is particularly grateful to Almighty God that at a time of considerable hostility towards the Christian foundations of our society for Your Majesty's continued defence of the Faith by word and example.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of your Majesty's Armed Forces. We acknowledge the military service rendered by His Royal Highness The Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales. We are thankful for the safe withdrawal of Your Majesty's forces from Afghanistan and continue to pray for the peace of that nation. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, 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 Airmens Scripture Readers Association.

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, at home and abroad, that devolve upon Your Majesty's servants.

We give thanks for Your Majesty's continued recognition of the work and ministry throughout the United Kingdom of the Free Church of Scotland by the annual visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hope, to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Your Majesty, as ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland, it is our duty and privilege, regularly to uphold your Majesty's person, family and governments, before the throne of grace. We commit ourselves and our congregations to do so in obedience to the exhortation of the Word of God, 'that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence'.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of your Majesty's Armed Forces. We acknowledge the military service rendered by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales. We are thankful for the safe withdrawal of Your Majesty's forces from Afghanistan and continue to pray for the peace of that nation. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, 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 Airmens Scripture Readers Association

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

5 Board of Trustees The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Board of Trustees which, being in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

First Motion: It was moved and seconded that:

(A) FINANCE REVIEW AND POLICY

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Board of Trustees and thank the Chairman, members of the Board, the Chief Administrative Officer and his staff for their work.
2. The General Assembly note with regret the fact that they are losing the services of Mr Rod Morrison, Chief Administrative Officer and, recognising his outstanding contribution to the ongoing work of the Church and the Board of Trustees, they express their thanks and appreciation and wish him well in whatever sphere of employment he chooses to follow after leaving his post.
3. The General Assembly acknowledge with humility and thanksgiving the provision made by the Lord for the work of the Church. They thank those who gave in a regular, responsible and liberal manner in support of that work and record their appreciation for legacies received during the year.
4. The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,000 from 1st January 2015. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.
5. The General Assembly support the establishment of a Development Fund to be used for the purpose of providing time-limited funding for special projects and activities that are clearly designed to make current work more sustainable and that could stimulate growth.

(B) COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

1. The General Assembly instruct any congregation, committee or board to make early contact with the Church's Compliance Officer for advice when considering employing any person from outside the European Union, whether in a paid or unpaid role and regardless of the length of stay.
2. The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that there is a need to raise the awareness of charity trustees at congregational and central level of their responsibilities in relation to legal compliance. They instruct the Board to conduct a careful assessment of priority areas and to develop guidance materials where appropriate.
3. The General Assembly note the development of a Conflicts of Interest Policy as a code for good governance at committee and board level. They instruct all Presbyteries to review the policy with a view to developing and adopting a similar policy to deal with potential conflicts at Presbytery level. They also support the Board's view that there is a need to develop procedures that would help address potential conflicts of interest that might arise during Assembly business and to that end instruct the Assembly Clerks' Office to undertake a review and to report to the 2016 Assembly through the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly note the Board's ongoing work in assessing the risks facing the Church. They instruct the Board to keep these risks under review.
5. The General Assembly instruct all Kirk Sessions to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PVG Scheme, seeking advice from the Church's Compliance Officer. They note, with disappointment, that some ministers have not yet applied for membership of the PVG Scheme and, where this is the case, instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that steps are taken to rectify the situation as soon as possible. They instruct the Board of Trustees to write to all Presbyteries asking

for confirmation that all ministers within their bounds are, or have applied to become, members of the PVG Scheme. They empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this matter.

6. The General Assembly instruct the Board to keep developments in relation to safeguarding matters under review and to provide support to congregations in implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines.

(C) COMMUNICATIONS

1. The General Assembly note the production of a communications strategy and endorse the aims of providing a compelling Christian voice in Scottish public life and improving internal communications across the Church. They also support the proposal to develop a pool of people from around the Church with the expertise to assist in the preparation of policy papers across a range of contemporary issues. To this end, they instruct the Board to write to Kirk Sessions setting out the disciplines to be covered and the competencies sought.

2. The General Assembly note with regret the resignation of Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean as editor of *The Record*. They thank Dr Maclean for all his work during his tenure as editor and are grateful to him for agreeing to continue in post for the remainder of 2015.

3. The General Assembly support the Board's recommendation that the editorship of *The Record* should not be restricted to ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland. They enact as follows:

3.1 The General Assembly direct that the qualifications for appointment as editor of *The Record* shall be as follows:

3.1.1 The editor shall be a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland and a person of some maturity in Christian life.

3.1.2 The qualifications and experience of the candidate shall be matched as closely as possible to the remit for the post as drawn up by the Board of Trustees.

3.1.3 The term of appointment will be for seven years, with eligibility for reappointment.

3.1.4 The editor will be accountable to the Board of Trustees.

3.1.5 Remuneration and conditions of service shall be set by the Board of Trustees.

3.2 When a vacancy occurs, the following procedures will be followed:

3.2.1 The Secretary of the Board of Trustees will circulate all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions of the Church setting out the key elements of remit and requesting nominations for the post.

3.2.2 The Board of Trustees will arrange for an appropriate interview panel to meet with the short listed candidates and make recommendations thereafter to the Board.

3.2.3 The Board will recommend its preferred candidate to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may accept the Board's recommendation, or if not, may only choose another candidate from those previously interviewed by the Board.

3.3 The General Assembly repeal Act XXX, 2007, and also any other previous acts inconsistent with the foregoing.

4. The General Assembly endorse the Board's plans to undertake a detailed review of the Church's publications, including *The Record*. They recognise that the time involved in conducting such a review has prevented the nomination to this Assembly of a proposed candidate to take over as editor of *The Record*. In light of this, they empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this topic with a view to the appointment of a new editor who will take up the position from the beginning of 2016.

5. The General Assembly support the clarification of the arrangements for the oversight of the Church's magazines and to that end directs that the Board shall have oversight responsibility for *The Record*, *Compass* and *Free*. The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the oversight of the Church's magazines.

(D) LAW AND ADVICE

1. The General Assembly note with thankfulness that progress has been made in several local settings in relation to resolving disputes with the Free Church (Continuing) over property and assets.
2. The General Assembly note with sadness the death of Mr John Miller, retired Senior Partner of Simpson and Marwick, the Church's former Law Agent. They are thankful for the many years of sound advice and faithful support provided to the Church by Mr Miller and express their sincere condolences to his widow and other relatives and friends at this sad time.

(E) OTHER MATTERS

1. Assembly Procedures

1.1 The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act:

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

1. Each Presbytery of the Church shall be represented in the General Assembly by a number of the Ministers and occupants of appointments as Course Organisers in Edinburgh Theological Seminary within the Presbytery, including Assessors and Ministers without charge who have been duly granted seats in the Presbytery, equal to but not greater than the number of Congregations and academic appointments as Course Organisers within the bounds of the Presbytery as set at any time by the General Assembly, together with an equal number of Elders who are *bona fide* acting Elders of Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in the same or other Presbyteries, and who shall have signed the Formula.
2. The term Congregation in this Act shall mean a body of Members of the Free Church of Scotland which is under the care and oversight of its own Kirk Session, including Kirk Sessions requiring Assessor Elders, and holding at least one service of public worship every Lord's Day. A consolidated Charge, if and when there shall be two or more Kirk Sessions, shall count as one Congregation for the purpose of Assembly representation. The provisions of Act XIII, 1863, "Declaratory Act anent Preaching Stations, Kirk Sessions therein, and Position of Elders in such Kirk Sessions", shall continue to apply.
3. The proportion of qualifying Congregations and academic appointments shall be set by the General Assembly from time to time without recourse to the Barrier Act through the report of the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly ordain that the proportion be set at 60% of Congregations as these are defined in 2 above, with effect from the General Assembly of 2017, subject to the finding of the 2016 Assembly anent this Overture.
5. The General Assembly repeal Act I, Class I, 1942.

1.2 The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act.

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

1. In order to reduce the problem of a shortage of available elders, Presbyteries shall be authorised to elect elders who cannot attend for the duration of the Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 below.
2. In electing its Commissioners a Presbytery shall ascertain which days of the Assembly elders it wishes to commission are able to attend. If a Presbytery resolves to elect elders unable to commit to the whole of the Assembly, the Presbytery shall be free to appoint the required number in addition to those attending for the duration to make up the total allocation for each day of the Assembly. The Presbytery shall record this information in their minutes and on the Form of Commission produced by the Assembly Clerks' Office. The total number of elders allocated to each Presbytery shall not be exceeded on any day or sederunt of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall make every effort to ensure that the majority of their elected Commissioners are able to attend for the duration of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall not commission any elder for less than one whole day of the Assembly's meeting. Presbyteries shall ensure that the number of commissioners allocated to them shall not be exceeded at any meetings of the Commission of Assembly.

3. The stipulation contained in current Standing Order 5.8.2 shall continue to be observed, namely, “*That on a division being called for the Clerk shall announce that no member ought to vote against a motion or amendment who has not been in attendance during the discussion thereof.*”

1.3 The General Assembly shall continue to welcome a visit from Her Majesty’s Lord High Commissioner, as an indication of the Free Church of Scotland’s position on the Church-State relationship.

1.4 The General Assembly note with approval the Board’s comments and conclusions on the administration of Assembly business, the location, date and frequency of the Assembly. They instruct the Assembly Clerk’s Office to monitor these matters on an annual basis and to report with any recommendations through its annual report or through the Board of Trustees, whichever is the more appropriate.

2. Clerks’ Appointments

2.1 The General Assembly endorse the Board’s view that it is desirable to set fixed terms of appointment for clerks of committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly. They enact that, from May 2015, the following shall apply:

(a) Clerks of standing committees and boards of the General Assembly shall be appointed for an initial four year term, renewable for a further term of four years. This provision shall not apply in the case of the Board of Trustees, the Missions Board and the Seminary Board where secretarial services are provided by the Chief Executive Officer, the Missions Co-ordinator and the Seminary Secretary respectively.

(b) Clerks of Presbytery, the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of six years. A formal nominations process shall be conducted at least six months prior to the completion of these initial six-year terms with incumbents being eligible for nomination for one further six-year term. In the case of the appointment of Assembly Clerks, the nominations process shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees. Presbyteries shall conduct their own nominations process for appointments of Presbytery Clerks.

(c) In order that the terms of office of the Principal Clerk of Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of Assembly do not expire at the same time, the General Assembly direct that the first term of six years for the Assistant Clerk shall begin at the 2015 Assembly and the final term of six years for the Principal Clerk shall be taken as from the 2013 Assembly.

2.2 The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the periods of appointment of the clerks to committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly.

3. Missions Board and Missions Director

3.1 The General Assembly note that no substantive issues were identified that would prevent the appointment of a unified Missions Board.

3.2 The General Assembly, recognising that the part-time Missions Development Officer post is coming to an end and that it is necessary to have a dedicated resource to support the work of the Missions Board in championing the work of home and international mission throughout the Church, approve the creation of the post of Missions Director. They instruct the Missions Board to undertake a recruitment process aimed at identifying a candidate with a demonstrable passion for mission, proven pastoral experience 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 Missions Board no later than six months prior to the end of the initial three-year term.

4. The General Assembly note developments in relation to the Church’s training needs and support the ongoing work on placement arrangements for seminary students together with the review of the selection and admissions process for ministry candidates.

5. The General Assembly note the Board’s conclusions in respect of the possibility of deacons serving as members of standing committees and boards. They hereby amend § 1.1.4 of Act VI, 2014 to read as follows:

1.1.4 Membership: Thirteen members in total including the Principal Clerk of Assembly *ex officio*. The remaining membership shall comprise at least four ministers and at least six office bearers of whom up to two might be deacons. Members shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The General Assembly shall

appoint one of the Board, who shall always be an elder, as Chairman, for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three trustees.

6. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to continue its consideration of areas in the work of standing committees and boards where it might be appropriate for non-ordained members of the Church to serve in a more formal capacity and to bring forward proposals in this regard to the 2016 General Assembly.

7. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to bring a report to the 2016 General Assembly setting out proposals for measures that might be taken to expedite the filling of ministerial vacancies when they occur.

(F) NOMINATIONS

1. The General Assembly note the resignation of Mr Murdo Murchison and Mr Adam de Jong from the Board of Trustees and thank them for their contributions to the work of the Board. They approve the interim appointment of Mr Callum Macdonald to the Board of Trustees. They also approve of Mr Macdonald's appointment for a full term of service on the Board of Trustees as from the 2015 Assembly.

2. The General Assembly note the resignation of Rev. Alasdair Macleod from the Psalmody and Praise Committee. They thank him for his service and are thankful that he is restored to health.

3. The General Assembly waive the stipulation of Act VI, 2014 § 6, in the case of Rev. Paul Clarke to allow him to serve on the Board of Trustees.

4. The General Assembly waive the stipulation of Act VI, 2014 § 6, in the case of Rev. David Kirk to allow him to serve on the Missions Board.

5. The General Assembly appoint a Missions Board, to discharge the functions of the Home Missions Board and the International Missions Board as presently constituted. The Board shall assume responsibility for developing appropriate denominational partnerships at home and abroad, as well as partnerships with other organisations and agencies, in order to enhance the Church's ability to reach out with the Gospel. Membership of the Board shall be eight members in total comprising six ministers and two elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

6. The General Assembly appoint the following membership of Committees and Boards:

Board of Trustees		2015
Mr James M. Fraser	ILR	[2/3]
Mr Donald Mackenzie	SWR	[4/1]
Mr Callum Macdonald	ILR	[4/1]
Mr John Matheson	N	[3/1]
Mr Angus Mackay	ILR	[4/2]
Rev. Kenneth J. Macleod	GA	[3/1]
Rev. David C. Meredith	ILR	[3/1]
Rev. Dr M. M. Maclean	ILR	[2/1]
Rev. Paul Clarke	EP	[4/2]
Rev. John H. Maclean	SWR	[1/2]
Rev. Chris Smart	ILR	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Macleod	WI	[4/2]
Principal Clerk <i>ex officio</i>		
Chairman:	Mr James M. Fraser	
Clerk:	Chief Executive Officer	

Board of Ministry

2015

Rev. Angus MacRae	ILR	[1/1]
Rev. Ivor Macdonald	GA	[2/1]
Rev. Gordon Matheson	SWR	[1/1]
1 member appointed by Senate		[3/1]
Mr Murdo Murray	WI	[3/1]
Mr Michael W. J. Townsend	WI	[3/1]
Mr Colin Mackay	GA	[3/1]
Mr Charles Anderson	ILR	
Chairman:	Rev. Angus MacRae	
Clerk:	Rev. Nigel Anderson	

Seminary Board

2015

Principal <i>ex officio</i>		[n/a]
1 other member of Senatus		[n/a]
Chairman Board of Ministry		[n/a]
President SRC		[n/a]
Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell	WI	[2/1]
Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	ILR	[1/1]
Rev. Dr Fergus A. J. Macdonald	EP	[3/1]
Mr Murdo MacPhail	WI	[1/1]
Dr Graham Keith	GA	[1/1]
Chairman:	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	
Clerk:	College Secretary	

Missions Board

2015

Rev. Chris Smart	ILR	[4/2]
Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod	SWR	[2/2]
Rev. Iain Macaskill	N	[4/1]
Rev. Malcolm Macleod	WI	[2/2]
Rev. David Kirk	ILR	[4/1]
Rev. Dr Colin Dow	GA	[4/1]
Mr Iain A. Macdonald	ILR	[4/2]
	EP	[4/1]
Chairman:	Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod	
Clerk:	Miss Sarah Macleod	

Psalmody & Praise Committee

2015

Rev. Alex MacDonald	EP	[3/1]
Rev. Jeremy Ross	EP	[4/2]
Mr Cameron Maciver	GA	[3/1]
Dr George H. Coghill	EP	[4/2]
Mr Colin Mackay	EP	[2/2]
Mr Calum Martin	WI	[1/2]
Convener:	Rev. Jeremy Ross	
Clerk:	Mr Angus Macleod	

Notes

1. With regard to membership of the Boards and Committees where membership is for one four-year term, single numbers in square brackets show the number of years remaining of this one four-year term.
2. With regard to membership of Boards and Committees where membership may be for a second four-year term, there are two numbers within the square brackets; the first number indicates the years remaining of a four-year term; the second number indicates which of the two four-year terms the first number applies to.
3. With regard to the newly appointed Missions Board the terms of Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod, Rev. Malcolm Macleod and Mr Iain A. Macdonald show two years of service remaining in order to allow the ends of terms of service and new appointments to be staggered in future years.

(G) CUSTODIER OF TITLES

1. The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Board of Trustees in relation to an expedited process for dealing with petitions relating to properties held under the Model Trust Deed. They enact and ordain as follows:

1.1 The General Assembly, with reference to the Acts of the General Assembly hereinafter referred to and to the title deeds of properties held in terms of the Model Trust Deed, hereby nominate and appoint the Board of Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, as successor to the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland in terms of Act XXIII, 2007 of the General Assembly (the said Board of Trustees being herein referred to whenever the expression “the Board of Trustees” is used), as the body to whom the General Assembly hereby delegate (but subject to the terms hereof) all the powers conferred upon or reserved to the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly by (One) (a) Condition SIXTHLY of the Model Trust Disposition (the said Model Trust Disposition being herein referred to whenever the expression “the Model Trust Deed” is used), narrated within Act XVIII, 1844: Act Anent the Trust Deed, (b) Act VIII, 1863, (c) Act X, 1875, and (d) Act IV, 1889, all as the said four aforementioned Acts are amended by Act V, 1967, (e) Act II, 1968, (f) Act II, 1982, and (g) Act XXXI, 2009 and (Two) the terms of the titles of heritable properties where the trustees holding the same are, due to such terms, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal of the properties or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, so that the Board of Trustees may hereafter (subject to the provisions for review aftermentioned) be the sole determining body in relation to the powers hereby delegated. For the avoidance of doubt, the powers hereby delegated will include powers to revoke or modify any existing determinations made in Acts or deliverances by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in regard to the matters hereby delegated.

1.2 Without prejudice to section 1.5 hereof, all applications to the Board of Trustees for authority to sell or otherwise dispose of any property where the trustees holding the same are, in terms of the title deeds, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal thereof or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, any property held in terms of the Model Trust Deed under the powers hereby delegated shall proceed from the Deacons’ Court or Finance Committee with the concurrence of the Kirk Session and of the Congregation, and shall have obtained the sanction of the Presbytery of the bounds. Such applications shall state the reasons for the application and the purpose to which it is desired that any proceeds of sale be applied.

1.3 The Board of Trustees will be bound, upon making a determination hereunder, to intimate such determination forthwith by notice in writing to the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned and also to the Deacons’ Court or Courts or Finance Committee or Committees of the Congregation or Congregations directly affected; on receipt by the Clerk of the Presbytery of the notice of the determination of the Board of Trustees, it will be his duty to give sufficient intimation of the same to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery thereafter; but notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 hereof, any Presbytery concerned or any Deacons’ Court or Finance Committee having title or interest and who considers any such determination by the Board of Trustees to be unreasonable may within two months of the date of the meeting of Presbytery to which intimation has been made as aforesaid, lodge with the Clerks of Assembly a Petition to the General Assembly for review of any such determination; provided always that in such circumstances a review will be competent only if the Petition therefor is lodged timeously with the Clerks of Assembly and written intimation thereof given at the same time to the Board of Trustees.

1.4 With reference to sections 1.2 and 1.3 hereof, in any case where, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees special circumstances exist, including, without prejudice to that generality, the situation where the property is held for other than congregational purposes or a Congregation has dissolved, an application may proceed otherwise than is provided in the said section; and the whole provisions of the said section, including those relative to determination and right of appeal, will have effect with regard to such application and determination, all with such modifications as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

1.5 In the event of the Board of Trustees being of the opinion that any individual matter hereunder should be determined by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, they are empowered *ex proprio motu* to bring such matter before the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly for determination.

1.6 Where any funds which are or may be subject to the terms of this Act are to be applied in the purchase of any heritable property, the Custodier of Titles is directed to see the transaction carried into effect and also to see that the title deeds of the new property are either (a) taken in the same terms as those of the old, or in terms of the Model Trust Deed or (b) vested in the Board of Trustees.

1.7 Where the proceeds of sale of a property are not to be immediately applied to the purchase of another property, they shall be deposited or invested, in the meantime, in the name of the Board of Trustees, for behoof of the Congregation.

1.8 It is hereby declared that any determination made under the powers hereby delegated authorising the sale or disposal of property will (unless acted upon) lapse after a period of five years from the date thereof.

Repeal and Amendment

1.9 Act VIII, 1963 and Act IV, 1889, both as amended by Act V, 1967, are hereby repealed.

1.10 Act XVIII, 1844 is from the date of this Act to be interpreted so that the consent of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, as delegated to the Board of Trustees in terms of this Act, shall be evidenced by a certificate issued by the Custodian of Titles or the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

2. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Lochcarron and Applecross Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Free Church Manse at Applecross, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent, and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the General Trustees and that the congregation have access to these funds for the repair, maintenance and development of existing congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

3. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Scalpay Free Church and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation be given access, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to the sum of £15,000 held by the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of replenishing the congregation's savings.

4. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Knox Free Church Perth and grant its crave. They authorise the congregation to have access to the surplus funds from the sale of the manse at Pitlochry held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to facilitate the taking on of a Ministry Apprentice/Assistant to support the furtherance of the gospel in Perth.

5. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Finance Committee of Tarbert Free Church and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation have access to the sum of £4,710.37 held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for repairs to the church building at Tarbert.

(H) JUDICIAL COMMISSION

1. The General Assembly reappoint the Judicial Commission as follows:

Rev. A. J. Macdonald	[4/2]
Rev. Professor J. R. McIntosh	[4/2]
Mr J. MacRae	[4/2]
Mr D. W. Matheson	[4/2]
Rev. A. J. Howat	[4/2]
Rev. A. Cowie	[4/2]
Mr Evan MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr Norman Smith	[4/2]
Rev. Gordon Mair	[4/2]
Rev. D. C. Meredith	[4/2]
Mr Andrew Murchison	[4/2]
Dr Gordon Fraser	[4/2]
Rev. Duncan Macleod	[4/2]
Rev. I. MacAskill	[4/2]
Mr David Lipp	[4/2]
Dr James Skinner	[4/2]
Rev. John H. MacLean	[4/2]
Rev. D. G. MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr John A. Gillies	[4/2]
Mr Robert MacDonald	[4/2]
Rev. James Maciver	[4/2]
Rev. Malcolm Macleod	[4/2]

Mr Murdo Macleod (Lochs)	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway)	[4/2]
Chairman:	Rev. A. J. MacDonald
Clerk:	Principal Clerk

(I) SYNODS

1. The General Assembly remind Synod Clerks to ensure that the requirements of Act XXXIX, 2009, paragraphs 3-4 and 6-8, are implemented annually in accordance with the terms set out.

2. In accordance with the requirements of Act V, 2002, paragraph 2.1, the General Assembly appoint the Northern Presbytery as Assessor Presbytery to the Western Synod; the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross as Assessor Presbytery to the Southern Synod; and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth as Assessor Presbytery to the Northern Synod. The General Assembly remind the North American Synod that such cases as require either of the two Presbyteries comprising that Synod to be at the bar of Synod should be forwarded directly to the General Assembly, or Commission of Assembly, whichever is the more appropriate.

Second Motion: It was also moved and seconded that:

That Section (E) 5 of the Deliverance be deleted and Sections 6 and 7 be renumbered.

Third Motion: It was also moved and seconded that:

That paragraph (F) 3 be deleted and be replaced by: "The General Assembly appoint Mr Clive Bailey to serve on the Board of Trustees."

On a vote being taken between the Second Motion and the First Motion, the First Motion was declared carried by a majority.

On a vote being taken between the Third Motion and the First Motion, the First Motion was declared carried by a majority.

Finding Wherefore:

(A) FINANCE REVIEW AND POLICY

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Board of Trustees and thank the Chairman, members of the Board, the Chief Administrative Officer and his staff for their work.

2. The General Assembly note with regret the fact that they are losing the services of Mr Rod Morrison, Chief Administrative Officer and, recognising his outstanding contribution to the ongoing work of the Church and the Board of Trustees, they express their thanks and appreciation and wish him well in whatever sphere of employment he chooses to follow after leaving his post.

3. The General Assembly acknowledge with humility and thanksgiving the provision made by the Lord for the work of the Church. They thank those who gave in a regular, responsible and liberal manner in support of that work and record their appreciation for legacies received during the year.

4. The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,000 from 1st January 2015. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

5. The General Assembly support the establishment of a Development Fund to be used for the purpose of providing time-limited funding for special projects and activities that are clearly designed to make current work more sustainable and that could stimulate growth.

(B) COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

1. The General Assembly instruct any congregation, committee or board to make early contact with the Church's Compliance Officer for advice when considering employing any person from outside the European Union, whether in a paid or unpaid role and regardless of the length of stay.

2. The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that there is a need to raise the awareness of charity trustees at congregational and central level of their responsibilities in relation to legal compliance. They instruct the Board to conduct a careful assessment of priority areas and to develop guidance materials where appropriate.
3. The General Assembly note the development of a Conflicts of Interest Policy as a code for good governance at committee and board level. They instruct all Presbyteries to review the policy with a view to developing and adopting a similar policy to deal with potential conflicts at Presbytery level. They also support the Board's view that there is a need to develop procedures that would help address potential conflicts of interest that might arise during Assembly business and to that end instruct the Assembly Clerks' Office to undertake a review and to report to the 2016 Assembly through the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly note the Board's ongoing work in assessing the risks facing the Church. They instruct the Board to keep these risks under review.
5. The General Assembly instruct all Kirk Sessions to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PVG Scheme, seeking advice from the Church's Compliance Officer. They note, with disappointment, that some ministers have not yet applied for membership of the PVG Scheme and, where this is the case, instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that steps are taken to rectify the situation as soon as possible. They instruct the Board of Trustees to write to all Presbyteries asking for confirmation that all ministers within their bounds are, or have applied to become, members of the PVG Scheme. They empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this matter.
6. The General Assembly instruct the Board to keep developments in relation to safeguarding matters under review and to provide support to congregations in implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines.

(C) COMMUNICATIONS

1. The General Assembly note the production of a communications strategy and endorse the aims of providing a compelling Christian voice in Scottish public life and improving internal communications across the Church. They also support the proposal to develop a pool of people from around the Church with the expertise to assist in the preparation of policy papers across a range of contemporary issues. To this end, they instruct the Board to write to Kirk Sessions setting out the disciplines to be covered and the competencies sought.
2. The General Assembly note with regret the resignation of Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean as editor of *The Record*. They thank Dr Maclean for all his work during his tenure as editor and are grateful to him for agreeing to continue in post for the remainder of 2015.
3. The General Assembly support the Board's recommendation that the editorship of *The Record* should not be restricted to ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland. They enact as follows:
 - 3.1 The General Assembly direct that the qualifications for appointment as editor of *The Record* shall be as follows:
 - 3.1.1 The editor shall be a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland and a person of some maturity in Christian life.
 - 3.1.2 The qualifications and experience of the candidate shall be matched as closely as possible to the remit for the post as drawn up by the Board of Trustees.
 - 3.1.3 The term of appointment will be for seven years, with eligibility for reappointment.
 - 3.1.4 The editor will be accountable to the Board of Trustees.
 - 3.1.5 Remuneration and conditions of service shall be set by the Board of Trustees.
 - 3.2 When a vacancy occurs, the following procedures will be followed:
 - 3.2.1 The Secretary of the Board of Trustees will circulate all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions of the Church setting out the key elements of remit and requesting nominations for the post.
 - 3.2.2 The Board of Trustees will arrange for an appropriate interview panel to meet with the short listed candidates and make recommendations thereafter to the Board.

3.2.3 The Board will recommend its preferred candidate to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may accept the Board's recommendation, or if not, may only choose another candidate from those previously interviewed by the Board.

3.3 The General Assembly repeal Act XXX, 2007, and also any other previous acts inconsistent with the foregoing.

4. The General Assembly endorse the Board's plans to undertake a detailed review of the Church's publications, including *The Record*. They recognise that the time involved in conducting such a review has prevented the nomination to this Assembly of a proposed candidate to take over as editor of *The Record*. In light of this, they empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this topic with a view to the appointment of a new editor who will take up the position from the beginning of 2016.

5. The General Assembly supports the clarification of the arrangements for the oversight of the Church's magazines and to that end directs that the Board shall have oversight responsibility for *The Record*, *Compass* and *Free*. The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the oversight of the Church's magazines.

(D) LAW AND ADVICE

1. The General Assembly notes with thankfulness that progress has been made in several local settings in relation to resolving disputes with the Free Church (Continuing) over property and assets.

2. The General Assembly note with sadness the death of Mr John Miller, retired Senior Partner of Simpson and Marwick, the Church's former Law Agent. They are thankful for the many years of sound advice and faithful support provided to the Church by Mr Miller and express their sincere condolences to his widow and other relatives and friends at this sad time.

(E) OTHER MATTERS

1. Assembly Procedures

1.1 The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act:

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

1. Each Presbytery of the Church shall be represented in the General Assembly by a number of the Ministers and occupants of appointments as Course Organisers in Edinburgh Theological Seminary within the Presbytery, including Assessors and Ministers without charge who have been duly granted seats in the Presbytery, equal to but not greater than the number of Congregations and academic appointments as Course Organisers within the bounds of the Presbytery as set at any time by the General Assembly, together with an equal number of Elders who are *bona fide* acting Elders of Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in the same or other Presbyteries, and who shall have signed the Formula.

2. The term Congregation in this Act shall mean a body of Members of the Free Church of Scotland which is under the care and oversight of its own Kirk Session, including Kirk Sessions requiring Assessor Elders, and holding at least one service of public worship every Lord's Day. A consolidated Charge, if and when there shall be two or more Kirk Sessions, shall count as one Congregation for the purpose of Assembly representation. The provisions of Act XIII, 1863, "Declaratory Act anent Preaching Stations, Kirk Sessions therein, and Position of Elders in such Kirk Sessions", shall continue to apply.

3. The proportion of qualifying Congregations and academic appointments shall be set by the General Assembly from time to time without recourse to the Barrier Act through the report of the Board of Trustees.

4. The General Assembly ordain that the proportion be set at 60% of Congregations as these are defined in 2 above, with effect from the General Assembly of 2017, subject to the finding of the 2016 Assembly anent this Overture.

5. The General Assembly repeal Act I, Class I, 1942.

1.2 The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act.

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

1. In order to reduce the problem of a shortage of available elders, Presbyteries shall be authorised to elect elders who cannot attend for the duration of the Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 below.

2. In electing its Commissioners a Presbytery shall ascertain which days of the Assembly elders it wishes to commission are able to attend. If a Presbytery resolves to elect elders unable to commit to the whole of the Assembly, the Presbytery shall be free to appoint the required number in addition to those attending for the duration to make up the total allocation for each day of the Assembly. The Presbytery shall record this information in their minutes and on the Form of Commission produced by the Assembly Clerks' Office. The total number of elders allocated to each Presbytery shall not be exceeded on any day or sederunt of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall make every effort to ensure that the majority of their elected Commissioners are able to attend for the duration of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall not commission any elder for less than one whole day of the Assembly's meeting. Presbyteries shall ensure that the number of commissioners allocated to them shall not be exceeded at any meetings of the Commission of Assembly.

3. The stipulation contained in current Standing Order 5.8.2 shall continue to be observed, namely, "*That on a division being called for the Clerk shall announce that no member ought to vote against a motion or amendment who has not been in attendance during the discussion thereof.*"

1.3 The General Assembly shall continue to welcome a visit from Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, as an indication of the Free Church of Scotland's position on the Church-State relationship.

1.4 The General Assembly note with approval the Board's comments and conclusions on the administration of Assembly business, the location, date and frequency of the Assembly. They instruct the Assembly Clerk's Office to monitor these matters on an annual basis and to report with any recommendations through its annual report or through the Board of Trustees, whichever is the more appropriate.

2. Clerks' Appointments

2.1 The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that it is desirable to set fixed terms of appointment for clerks of committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly. They enact that, from May 2015, the following shall apply:

(a) Clerks of standing committees and boards of the General Assembly shall be appointed for an initial four year term, renewable for a further term of four years. This provision shall not apply in the case of the Board of Trustees, the Missions Board and the Seminary Board where secretarial services are provided by the Chief Executive Officer, the Missions Co-ordinator and the Seminary Secretary respectively.

(b) Clerks of Presbytery, the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of six years. A formal nominations process shall be conducted at least six months prior to the completion of these initial six-year terms with incumbents being eligible for nomination for one further six-year term. In the case of the appointment of Assembly Clerks, the nominations process shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees. Presbyteries shall conduct their own nominations process for appointments of Presbytery Clerks.

(c) In order that the terms of office of the Principal Clerk of Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of Assembly do not expire at the same time, the General Assembly direct that the first term of six years for the Assistant Clerk shall begin at the 2015 Assembly and the final term of six years for the Principal Clerk shall be taken as from the 2013 Assembly.

2.2 The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the periods of appointment of the clerks to committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly.

3. Missions Board and Missions Director

3.1 The General Assembly note that no substantive issues were identified that would prevent the appointment of a unified Missions Board.

3.2 The General Assembly, recognising that the part-time Missions Development Officer post is coming to an end and that it is necessary to have a dedicated resource to support the work of the Missions Board in championing the work of home and international mission throughout the Church, approve the creation of the post of Missions Director. They instruct the Missions Board to undertake a recruitment process aimed at identifying a candidate with a demonstrable passion for mission, proven pastoral experience 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 Missions Board no later than six months prior to the end of the initial three-year term.

4. The General Assembly note developments in relation to the Church's training needs and support the ongoing work on placement arrangements for seminary students together with the review of the selection and admissions process for ministry candidates.

5. The General Assembly note the Board's conclusions in respect of the possibility of deacons serving as members of standing committees and boards. They hereby amend § 1.1.4 of Act VI, 2014 to read as follows:

1.1.4 Membership: Thirteen members in total including the Principal Clerk of Assembly *ex officio*. The remaining membership shall comprise at least four ministers and at least six office bearers of whom up to two might be deacons. Members shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The General Assembly shall appoint one of the Board, who shall always be an elder, as Chairman, for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three trustees.

6. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to continue its consideration of areas in the work of standing committees and boards where it might be appropriate for non-ordained members of the Church to serve in a more formal capacity and to bring forward proposals in this regard to the 2016 General Assembly.

7. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to bring a report to the 2016 General Assembly setting out proposals for measures that might be taken to expedite the filling of ministerial vacancies when they occur.

(F) NOMINATIONS

1. The General Assembly note the resignation of Mr Murdo Murchison and Mr Adam de Jong from the Board of Trustees and thank them for their contributions to the work of the Board. They approve the interim appointment of Mr Callum Macdonald to the Board of Trustees. They also approve of Mr Macdonald's appointment for a full term of service on the Board of Trustees as from the 2015 Assembly.

2. The General Assembly note the resignation of Rev. Alasdair Macleod from the Psalmody and Praise Committee. They thank him for his service and are thankful that he is restored to health.

3. The General Assembly waive the stipulation of Act VI, 2014 § 6, in the case of Rev. Paul Clarke to allow him to serve on the Board of Trustees.

4. The General Assembly waive the stipulation of Act VI, 2014 § 6, in the case of Rev. David Kirk to allow him to serve on the Missions Board.

5. The General Assembly appoint a Missions Board, to discharge the functions of the Home Missions Board and the International Missions Board as presently constituted. The Board shall assume responsibility for developing appropriate denominational partnerships at home and abroad, as well as partnerships with other organisations and agencies, in order to enhance the Church's ability to reach out with the Gospel. Membership of the Board shall be eight members in total comprising six ministers and two elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

6. The General Assembly appoint the following membership of Committees and Boards:

Mr James M. Fraser	ILR	[2/3]
Mr Donald Mackenzie	SWR	[4/1]
Mr Callum Macdonald	ILR	[4/1]
Mr John Matheson	N	[3/1]
Mr Angus Mackay	ILR	[4/2]
Rev. Kenneth J. Macleod	GA	[3/1]
Rev. David C. Meredith	ILR	[3/1]
Rev. Dr M. M. Maclean	ILR	[2/1]
Rev. Paul Clarke	EP	[4/2]
Rev. John H. Maclean	SWR	[1/2]
Rev. Chris Smart	ILR	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Macleod	WI	[4/2]
Principal Clerk <i>ex officio</i>		
Chairman:	Mr James M. Fraser	
Clerk:	Chief Executive Officer	

Board of Ministry			2015
Rev. Angus MacRae	ILR	[1/1]	
Rev. Ivor Macdonald	GA	[2/1]	
Rev. Gordon Matheson	SWR	[1/1]	
1 member appointed by Senate			
Mr Murdo Murray	WI	[3/1]	
Mr Michael W. J. Townsend	WI	[3/1]	
Mr Colin Mackay	GA	[3/1]	
Mr Charles Anderson	ILR	[3/1]	
Chairman:	Rev. Angus MacRae		
Clerk:	Rev. Nigel Anderson		

Seminary Board			2015
Principal <i>ex officio</i>		[n/a]	
1 other member of Senatus		[n/a]	
Chairman Board of Ministry		[n/a]	
President SRC		[n/a]	
Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell	WI	[2/1]	
Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	ILR	[1/1]	
Rev. Dr Fergus A. J. Macdonald	EP	[3/1]	
Mr Murdo MacPhail	WI	[1/1]	
Dr Graham Keith	GA	[1/1]	
Chairman:	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean		
Clerk:	College Secretary		

Missions Board			2015
Rev. Chris Smart	ILR	[4/2]	
Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod	SWR	[2/2]	
Rev. Iain Macaskill	N	[4/1]	
Rev. Malcolm Macleod	WI	[2/2]	
Rev. David Kirk	ILR	[4/1]	
Rev. Dr Colin Dow	GA	[4/1]	
Mr Iain A. Macdonald	ILR	[4/2]	
Dr John Morrison	EP	[4/1]	
Chairman:	Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod		
Clerk:	Miss Sarah Macleod		

Psalmody & Praise Committee			2015
Rev. Alex MacDonald	EP	[3/1]	
Rev. Jeremy Ross	EP	[4/2]	
Mr Cameron Maciver	GA	[3/1]	

Dr George H. Coghill	EP	[4/2]
Mr Colin Mackay	EP	[2/2]
Mr Calum Martin	WI	[1/2]
Convener:	Rev. Jeremy Ross	
Clerk:	Mr Angus Macleod	

Notes

1. With regard to membership of the Boards and Committees where membership is for one four-year term, single numbers in square brackets show the number of years remaining of this one four-year term.
2. With regard to membership of Boards and Committees where membership may be for a second four-year term, there are two numbers within the square brackets; the first number indicates the years remaining of a four-year term; the second number indicates which of the two four-year terms the first number applies to.
3. With regard to the newly appointed Missions Board the terms of Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod, Rev. Malcolm Macleod and Mr Iain A. Macdonald show two years of service remaining in order to allow the ends of terms of service and new appointments to be staggered in future years.

(G) CUSTODIER OF TITLES

1. The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Board of Trustees in relation to an expedited process for dealing with petitions relating to properties held under the Model Trust Deed. They enact and ordain as follows:

1.1 The General Assembly, with reference to the Acts of the General Assembly hereinafter referred to and to the title deeds of properties held in terms of the Model Trust Deed, hereby nominate and appoint the Board of Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, as successor to the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland in terms of Act XXIII, 2007 of the General Assembly (the said Board of Trustees being herein referred to whenever the expression “the Board of Trustees” is used), as the body to whom the General Assembly hereby delegate (but subject to the terms hereof) all the powers conferred upon or reserved to the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly by (One) (a) Condition SIXTHLY of the Model Trust Disposition (the said Model Trust Disposition being herein referred to whenever the expression “the Model Trust Deed” is used), narrated within Act XVIII, 1844: Act Anent the Trust Deed, (b) Act VIII, 1863, (c) Act X, 1875, and (d) Act IV, 1889, all as the said four aforementioned Acts are amended by Act V, 1967, (e) Act II, 1968, (f) Act II, 1982, and (g) Act XXXI, 2009 and (Two) the terms of the titles of heritable properties where the trustees holding the same are, due to such terms, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal of the properties or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, so that the Board of Trustees may hereafter (subject to the provisions for review aftermentioned) be the sole determining body in relation to the powers hereby delegated. For the avoidance of doubt, the powers hereby delegated will include powers to revoke or modify any existing determinations made in Acts or deliverances by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in regard to the matters hereby delegated.

1.2 Without prejudice to section 1.5 hereof, all applications to the Board of Trustees for authority to sell or otherwise dispose of any property where the trustees holding the same are, in terms of the title deeds, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal thereof or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, any property held in terms of the Model Trust Deed under the powers hereby delegated shall proceed from the Deacons’ Court or Finance Committee with the concurrence of the Kirk Session and of the Congregation, and shall have obtained the sanction of the Presbytery of the bounds. Such applications shall state the reasons for the application and the purpose to which it is desired that any proceeds of sale be applied.

1.3 The Board of Trustees will be bound, upon making a determination hereunder, to intimate such determination forthwith by notice in writing to the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned and also to the Deacons’ Court or Courts or Finance Committee or Committees of the Congregation or Congregations directly affected; on receipt by the Clerk of the Presbytery of the notice of the determination of the Board of Trustees, it will be his duty to give sufficient intimation of the same to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery thereafter; but notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 hereof, any Presbytery concerned or any Deacons’ Court or Finance Committee having title or interest and who considers any such determination by the Board of Trustees to be unreasonable may within two months of the date of the meeting of Presbytery to which intimation has been made as aforesaid, lodge with the Clerks of Assembly a Petition to the General Assembly for review of any such determination; provided always that in such circumstances a review will be competent

only if the Petition therefor is lodged timeously with the Clerks of Assembly and written intimation thereof given at the same time to the Board of Trustees.

1.4 With reference to sections 1.2 and 1.3 hereof, in any case where, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees special circumstances exist, including, without prejudice to that generality, the situation where the property is held for other than congregational purposes or a Congregation has dissolved, an application may proceed otherwise than is provided in the said section; and the whole provisions of the said section, including those relative to determination and right of appeal, will have effect with regard to such application and determination, all with such modifications as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

1.5 In the event of the Board of Trustees being of the opinion that any individual matter hereunder should be determined by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, they are empowered *ex proprio motu* to bring such matter before the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly for determination.

1.6 Where any funds which are or may be subject to the terms of this Act are to be applied in the purchase of any heritable property, the Custodier of Titles is directed to see the transaction carried into effect and also to see that the title deeds of the new property are either (a) taken in the same terms as those of the old, or in terms of the Model Trust Deed or (b) vested in the Board of Trustees.

1.7 Where the proceeds of sale of a property are not to be immediately applied to the purchase of another property, they shall be deposited or invested, in the meantime, in the name of the Board of Trustees, for behoof of the Congregation.

1.8 It is hereby declared that any determination made under the powers hereby delegated authorising the sale or disposal of property will (unless acted upon) lapse after a period of five years from the date thereof.

Repeal and Amendment

1.9 Act VIII, 1963 and Act IV, 1889, both as amended by Act V, 1967, are hereby repealed.

1.10 Act XVIII, 1844 is from the date of this Act to be interpreted so that the consent of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, as delegated to the Board of Trustees in terms of this Act, shall be evidenced by a certificate issued by the Custodier of Titles or the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

2. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Lochcarron and Applecross Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Free Church Manse at Applecross, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent, and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the General Trustees and that the congregation have access to these funds for the repair, maintenance and development of existing congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

3. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Scalpay Free Church and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation be given access, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to the sum of £15,000 held by the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of replenishing the congregation's savings.

4. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Knox Free Church Perth and grant its crave. They authorise the congregation to have access to the surplus funds from the sale of the manse at Pitlochry held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to facilitate the taking on of a Ministry Apprentice/Assistant to support the furtherance of the gospel in Perth.

5. The General Assembly receive the petition from the Finance Committee of Tarbert Free Church and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation have access to the sum of £4,710.37 held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for repairs to the church building at Tarbert.

(H) JUDICIAL COMMISSION

1. The General Assembly reappoint the Judicial Commission as follows:

Rev. A. J. Macdonald	[4/2]
Rev. Professor J. R. McIntosh	[4/2]
Mr J. MacRae	[4/2]
Mr D. W. Matheson	[4/2]
Rev. A. J. Howat	[4/2]

Rev. A. Cowie	[4/2]
Mr Evan MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr Norman Smith	[4/2]
Rev. Gordon Mair	[4/2]
Rev. D. C. Meredith	[4/2]
Mr Andrew Murchison	[4/2]
Dr Gordon Fraser	[4/2]
Rev. Duncan Macleod	[4/2]
Rev. I. MacAskill	[4/2]
Mr David Lipp	[4/2]
Dr James Skinner	[4/2]
Rev. John H. MacLean	[4/2]
Rev. D. G. MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr John A. Gillies	[4/2]
Mr Robert MacDonald	[4/2]
Rev. James Maciver	[4/2]
Rev. Malcolm Macleod	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Macleod (Lochs)	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway)	[4/2]
Chairman:	Rev. A. J. MacDonald
Clerk:	Principal Clerk

(I) SYNODS

1. The General Assembly remind Synod Clerks to ensure that the requirements of Act XXXIX, 2009, paragraphs 3-4 and 6-8, are implemented annually in accordance with the terms set out.

2. In accordance with the requirements of Act V, 2002, paragraph 2.1, the General Assembly appoint the Northern Presbytery as Assessor Presbytery to the Western Synod; the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross as Assessor Presbytery to the Southern Synod; and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth as Assessor Presbytery to the Northern Synod. The General Assembly remind the North American Synod that such cases as require either of the two Presbyteries comprising that Synod to be at the bar of Synod should be forwarded directly to the General Assembly, or Commission of Assembly, whichever is the more appropriate.

6 Board of Trustees: Supplementary Report: Appointment of Assistant Clerk The General Assembly called for the Supplementary Report of the Board of Trustees: Appointment of Assistant Clerk, which being printed and in the hand of members, was referred to by the Chairman who addressed the Assembly thereant.

It was noted that the returns from Presbyteries regarding the appointment of an Assistant Clerk were in summary as follows:

Edinburgh and Perth	Rev. Angus MacRae Rev. Nigel Anderson Rev. Malcolm Macleod
Glasgow and Argyll	Rev. Nigel Anderson Rev. Malcolm Macleod
Western Isles Inverness, Lochaber and Ross	Rev. Malcolm Macleod Rev. Malcolm Macleod Rev. David MacPherson
Northern Skye and Wester Ross	Rev. Malcolm Macleod Rev. Malcolm Macleod

SUMMARY

TOTALS

Rev. Malcolm Macleod	6
Rev. Nigel Anderson	2
Rev. Angus MacRae	1
Rev. David MacPherson	1

On being informed of these details each of those nominated were contacted by the Principal Clerk. Rev. David MacPherson, withdrew his name from consideration. Consequently the Board is requesting that the Assembly appoint an Assistant Clerk from the names submitted or another as appropriate.

Finding It was also moved and seconded that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Supplementary Report of the Board of Trustees and thank the Board.
2. The General Assembly thank Rev. Angus J. Howat for his faithful and diligent service to the Assembly as Assistant Clerk and to the wider Church in other capacities. They wish him many further years of contented retirement with God's blessing.
3. The General Assembly note with approval the Job Description appended to this Report.
4. The General Assembly call for nominations for the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly.

Wherefore: It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. His duties shall be in accordance with the job description approved by this Assembly. His remuneration and conditions of service will be in accordance with current practice, his duties to commence no later than the close of this Assembly.

7 Presentation: Rev. A. J. Howat The Moderator made a Presentation to Rev. Angus J. Howat on his retirement from the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly, expressing the thanks of the Church for his faithful service.

8 Delegate The following Delegate was introduced to the Moderator and invited to address the Assembly:

Rev. Dr William Schweitzer, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales.

9 Rev. Dr Sinclair Ferguson was welcomed by the Moderator and invited to address the General Assembly and then to engage in prayer.

10 Adjournment The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this hall at 6.30 o'clock evening, whereof public intimation having been given, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall,
the 19th day of May 2015 years at 6.30 o'clock evening*

1 Assembly Constituted The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.

2 Home Missions (E): Youth: Supplementary Report The General Assembly then called for the Supplementary Report of the Home Missions Board (E): Youth, which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Convener who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

The Convener also presented a Supplementary Report in the following terms:

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

OF THE

HOME MISSION BOARD

AWARDS 2014 -2015

The following is a list of all who were awarded certificates for Sunday School work and for Explorations on the life of Eric Liddell. All children receive a certificate to recognise their participation and to reward their efforts during the year.

In those Sunday Schools that use the Free Church Syllabus, 'M' after a name indicates that the candidate has been awarded a Certificate of Merit and 'D' after a name indicates that the candidate has been awarded a Certificate of Distinction. Exploration certificates are also awarded at three grades.

This year a total of 858 certificates were awarded (897 last year) and 132 Explorations were submitted (132 last year).

INFANT GRADE

Numbers in brackets indicate 2014 figures.

There were 277 (318) certificates awarded and 38 (44) Explorations received.

Prizewinners:

- 1st Mark Connor, Glasgow City, *Lyle Orr Award*
- 2nd Eilidh McGregor, Perth, *Duncan Maclean Memorial Prize*
- 3rd Aimee Maciver, Greyfriars-Stratherrick, *Donald Macdonald Memorial Prize*
- 4th Alex Murray, Shawbost, *Cathie Macrae Memorial Prize*
- 5th Anna Macleod, Shawbost
- 6th Katie MacRae, Shawbost
- 7th Domhnall MacArthur, Shawbost

Special award for Explorations:

Kate MacAulay, Tain

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

Bon Accord: Jessica Gunn, Lily Chan, Leah Smith, Calum Tullich, James Martin, Finlay Morrison, Noah MacDonald, Luke MacDonald, Nathan Ong, Holly Inglis, Violet Bavidge, Sidney Welsh, Hannah MacDonald, John MacLeod, Andres Gutierrez, Tegan Smith, Ellie Ong, Alexander Ross, Mami

Buccleuch and Greyfriars: Sofie Saragih, Ian Hammer, James McKenna, Eva Lytle, Amy Macleod, Euan Lytle, Rosa Lytle, Dara Faulkner, Catriona Hammer, Fraser MacLeod, Andrea, Jacob Sladek, Lauren Clunie, Lily MacLeod, Tommy McPhillips, Lizzie McPhillips, Calum Lytle, Dickens

Perth: Mairi McGregor

Dunfermline: Millie Bell, Neil Ross, Tamlyn Thomson, Christian Thomson, Maura Thomson, Sarah Gordon, Grace Pert

Falkirk: Eilidh Macleod, Lucy Myles, John MacLeod, Calum Macleod

Leith: Joseph Fioretti, Joseph Simpson

London City: Adam Bitner, John Huey, Colin Pearson, Ellie-Rose Pearson, Jacques Prinsloo

St Andrews: Ambrose Wittman, Clement Wittman, Anselm Fox, Isla Sneddon, Charlotte Llewellyn, Peter Naughton, Harry Purvis, Ellie Ylitalo, Ezra Ylitalo, Joel Rouvinez, Xander Sneddon, Rebecca Sneddon, Reuben Loe, Stefan Hanson, Olivia Hanson

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

Ayr: Anisa Moyo, Ian Grains

Downvale: Ava Douglas (D), Rebecca Macleod (D), Grace Melville (D), Cameron Macdermid (D), Iona Murray (D), Daniel Redman (D), Duncan Spiers (D), Isaac Macaulay, Kathryn Redman (D), Roseanna Macdonald, Ryan Mackenzie, Aaron Drummond, Cailean Macdermid (D)

Coatbridge: Amily Devoti, Nathan Fallon, Katie Bruce, Marc Devoti

Dumfries: Marissa Smith (D), Jack Harris (D)

East Kilbride: Daisy Macaulay, Cameron Macaulay, Keiran MacDonald (D)

Glasgow City: Mark Connor (D), Daniel Lockington (D), Rory Macaskill (D), Kirsten Macdougall (D), Jessica McGarvie (D), Alexa Mackison (D), Zach Mackison (D), Marianne Ridland (D), Joseph Wylie (D)

Govanhill: Jacob Haw, Zoe Haw, Mohamed Bah, Finlay Clark, Daniela Lingurar, Alasdair MacGillivray, Beth Hastings, Marcela Nistorova, Petra Nistorova, Martin Bady, Janko Nistor, Nicolas Nistor, Ana Maria Bologova, Seonag MacGillivray

Oban: Alexander Malloch, Anna Mackellar

PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

Fort William: Allan MacColl

Greyfriars-Stratherrick: Joshua MacKenzie (M), Aimee Maciver (D), Hayley Fraser (D), Nicole Currie (D), Liam Cowie (M), Alistair MacKenzie (D), Kaitlyn MacPhail (M), Calum MacAskil (D), Aeva Duff (D), Calum MacRaidl (D), Alexander MacLennan (M), Lewis MacLennan, Jennifer Murray, Tianna Cowie (M), Lewis Gray (D), Sianna Maciver (D), Aran Dunn (D), Thomas MacRaidl (D), Jessie Fraser (D)

Kilmallie: Ciara, Jamie Lee, Kirsten Dodds, Neave Dodds, Abigail Du Plessis, Aaron Du Plessis, Millie Henderson, Thomas Henderson, Lexi Lauder, Kai Matheson, Amara Matheson, Maggie MacAskill, Daisy Macdonald, Zander Macdonald, Shay Coll, John Maclean, Melissa McKay, Katie Pescod, Erin Stoddart, Josh Stoddart, Iona Tonks

Knockbain: Alasdair MacDonald (M), Elizabeth Ross (M), Isabella Taylor (M), Roslyn Topping (M), Calum Turner (M)

Maryburgh and Killearnan: Ross Munro (D), David Chisholm (D)

Ferintosh: Cameron Brown, Callum Crawford, Jack Maclean-Yuille, David Ross, Isla Fraser

Resolis: Abbie Bathgate, David Ross, Miriam MacPherson

Urray and Strathconon: Abby Taylor, Cameron Macaskill, Kirsty Macaskill, Calum MacLennan, Marie Maclean

PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

Lochbroom and Coigach: Lois Macleod, Ruby MacLennan

Poolewe and Aultbea: Ellie MacRae

Portree: Angus Oag, Katie MacRae, Gordon Mackenzie, Ethan Caldwell, Katie MacDonald, Alexander Jackson, Daisy Dickson, Ayla MacRae, Anna Moller, Charlie Oag, Lewis Mackenzie, Ross Evans, Callie Maclean, Findlay MacDonald, John MacDonald

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Fearn: Jack Ross, Annabel Scaman, Seth Ockenden, Jack Bain, Joel Ockenden, Madison Fleming, Ali MacKay

Helmsdale: Aine Martin

Lybster: Saffiya Amin, Andrew Sinclair, Kirsty Young, Roza Amin

Rosskeen: Annabelle, Zia, Dominic, Catriona, Alara, Ella

North Coast: Iain Magee, Scott Drennan, Maisie Mackay

PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Back: Daniel France (D), Jayden Pidcock (D), Samuel Maclellan (D), Angus Macleod (D), Cara Macritchie (D), Maree Martin (D), Amelia Mackay (D), Cerys Maciver (D), Mark Macdonald (D), Joel Graham (D), Luc Smith (D), David Finlayson (D), Coinneach Stewart (D), Bethany Macritchie (D), Ross Maciver (D), Kyla McMurdo (D), Jonathan Graham (D), Samuel Cunningham (D), Iain Kenneth Maclellan (D), Jack Graham (D), Donald John McCarthy (D), Bella Wilson (D), Mary Ann Macleod (D)

Barvas: Iona Maclean, Sarah Ann Mackenzie, Lauren M. Macleod, Michael Macmillan, Emma Mason, Catriona Campbell, Connor Graham, Stewart Graham

Callanish: Lois Morrison (D), Sarah Macbain (D), Enoch Finlayson (D), Marie Anna Reid (D), Coinach Smith (D), Erin Macdonald (D)

Carloway: Andrew Maciver (M), John Davis (M), Calum Macleod (M), Lorca Macleod (M)

Cross: Hannah Macritchie, Alasdair MacDonald, Murdo Alex Gillies, Calum Iain MacDonald, Fraser Libby, Daniel Murray

Lochs: James MacRae (M), Aimee MacLeod (M), Samuel MacLeod (M), Chloe Hope (D), Kyla MacKenzie (D), Samuel MacRae (D)

Pairc: Murray Begg, Innes Begg, Gregor Begg

North Tolsta: Chloe Dempsey, Mairi Macritchie, Elliot Henderson, Mary Morrison, Abigail MacLeod, Sophie Macritchie

Shawbost: Domhnall MacArthur (D), Katie Macrae (D), Noah Williamson (M)

Stornoway: James Macmillan (D), Harris Mackay (D), Hector Neally (D), Scott Macaulay (D), Noah Morrison (D), Lydia Macdonald (D), Kaitlin Macleod (D), Cailean Macritchie (M),

Tong: David Finlayson, Charlotte Bayfield, Leah Macritchie, Liam Somerville, Danny Maciver, Jayden Macdonald

INFANT EXPLORATIONS

Exploring Eric Liddell

The following were awarded certificates:

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

Perth: Eilidh McGregor

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

Dumfries: Marissa Smith

Glasgow City: Mark Connor, Kirsten Macdougall

PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

Urquhart and Resolis: David Ross

Greyfriars-Stratherrick: Hayley Fraser, Aimee Maciver, Alister Mackenzie

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Tain and Fearn: Martha Bauld, Kate MacAulay, Eva Webster, Charlie Blackhall

PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

Lochbroom and Coigach: Florence Curley

WESTERN ISLES PRESBYTERY

Callanish: Mairi Anna Reid, Sarah Mairi MacBain

Carloway: Andrew MacIver, John Davis

Laxdale: Matthew Smith, Alana Martin, Maria Murray, Laura Mackay, Beth Macdonald, Murray Mackenzie, Aimee Mackay, Shannon MacLeod, Maisi Morrison, Grace Mackay

Shawbost: Noah Williamson, Katie MacRae, Anna Macleod, Domhnall MacArthur, Alex Murray, Olivia Macleod

Stornoway: Kaitlin Macleod, Harris Mackay, Lydia Macdonald, Hector Neally, Scott Macaulay

JUNIOR GRADE

Numbers in brackets indicate 2014 figures.

There were 387 (396) certificates awarded and 59 (58) Explorations received.

Prizewinners:

- 1st Ealasaid MacLean, Oban, *Lyle Orr Award*
- 2nd Lewis Connor, Glasgow City, *Kenneth M. MacKay Memorial Prize*
- 3rd Eleanor Smith, Perth, *Donald MacPherson Memorial Prize*
- 4th Anna McGregor, Perth, *John Shaw Memorial Prize*
- 5th Hannah Ferguson, Stornoway, *Mrs Macleod Memorial Prize*
- 6th Hannah Lockington, Glasgow City

Special awards for Explorations:

Rebecca Ross, Ferintosh
Neil Campbell, Aberdeen

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

Bon Accord: Yoshi Chan, Peter Laing, Ryan Inglis, Rebecca Gillies, Vivian Gutierrez, Anna MacKay, Finlay Buchanan, Jude Laing, Neil Campbell, Rachel Buchanan, Ross Macleod

Buccleuch and Greyfriars: Addison Sladek, Carys Lytle, Abi Lytle, Ben Hammer, Nicholas Saragih, Fraser McKenna, Matthew Clunie, Mhairi Maclean, Amy MacLeod, Angus MacLeod, James McKenna, Iain Hammer, Eva Lytle, Sophie Saragih

Dunfermline: Robbie Ross, Nicole Sanders, Tanya Sanders, Callum Gordon, Lynn Harvey, Ben McCreadie, Iain Ross

Falkirk: Steven Randall, Andrew Tait, Lucy Anne Hartley, Duncan Morrison, Eilidh Macmillan, David Nicolson, Megan Randall, Sophie Randall, Katy Thomson, Joanna Macleod, Finlay Morrison

Leith: Abigail Fioretti, David Fioretti

London City: James Bitner, John Bitner, Samuel Bitner, Allan Fraser, Shona Fraser, Maisie Macdonald, Martin Prinsloo

Perth: Anna McGregor, Eilidh McGregor, Rebecca Gibson, Eleanor Smith, Emillie Goligher

St Andrews: Rosemary Poe, Beth Purvis, Archie Clarke, Sophie Clarke, Elijah Ylitalo

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

Ayr: Colleen Grains, Kate Paton, Joel Moyo, Samuel Douglas, Chloe Cummings

Campbeltown: Hannah Walker, Chloe Cummings, Evie Powell, Eilidh Powell, Rhys Thompson, Jim Ewart, Ruby Soper, Crissie Ewart

Coatbridge: Jacob Campbell, Rona MacIver, David Devoti, Joel Robertson, Alex Marie Wilson, Stewart Campbell

Dowanvale: Hannah Morrison (D), Hannah Redman (D), Andrew Macleod (D), Izzy Speirs (D), Iver Campbell (D), Miriam Macdonald (D), Keira Allison (D), Lachlan Kennedy (D),

Dumfries: Joni Smith (D)

Glasgow City: Kate Connor (D), Sophie Macaskill (D), Kathryn Dow (D), Lauren MacLean (D), Scott Morrison (D), Madelyn MacDougall (D), Michael Alaa (M), Lewis Connor (D), Jonathan Dow (D), Hannah Lockington (D), Georgia Macdougall (M), Joshua McGarvie (M), Alex MacLean (D), Cameron Stephen (D)

Govanhill: Morven MacIver, Rhona MacIver, Mariama Bah, Marta Couac, Ceit MacGillivray, Vanessa Nistor, Emil Nistor, Samuel Nistor

Oban: Ewen Campbell, Archie Malloch, Ealasaid MacLean, Jamie Pyper, Corey Pyper

PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

Fort William: Leonard Baak, Emma MacColl, Walter Baak

Free North: Niall Jenkins, Neil Sutherland, Rachel Cameron, Roddy MacIannan, Rachel Sutherland, James Cuthbert, Scott Montgomery, Alicia Hargreaves, Rosie Crooks

Free North (Madras Street): Lizzie Tidey, Rosie Crooks, Beth Crooks, Hannah Jeremiah, Rachel Sutherland, Alichia Hargreaves, Shaun Morrison, Struan Mackintosh, Lyall Wallace, Rian Forsyth, Shaun Esmond, Stephen Noble, Logan Williams, Aaron Hargreaves, Neil Sutherland, Jaiden, Niall Jenkins, Elise Williams, Alex Henry, Megan Stewart, Sarah Stewart, Alex Fraser, Calum Sullivan, Vinnie Sullivan, Jason Wilson, Lauren Ramsay

Greyfriars-Stratherrick: Scott Murray, Jayne Morrison (D), Bethany Gleeson (M), Lauren Maciver (M), Chloe Maciver (M), Michael Currie (M), David Flemming, Matthew Davidson (D), Rebecca MacRae (D), Rebecca MacPhail (D), Evette MacAskil (D), William MacKenzie (D), Finlay Morrison (D), Lachlan Fraser (D), Scott MacKenzie (M), Donald MacKenzie (M), Tyler Paton (D), Lachlan MacAskil (D), Eilidh Gray (D), Scott Gray (D), James MacKenzie (M), Alasdair Mackinnon, Maree MacAskil (D)

Kilmallie: Jayjay Calder, Katie Emma Connolly, Maggie Cummings, Kyle Du Plessis, Lynda Fallows, Anna Ferguson, Abi Ferguson, Jorja Haldenby, Lauren Henderson, Aidan Love, Alisha Murray, Freddie Patterson, Sally Patterson, Amy Maclean, Elspeth Murray, Megan Pescod, Heidi Smith, Talia Stoddart

Knockbain: Marina MacDonald (D), Finlay Renwick (D), Harrison Renwick (D), Ellie Stewart (D), Josh Taylor (D), Kirsty Topping (D), John Turner (D), Fraser Urquhart (D), William Urquhart (D)

Maryburgh and Killearnan: David Stewart (D), Anna Munro (D)

Nairn: Lydia MacDonald, Abigail Charters, Phebe White, Natasha Wetton, Harley Murison

Ferintosh: James Fraser, Marcus MacRae, Matthew Smart, Caitlin Magowan, Rebecca Ross, Alexander Brown, Beth Fraser, Evie Maclean-Yuille, Joshua Smart, James Stewart, Rebecca Stewart, Farquhar MacRae, Ross Stewart

Resolis: Sophie Bathgate, Rebekah Macpherson, Rebecca Ross

Urray and Strathconon: Katie Maclean, Rachel Martin, Joanna Macaskill, Chloe Macleod, Heather Macdonald, Grant Macleannan

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Helmsdale: Caitlin Martin, Lorna MacRae, Jonathan Adams, Emily Adams

Lairg: Robert Kirk, Lily Siggers, Eilidh McPhee, Keely Anne Macphee

Fearn: Abigail McCann, Rachel Ross, Hannah Paterson, Shona MacKay

North Coast: Heather Mackay, Alannah Drennan

Roskeen: Cameron, Liam, Abigail, Isabel, Anna, Neil, Donald, Liam, Samuel, Lyyla, Summer

PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

Gairloch and Kinlochewe: Anna Macleannan, Abigail Crawford, Amber Crawford, Adam Morrison, Alana Young

Lochbroom and Coigach: Abby Middleton, Chloe Middleton, Leah Cunningham, Shannon Urquhart, Fraser Macgregor, Judy Urquhart, Angus Macpherson, Daniel Heaney, Duncan MacLeod, Alasdair Last, Andrew MacLeod, Mairead Last

Poolewe and Aultbea: Charlotte Smith, Sammy Smith, Grace Stephen, Savannah Kelly, Casey MacRae, Grant Walton, Calum MacKenzie, Coll Mackenzie, Cameron MacRae, Jacob MacRae, Alasdair MacKay, Jack MacKenzie

Portree: Andrew MacRae, Isla Macinnes, Caleb Caldwell, Myles Jackson, Calum Maclean, Katie Dickson, Dean Macinnes, Freya Turner, Shannon MacLeod, Jack Evans, Archie MacDonald, Holly Maclean, Sileas Urquhart

Staffin: Jonathan Beaton, Declan Malloy

PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Back: Euan Macleod (D), Calum Macrae (D), Seumas Murray (D), Murdo Macdonald (D), Daniel Macleod (D), Glenn Martin (D), Caitlin Macleod (D), Aimee Maciver (D), Ceitlin Morrison (D), Ellen McMurdo (D), Sandy Macdonald (D), Alexander Macleod (D), Alison Graham (D), Kitty Maciver (D), Rebecca Mackenzie (D), Talia Graham (D), Olivia McElhaton (D), Isla Murray (D), Alana MacDonald (D), Cara Graham (D), Hannah Mackenzie (D), David Anderson (D), Luke Macleod (D), James Morrison (D), Colin Ferguson (D), Robert Maclellan (D), Kyle Macleod (D), Erin Macleod (D), Ellie Macdonald (D), Holly Martin (D), Ruth Cunningham (D), Jessica Macleannan (D), Claire Steven (D), Steven Mutch (D), Ross Maciver (D), James Macleannan (D), Leanne Smith (D)

Barvas: Seumas M. Smith, Kirsty Maclean, Rachel Campbell, Ross Macdonald, Maria Maclean, Faye Smith, James Macdonald, Alisha Mason, Lisa Mason

Callanish: Aaron Macdonald (D), Jacob Morrison (D), Matthew MacLean (D), Domhnall Calum Reid (D)

Cross: Katherine M. Matheson, Eilidh Ferguson, Katie MacDonald, Emma Gibbons, Alasdair MacDonald, Samuel Libby

Lochs: Samantha MacLeod (D), Ruairidh MacDonald (D), Ellis MacLeod (D), Andrew Wilson (D), Christina MacLeod (D), Daniel MacLeod (D), Alyth Campbell (D)

North Tolsta: Julia Henderson, Abby Macritchie, Alice Macintosh, Amy Macmillan, Ceit Murray, Cameron MacLeod, Eilidh Macleod

Pairc: Eric Frobisher, Stephanie Frobisher, Murdo Angus Kennedy, Isla Campbell

Shawbost: Anna Macleod (D), Olivia Macleod (M), Scott Macarthur (D), Alex Murray (M), Daniel Gillies (M), Catriona Macarthur (D), Samantha Macarthur (D), Natalie Mackay (D), Jayne Gillies (D), Ross Macdonald (D), Finlay John Macaulay (D), Tormod MacLennan (D), Daniel Macarthur (M)

Stornoway: Kenneth Macleod (D), Callum Macaulay (D), Finlay Campbell (D), Mark Morrison (D), Billy Mackay (D), Aileen Morrison (D), Kirsty Macleod (D), Leah Morrison (D), Daniel Ferguson (D), Cailean Macaulay (D), Emma MacLeod (D), Hannah Ferguson (D), Iain Campbell (D), Rachel Jefferson (D)

Tong: Adam Finlayson, Eilidh Macdonald, Heather Maciver, Tori Mackinnon, Adam Mackinnon, Eilidh Ferguson, Kelci Smith, MaryAnne Macphail, Cailean Macdonald, Grace Macleod, Jamie Ferguson, Daniel James Macdonald, Ruby Macmillan, Katie Murray, Christopher Macdonald, Cole Smith, Scott Campbell, Ajay Mohammed, Owen MacLennan

JUNIOR EXPLORATIONS

Exploring Eric Liddell

The following were awarded certificates:

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

Bon Accord: Neil Campbell

Perth: Rebecca Gibson, Eleanor Smith, Anna McGregor

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

Dumfries: Joni Smith

Glasgow City: Hannah Lockington, Lewis Connor, Cameron Stephen, Madelyn MacDougall, Georgia MacDougall

Oban: Ealasaid MacLean, Archie Malloch

PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

Greyfriars Stratherrick: Lachlan Fraser, Maree MacAskill, Lachlan MacAskill, Evette Macaskill, Finlay Morrison, Scott MacKenzie, Donald Mackenzie, Matthew Davidson, Tyler Paton, William Mackenzie, James Mackenzie

Maryburgh and Killearnan: David Stewart

Urquhart and Resolis: Rebecca Ross

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Tain and Fearn: Ellie Blackhall, Jocelyn Rose Webster, Sam McNeil, Emma Joan MacAulay, Hannah Paterson

PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

Lochbroom and Coigach: Chloe Middleton, Andrew MacLeod, Duncan MacLeod, Alasdair Last, Mairead Last

PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Callanish: Matthew Maclean, Domhnall Calum Reid

Crossbost: Daniel MacLeod

Lochs: Christian Matheson

Shawbost: Finlay John Macaulay, Tormod MacLennan, Daniel MacArthur, Catriona MacArthur, Daniel Gillies, Scott MacArthur, Samantha MacArthur

Stornoway (Central): Aileen Morrison, Finlay Campbell, Cailean Macaulay, Kenny Macleod, Iain Campbell, Daniel Ferguson, James Macmillan, Calum Macaulay, Hannah Ferguson, Mark Morrison, Billy Mackay

Tong: MaryAnne Macphail, Kelci Smith

BIBLE CLASS GRADES 1 AND 2

Numbers in brackets indicate 2014 figures.

There were 194 (183) certificates awarded and 35 (30) Explorations received.

Prizewinners:

Grade 1

- 1st Matthew Hanlon, Stornoway, *Lyle-Orr Award*
 2nd Kate Connor, Glasgow City, *Kenneth M. Mackay Memorial Prize*
 3rd Cara Macdonald, Shawbost, *Donald MacPherson Memorial Prize*
 4th Martha Stephen, Glasgow City
 5th Anna MacQueen, Greyfriars-Stratherrick
 6th Bethany Davidson, Shawbost

Grade 2

Katie Gillies, Shawbost, *Lyle-Orr Award*

Special awards for Explorations:

Anna Maria Stewart, Maryburgh and Killearnan
 Mairi Ann Urquhart, Lochbroom

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

Buccleuch and Greyfriars: Ailis Maclean, Sam Maclean, Lauren MacLeod, Michael MacLeod, Jennifer MacLeod, Conrad Sladek

Falkirk: Sam MacMillan, Tiffy Daramola, Jessica Morrison, Kayleigh Graham, Sol MacMillan, Luke Randall, Tiwi Daramola, Joshua Tait, Matthew Hartley, James Morrison

St Andrews: Fin MacDonald, Kenny MacIver, Freddie Clarke, Jeremie Rouvinez, Emma Ylitalo

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

Dowanvale: Abby Morrison (D), Lauren Allison (D), Eilidh Jenkins (D), Catriona-Mairi Cuthbert (D), Amy Buck (D), Angus Buck (D), Iain Grant (D), Ruaridh Morrison (D), Calum Morrison, (D), Donald MacDonald (D), Kirst Grant (D), Calum Morrison (D), Johanna Peters (D), Evelyn (D)

Govanhill: Alina Lingurar, Laura, Anna, Eva Nistorova

Oban: Beth Campbell, Stuart Head, Hannah Macdonald, Isla Head, Jonathan Head

PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

Fort William: Ruaridh Byrne, Daniel MacLeod, Jochem Baak

Free North: Beth Crooks, Lizzie Tidey, Heather Montgomery, Finlay Jenkins, Rian Forsyth

Free North (Madras Street): Jordan Morrison, Chloe McMeechan, Elise Ayres, Danuta Karlisone, Finlay Jenkins, Calum Jenkins, Caitlin Ayres, Hollie Smith

Greyfriars Stratherrick: Anne Mackinnon (M), Amy Murray, Kayleigh Watson, David Graham (D), Christina Gleeson (D), Anna MacQueen (D), Reanne MacRae (D), Luke Davidson (D), Skye Currie, Leanne Maciver, Lewis MacKenzie (D), Brodie Watson

Kilmallie: Siobhan Chambers, Rebekah Sarah Connolly, John Cummings, Martyn Denny, Michael Fallows, Lucy Fraser, Graham Laidlaw, William Landsborough, Janie Patterson, Herbie Patterson, Jonathan McKay, Robbie Murray, Owen Pescod

Knockbain: Debbie Hutchison (M), Samantha Hutchison (M), Sarah Oliver (M), Amy Renwick (M), Ruth Topping (M), Rachel Urquhart (M)

Maryburgh and Killearnan: Ruaraidh Munro (D), Anna Maria Stewart (D)

Ferintosh: William Fraser, Kelsey MacNab, Issy MacRae, Elmarie Matheson, Sarah Matheson, Susanna Stewart, Angus Davren, Bronwyn Mackenzie, Demi MacNab, Murray Stewart, Fergus Whitson, Talitha Matheson, Calum Seaton, Emma Stewart, Julia Stewart

Urray and Strathconon: Connor Macleod, Rhona Urquhart, Ewan Macdonald, Sarah Macdiarmid

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Fearn: Rachel Mackay, Gillian MacKay, Ruth Allan, Hannah Allan

North Coast: Anna Magee, Murron Drennan

Roskeean: Douglas, Hugh, Scott, Maria, Ewen, Dean

PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS**Gairloch and Kinlochewe:** Cameron MacIennan**Lochbroom and Coigach:** Catriona Renwick, Gordon Urquhart, Isla Macdonald, Ellie Cunningham, Mairi Urquhart.**Poolewe and Aultbea:** Carys Townsend, Cameron Walton**Portree:** Rebekah Dickson, Abby Maclean, Joseph Moller, Emma Dickson, Hallie Miles-Shinnie, Mhairi Mackinnon, Murdo MacLean, Eoin Urquhart, Corrina Coll, Finlay Turner, Fiona Macdonald, Fiona MacDonald, Mairead Urquhart, Mairead Pentland, Natasha Macleod, John Gillies, Rachael Coll, Alice Dickson, Caitlin Maclean**PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES****Back:** Andrew Ferguson (D), Reece Macritchie (D), Sandy Morrison (D), Euan Anderson (D), Calum MacIennan (D), Hannah Macleod (D), Mairi Macrae (D), Johanna McCarthy (D), Caitlin Macdonald (D), Joel Martin (D), John Alasdair Bain (D), James Mutch (D), Sophie Steven (D), Alison Smith (D)**Barvas:** Jane Finlayson, Eilidh Macdonald, Joanna Maclean, Adam Maclean**Callanish:** Eilidh Reid (D), Angus Macdonald (D), Luke Morrison (D), Uisdean Reid (D), Zara MacLean (D), Carmen Finlayson (D), Cara Macdonald (D), Isla Macinnes**Cross:** John Angus Mackay**Lochs:** Donald MacLeod (D), Eilidh Wilson (D), Laura Hope (D), Laura Ann MacLeod (D)**North Tolsta:** Marion Henderson, Alasdair MacMillan, John Angus Morrison, Kathryn Macleod**Pairc:** Rachel Macritchie, Alice MacIennan, Alasdair Kennedy, Chloe Campbell, Calum Nicolson**Shawbost:** Anna Macaulay (D), Katie Gillies (D), Cara Macdonald (D), Bethany Davidson (D), Ruairidh MacIennan (D), Duncan Shirkie (M)**Stornoway:** Matthew Hanlon (D), Megan MacSween (D)**Tong:** Aaron Macleod, Ben Macmillan, Shana Macphail, Caitlin Macdonald, Joanna Moore, Donna Maciver, Steven Macleod**BIBLE CLASS EXPLORATIONS****Exploring Eric Liddell**

The following were awarded certificates:

PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL**Glasgow City:** Kate Connor, Martha Stephen**Oban:** Stewart Head, Isla Head**PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS****Greyfriars Stratherrick:** Bethany Gleeson, Christina Gleeson, Jayne Morrison, Lewis Mackenzie, Luke Davidson, Anna MacQueen**Maryburgh and Killearnan:** Anna Munro, Ruairidh Munro, Anna Maria Stewart**PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS****Poolewe and Aultbea:** Grant Walton, Calum Ruairidh MacKenzie, Carys Townsend, Cameron Townsend**Lochbroom and Coigach:** Judith Urquhart, Abby Middleton, Leah Cunningham, Mairi Ann Urquhart, Ellie Cunningham**PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES****Crossbost:** Laura Anne MacLeod**Shawbost:** Bethany Davidson, Ruairidh MacIennan, Anna Macaulay, Ross Macdonald, Natalie Jane Mackay, Duncan Shirkie, Cara Macdonald, Katie Gillies**Stornoway:** Matthew Hanlon**Tong:** Adam Finlayson, Tori Mackinnon, Heather Maciver, Eilidh Ferguson, Eilidh Macdonald***Finding***

It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Home Missions Board: (E) Youth and the Supplementary Report.
2. The General Assembly congratulate all the young people who have gained awards and certificates and who have completed Explorations. They thank all the teachers for their devoted service in our Sunday Schools and Bible Classes and parents for their valued support.
3. The General Assembly commend the “Pointing to Jesus” ideas and resource document all ministers, those in church leadership, and Sunday school teachers to read the report.
4. The General Assembly welcome the launching of the Compass magazine to replace the Instructor. They thank the Board for the work undertaken in the launch and also in the changes to the design of the magazine.
5. The General Assembly thank Mrs Irene Howat, the current editor of the Compass magazine, and Mrs Chris Nicolson, the current editor of the Free magazine, and all those involved in producing magazines for our young people. They commend the both magazines to all to parents and children.
6. The General Assembly further thank Mrs Irene Howat for the work undertaken overseeing the Free Church Sunday School materials.
7. The General Assembly thank the Office staff, especially Mrs Sharon Fraser, who are responsible for processing and distributing materials relating to the Sunday School syllabus.
8. The General Assembly thank the children, young people and parents for contributing so generously in raising £3,660 for last year’s Youth Project – the Preshal Trust in Glasgow.
9. The General Assembly thank the Camps Supervisor, Mr Clive Bailey, and all who serve on the Camps Working Group along with the Office staff who help with the Camps administration. They commend Mr Bailey to the prayers of the Church.
10. The General Assembly thank Mrs Laura MacAulay for her work as Camps Administrator and commend her to the prayers of the church. They congratulate Laura and Daniel on the birth of their second son, Alexander. They thank Mrs Cat Mahato who has been employed as maternity cover for Laura during her absence from work.
11. The General Assembly also thank all leaders, cooks and others who have contributed to the success of last year’s programme and urge congregations to be active in supporting the work of camps in prayer.
12. The General Assembly thank Deacons’ Courts and individuals who have contributed to sponsorship for campers and leaders and encourage others who have not already done so to consider this form of financial support.
13. The General Assembly welcome the encouraging report of the first Leadership BootCamp held at Comrie Croft, Perthshire, in June 2014. They thank the Board for proposals to continue the BootCamp project for this and future years. They thank all those who helped to organise the BootCamp and all those who helped with its teaching ministry. They commend the proposed 2015 BootCamp and the intending participants to the prayers of the Church.
14. The General Assembly thank the Youth Conference Committee for arranging this year’s Conference and commend the new Committee to the prayers of the Church.
15. The General Assembly thank all those who arranged the Spring Conference and the Islands Study Conference and commend all who attended to the prayers of the Church.

3 Order of the Day

There was an Order of the Day at 7 pm.

The following Lyle-Orr Award prize-winners were introduced to the Moderator, suitably addressed, and presented with their awards:

Mark Connor	Glasgow City	Infant Grade
Ealasaid MacLean	Oban	Junior Grade
Matthew Hanlon	Stornoway	Bible Class 1
Katie Gillies	Shawbost	Bible Class 2

At the request of the Moderator Rev. Douglas MacKeddie engaged in prayer.

4 Psalmody and Praise The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Psalmody and Praise Committee, which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by Dr D. G. Mackay who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Psalmody and Praise Committee and thank the Committee for its work.
2. The General Assembly approve the Committee's terms of reference in the following terms:
 1. To promote high standards of praise including encouragement and assistance with training at congregational level, the promotion of workshops, the preparation and updating of praise manuals, and the participation of ministers;
 2. To report to the General Assembly on issues relating to the praise of the Church including the balance between the Book of Psalms, other scriptures, canticles and hymns, the choice of versions of the Psalms, other scriptures and hymns, issues of presenting and accompaniment;
 3. To oversee the production and printing of praise manuals; copyright and use of materials by other agencies; commercial and IT issues.
3. The General Assembly remind congregations that the Book of Psalms is a unique manual of praise, which should be given a central place in our worship services. They again urge upon congregations and ministers a duty of intelligent and skilful psalm-singing, and the maintenance overall of a high standard of praise.
4. The General Assembly note the publication of the third edition of *Sing Scripture* and commend it to the Church. They thank all those who have helped to produce this valuable resource.
5. The General Assembly welcome the production of a staff version of *Songs of the Spirit* (supplementing the sol-fa version) and encourage the use of this publication at congregational events such as guest services, youth work, joint services and psalmody classes.
6. The General Assembly note the usefulness of the workshop service offered by the Committee to give practice in presenting and in better congregational singing, and encourage the Church to make use of this facility.
7. The General Assembly encourage congregations to set up regular sessions for psalmody practice, with a view to improving the standard of praise, learning any as yet unfamiliar items from *Sing Psalms* and *Sing Scripture*, and for congregational fellowship.
8. The General Assembly support the Committee in its endeavours to promote an improved presence on the Free Church website and commend the Praise pages on the website to the interest of the Church.
9. The General Assembly are thankful for the interest in *Sing Psalms* (and to a lesser extent *Sing Scripture*) being shown by various churches in the UK and abroad.

At the request of the Moderator Rev. Robert Macleod engaged in prayer.

5 Petition: Rev. Ruairidh Maclean: Seat in Presbytery The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from Rev. Ruairidh Maclean with supporting documents in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly indicted to meet at Edinburgh on 18th May 2015 the Petition of Rev. Ruairidh MacLean to be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll humbly shows that:

1. Whereas your Petitioner was previously Minister at Harris Free Church in a re-development charge for five years;
2. Whereas a review of that congregation by the Presbytery of the Western Isles in 2013 recommended to the Home Missions Board that the appointment be not renewed;

3. Whereas the General Assembly following a recommendation from the Home Missions Board terminated your Petitioner's appointment from 31st July 2013;
4. Whereas your Petitioner was appointed Scottish Deputation Secretary, C.W. I., in February 2014;
5. Whereas your Petitioner has relocated to East Kilbride and has been admitted as an Elder in the Free Church there;
6. Whereas your Petitioner wishes to retain his links with the Free Church of Scotland and be available for supply therein.

Wherefore may it please your Venerable Court to receive the Petition of the Rev. Ruairidh MacLean and grant him a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll, whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery in connection with his current position as Scottish Deputation Secretary at C.W.I. and on condition that he reports annually to the Presbytery of his Ministry with C.W.I.

Or do otherwise in your wisdom you may deem best.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Rev. Ruairidh Maclean and grant its crave. They grant Mr Maclean a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery in connection with his current position as Scottish Deputation Secretary at Christian Witness to Israel and on condition that he reports annually to the Presbytery of his ministry with CWI.

6 Adjournment The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this hall on Wednesday at 9.30 o'clock forenoon, whereof public intimation having been given, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall,
the 20th day of May 2015 years at 9.30 o'clock forenoon*

1 Assembly Constituted The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises, when the following took part at the request of the Moderator:

Rev. A. J. Howat, Rev. John Ross, Mr Evan MacDonald, Mr Hugh Henderson, Rev. Dr P. J. Buys, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Ivor Macdonald, Mr Angus Macdonald, Rev. Thomas Davis and Rev. John H. MacLean.

2 Representatives from other Churches Rev. Bob Thomas, Presbyterian Church of Australia (Victoria), was introduced to the Moderator and welcomed to the Assembly.

3 Assembly Greetings It was agreed that an expression of the Assembly's sympathy and concern be sent by the Moderator to the Macarthur family of Asher's Bakery in Belfast on the light of the recent court judgement against them.

4 Minutes The minutes of the previous day's sederunt were read and approved.

5 Home Missions Board (A) – (D) The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Home Missions Board, (A) – (D) which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chair who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

It was agreed that (B) 1 and matters relating thereto be taken in private at the conclusion of the rest of the Report.

First Motion It was moved and seconded that:

(A) GENERAL

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Home Missions Board (A), (B), (C) and (D) and thank the Board especially the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Clerk, and the Missions Coordinator, Miss Sarah Macleod. They commend Miss Macleod to the prayers of the Church as she takes on the administration work of the proposed joint both Missions Boards.

2. The General Assembly thank the members and adherents of the Church who by their contributions have shown their concern for the maintenance and furtherance of a gospel ministry throughout our land.

3. The General Assembly thank the Chief Administrative Officer, the Finance Manager, and members of the Offices staff for their contribution to the work of the Board.

4. The General Assembly thank Rev. Neil MacMillan, Development Officer, for his Report and for his faithful and versatile work on behalf of the Board over the whole period of his appointment. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they terminate the Development Officer's post effective from 30th June 2015. They declare that Mr MacMillan's name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and they instruct the Home Missions Board to pay Mr MacMillan at the current rate of stipend for a period of six months from the expiry of his appointment or until his induction to another charge if earlier, according to the terms of Act IX, Class II, 2012, Paragraph Missions, 1.8. The General Assembly repeal Act IX, Class II, 2012.

(B) GENERAL ASSEMBLY REMITS

1. The General Assembly thank Rev. Duncan Peters and his wife Christine for their work in Asian Outreach, Glasgow. They terminate his appointment under the terms of Act XII, Class II, 2010, Act XVI, Class II, 1999, and Act VII, Class II, 1997, and repeal the said Acts. They appoint Rev. Duncan Peters to the work of Asian Outreach in Glasgow under the general terms of Act XV, Class II, 2013 anent Church Planting and Evangelism and in association with the terms of the Board's Project Development Plan in order to secure a self-supporting Church Plant congregation under the blessing of Almighty God. They declare the appointment to be continuous with his original induction to the work. They instruct the Board in consultation with the Presbytery to appoint suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide day-to-day management for the work until such time as Assessor Elders have been appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to form a Kirk Session with a specific and committed interest to the development of cross-cultural ministry. They further instruct the Board to make suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4, and they direct the Board to report to the 2016 General Assembly on such arrangements and on proposals for the overall financial strategy for the mission work of the Church. They

declare that the funding of the Asian Outreach work will continue according to the current arrangements until such time as the 2016 General Assembly rules on revised funding arrangements in the context of the Board's overall financial strategy for mission work.

2. The General Assembly thank the Home Missions Board for work done liaising with the Board of Ministry to identify suitably gifted church planters and evangelists who are eager to bring the good news to communities with little or no gospel witness, and also liaising with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Board to develop training suitable to church planters and evangelists at the Seminary. They welcome the training initiatives carried out in association with Porterbrook Scotland and under the guidance of Rev. Neil MacMillan. They instruct the Board to (i) continue its communication with the Board of Ministry and the College Board in seeking to identify and train suitably gifted church planters and evangelists; (ii) to co-operate with 20 Schemes to consider ways in which the Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland can support and initiate church planting or revitalisation works in those areas of greatest social need in Scotland; and (iii) to report on its progress to the 2016 General Assembly.

(C) MINISTRY

1. The General Assembly give thanks for the diligent work undertaken in all Church Extension Charges, Redevelopment Charges, Special Arrangements Charges and Locally Subsidised Charges. They call on the Church to continue in prayerful support of the work in these congregations.

2. The General Assembly note the terms of Act XI, Class II, 2010 renewing the redevelopment status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and declare that the current five-year term of redevelopment status be extended to the date of the March 2016 Commission of Assembly. They empower the said Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Home Missions Board on future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus as required by Paragraph 5 of Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to proceed without delay to prepare such a report so that it is in the hands of the Missions Board by 1st December 2015.

3. The General Assembly note the update on the Team Ministry in the North East area of Glasgow, and in particular the ongoing vacancies in the Team. They thank the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for its role in supporting the Team Ministry arrangements. They also thank the current Team members for their ministry. They call on the Church to continue in prayerful support of the work in the North East of Glasgow and that the ongoing vacancy in the Team will be filled.

4. The General Assembly note the outcome of the review of North Coast Team Ministry completed by the Northern Presbytery and they receive the Petition of the Presbytery and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they grant its crave. They terminate the North Coast Team Ministry arrangements with effect from 30th June 2015. They thank all the members of the Team for their faithful ministry in the area since the Team's inception. With effect from the same date: (1) they terminate the appointment of Rev. Howard Stone to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries. They declare that Castletown and Community congregation be granted Alternative Ministerial Arrangements according to the provisions of Act XIII, Class II, 2014 and according to the terms of the Ministry Development Plan agreed by the Presbytery, the congregation and the Home Missions Board, and under the ministry of Rev. Howard Stone with his appointment continuous with his previous induction to the charge; (2) they grant the congregation of Thurso and North Coast the status of a fully sanctioned charge with permission to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund. They terminate the appointment of Rev. Hugh Ferrier to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries with his name being added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, Eligible for Call; (3) they instruct the Northern Presbytery to proceed immediately to take the necessary and appropriate steps to fill the vacancy in the fully sanctioned charge of Thurso and North Coast in order to secure the continuity of Rev. Hugh Ferrier's ministry there should that be the will of the congregation; (4) they grant the congregation of Wick and Keiss permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund with all the costs of ministry funded from reserves held by the congregation and with the Ministry Levy payable from the date of induction of a minister; (5) they also grant Helmsdale and Kinbrace permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, with the financial arrangements such that the congregation is required to remit at least 100% of the stipend payable from the date of the induction of a minister and should there be any shortfall from the requirements of the ministry and administration levies, the Northern Presbytery shall seek to secure the balance via local support or by way of an application to the Development Fund; and (6) they terminate the appointment of Mr James Morrison as Auxiliary Worker for the Team and direct that he be paid at the rate of 80% of the current stipend until the end of December 2015. They instruct the Northern Presbytery to provide pastoral support to Mr Morrison and to investigate the possibility of arriving at a local

ministry arrangement in Lybster whereby he could continue to serve the Church. The General Assembly repeal Act VIII, Class II, 2011.

5. The General Assembly give thanks for the work of Rev. Norman Mackay at the G51 Church Plant in Govan, Glasgow. They also give thanks for the practical and prayerful support of this work and call on the Church to continue in such support of Mr Mackay and his work.

6. The General Assembly thank the members of the Evangelism Support Working Party for the help and support given to various congregations engaged in evangelistic outreach. They commend the work of the group to the interest and prayers of the Church and invite congregations who can benefit from such help and support to approach the Working Party.

7. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Covenant Church, Newmilns and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant the body of Christians worshipping in Covenant Church, Newmilns, the status of a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Covenant Church, Newmilns (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to meet *in hunc effectum* at Downvale Free Church, Glasgow on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 6.30 pm (i) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (ii) to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship to welcome them formally into the Presbytery. They direct the congregation to submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Home Missions Board with income-based confirmation of their ability to meet the full costs of ministry. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

8. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Ministry at Cobham and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They terminate the current arrangements for ministry at Cobham effective from 1st July 2015. They thank Rev. David D. Miller for his unstinting and faithful service during his twelve years as minister there. They sever Rev. David D. Miller's pastoral tie with the congregation on the said date, adding his name to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and declare that he shall be eligible for six months stipend from the date of termination according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund paragraph 6.3.5, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner. They declare that the congregation of Cobham be dissolved effective from 1st July 2015. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for the pastoral support of those affected by the dissolution of the congregation. They further instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons Court at Cobham to take immediate steps to consult with the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and with the Board of Trustees with a view to dissolving the charity known as Cobham Presbyterian Church prior to the dissolution of the congregation on 1st July 2015. They declare that any outstanding issues regarding the termination of the charitable status of Cobham on the said date be taken up by the Board of Trustees. They repeal Act XIX, Class II, 2013. They repeal Act XIX, Class II, 2013.

9. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Assistantship, Downvale, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Downvale to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2017.

10. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Northern Presbytery: Assistantship, Rosskeen, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Rosskeen to reappoint Rev. Calum Macmillan as Assistant Minister for a further three-year term in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships.

11. The General Assembly thank the Presbytery of the Western Isles for the ongoing consultation with the congregation of Harris regarding future ministry in the congregation. They authorise the October 2015 Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Home Missions Board regarding arrangements for ministry at Harris.

(D) FINANCE

1. The General Assembly note with thankfulness that all congregations granted unrestricted permission to call a minister had met their Scheduled commitment to the costs of ministry in terms of the requirement of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 regarding congregational remittances.

2. The General Assembly note that references to the percentage of stipend in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund are now obsolete and declare that the Home Missions Board should only report on cases where a review has been initiated in consultation with the Presbytery.

3. The General Assembly approve of the ongoing efforts of the Board to fulfil the requirements of Act XV, Class II, 2010, with regard to Centrally Supported Ministries.

Second Motion It was also moved and seconded that Deliverance (C) Section 8 be amended to read:

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Ministry at Cobham and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave to the extent that they declare the congregation of Cobham to be financially non-viable. They thank Rev. David D. Miller for his unstinting and faithful service during his twelve years as minister there. They sever Rev. David D. Miller's pastoral tie with the congregation on the said date, adding his name to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and declare that he shall be eligible for six months stipend from the date of termination according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund paragraph 6.3.5, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to complete the consultation process to satisfy the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2013, paragraphs 6.1.5 and 6.2.1 and to report on the completed consultation to the October 2015 Commission of Assembly. They further instruct the Presbytery to meet as soon as possible after the rising of the Assembly in order to initiate the said process.

4. **Petition: Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: North-East Glasgow Team Ministry**

The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll with supporting extract in the following terms:

(1) **Petition**

To the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland indicted to meet on 18th May 2015 the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll humbly shows:

1. Whereas the Commission of Assembly by Act I, October 2012, created a Team Ministry comprising the congregations of Bishopbriggs, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Lennoxton, in terms of Act I, 2011;
2. Whereas the Team Ministry came into effect on 1st January 2013 with three ministers according to the Team Ministry Plan;
3. Whereas two of the three ministers retired on 31st December 2013 leaving two vacancies in the Team;
4. Whereas with the agreement of the Home Missions Board the Team Ministry Plan was thereafter revised so that it was agreed to fill the vacancies by the appointment of one minister and one presbytery worker;
5. Whereas the arrangement has now been existence for nearly half of its five year course and will come to an end if not extended in December 2017;
6. Whereas it is proving very difficult to find ministers or presbytery workers willing to accept appointment to the Team Ministry with such a short period remaining until their appointment expires when there is no guarantee of continuation;
7. Whereas the filling of these posts is now therefore a matter of urgency if the Team Ministry is to operate successfully;
8. Whereas there is currently no financial impediment to filling the posts;
9. Whereas the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll has agreed to fund any shortfall in funding;
10. Whereas Act I, 2011, did not envisage a casual vacancy arising in the team ministry so as to give rise to this difficulty and made no provision to remedy this;

Wherefore the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll humbly requests the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and, noting the particular circumstances of this vacancy to which Act I, 2011, provides no remedy, to

waive the requirements of Act I, 2011, § 5.5 to the extent (1) in the event of the Team Ministry arrangement being terminated at the end of the current five-year period, any minister appointed hereafter may then be appointed to one of the constituent congregations in the Team Ministry for the remainder of the period of his terminable appointment subject to the submission by the Presbytery of a suitable ministerial plan to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board and a guarantee that the congregation is able to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry, or that any shortfall will be met by the Presbytery in terms of Act XIV, 2013; (2) that similarly any presbytery worker appointed shall be permitted to complete his three-year term on the provision of similar funding guarantees to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.

Third Motion It was moved and seconded that:

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. Noting the particular circumstances of this vacancy to which Act I, 2011, provides no remedy, they waive the requirements of Act I, 2011, § 5.5 to the extent (1) in the event of the Team Ministry arrangement being terminated at the end of the current five-year period, any minister appointed hereafter may then be appointed to one of the constituent congregations in the Team Ministry for the remainder of the period of his terminable appointment subject to the submission by the Presbytery of a suitable ministerial plan to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board and a guarantee that the congregation is able to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry, or that any shortfall will be met by the Presbytery in terms of Act XIV, 2013; (2) that similarly any presbytery worker appointed shall be permitted to complete his three-year term on the provision of similar funding guarantees to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.

The General Assembly met in private.

The General Assembly took up consideration of the Report of the Home Missions Board (B) 1: Asian Outreach.

Forth Motion It was moved and seconded that:

The General Assembly thank Rev. Duncan Peters and his wife Christine for their work in Asian Outreach, Glasgow. They terminate his appointment under the terms of Act XII, Class II, 2010, Act XVI, Class II, 1999, and Act VII, Class II, 1997, and repeal the said Acts. They appoint Rev. Duncan Peters to the work of Asian Outreach in Glasgow under the general terms of Act XV, Class II, 2013 anent Church Planting and Evangelism and in association with the terms of the Board's Project Development Plan in order to secure a self-supporting Church Plant congregation under the blessing of Almighty God. They declare the appointment to be continuous with his original induction to the work. They instruct the Board in consultation with the Presbytery to appoint suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide day-to-day management for the work until such time as Assessor Elders have been appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to form a Kirk Session with a specific and committed interest to the development of cross-cultural ministry. They further instruct the Board to make suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4, and they direct the Board to report to the 2016 General Assembly on such arrangements and on proposals for the overall financial strategy for the mission work of the Church. They declare that the funding of the Asian Outreach work will continue according to the current arrangements until such time as the 2016 General Assembly rules on revised funding arrangements in the context of the Board's overall financial strategy for mission work.

Fifth Motion It was also moved and seconded that:

The General Assembly thank Rev. Duncan Peters and his wife Christine for their dedicated work in Asian Outreach, Glasgow for the past 16 years. In light of the unique and long term nature of the work in Asian Outreach and the need for more meaningful consultation and discussion about its future, they postpone approval of the proposed Asian Outreach Development Plan until it can be reviewed by the new Missions Board in consultation with concerned parties. They continue the appointment of Mr Peters for a further year under the current funding arrangements, extending Acts XII, 2010, and Act VII, 1997 for this purpose, the work to be managed by the Glasgow and Argyll's Presbytery Asian Outreach Management Committee in liaison with the proposed new Mission Board. They further instruct the Board to bring proposals for the future of the work to the General Assembly of 2016.

On a note being taken between the Fifth Motion and the Fourth Motion, the Forth Motion was declared carried by a majority.

The General Assembly met in public.

With the permission of the General Assembly, the Chairman accepted the Second Motion and the Third Motion.

Finding Wherefore:

(A) GENERAL

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Home Missions Board (A), (B), (C) and (D) and thank the Board especially the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Clerk, and the Missions Coordinator, Miss Sarah Macleod. They commend Miss Macleod to the prayers of the Church as she takes on the administration work of the proposed joint Missions Boards.
2. The General Assembly thank the members and adherents of the Church who by their contributions have shown their concern for the maintenance and furtherance of a gospel ministry throughout our land.
3. The General Assembly thank the Chief Administrative Officer, the Finance Manager, and members of the Offices staff for their contribution to the work of the Board.
4. The General Assembly thank Rev. Neil MacMillan, Development Officer, for his Report and for his faithful and versatile work on behalf of the Board over the whole period of his appointment. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they terminate the Development Officer's post effective from 30th June 2015. They declare that Mr MacMillan's name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and they instruct the Home Missions Board to pay Mr MacMillan at the current rate of stipend for a period of six months from the expiry of his appointment or until his induction to another charge if earlier, according to the terms of Act IX, Class II, 2012, Paragraph Missions, 1.8. The General Assembly repeal Act IX, Class II, 2012.

(B) GENERAL ASSEMBLY REMITS

1. The General Assembly thank Rev. Duncan Peters and his wife Christine for their work in Asian Outreach, Glasgow. They terminate his appointment under the terms of Act XII, Class II, 2010, Act XVI, Class II, 1999, and Act VII, Class II, 1997, and repeal the said Acts. They appoint Rev. Duncan Peters to the work of Asian Outreach in Glasgow under the general terms of Act XV, Class II, 2013 anent Church Planting and Evangelism and in association with the terms of the Board's Project Development Plan in order to secure a self-supporting Church Plant congregation under the blessing of Almighty God. They declare the appointment to be continuous with his original induction to the work. They instruct the Board in consultation with the Presbytery to appoint suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide day-to-day management for the work until such time as Assessor Elders have been appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to form a Kirk Session with a specific and committed interest to the development of cross-cultural ministry. They further instruct the Board to make suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4, and they direct the Board to report to the 2016 General Assembly on such arrangements and on proposals for the overall financial strategy for the mission work of the Church. They declare that the funding of the Asian Outreach work will continue according to the current arrangements until such time as the 2016 General Assembly rules on revised funding arrangements in the context of the Board's overall financial strategy for mission work.
2. The General Assembly thank the Home Missions Board for work done liaising with the Board of Ministry to identify suitably gifted church planters and evangelists who are eager to bring the good news to communities with little or no gospel witness, and also liaising with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Board to develop training suitable to church planters and evangelists at the Seminary. They welcome the training initiatives carried out in association with Porterbrook Scotland and under the guidance of Rev. Neil MacMillan. They instruct the Board to (i) continue its communication with the Board of Ministry and the College Board in seeking to identify and train suitably gifted church planters and evangelists; (ii) to co-operate with 20 Schemes to consider ways in which the Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland can support and initiate church planting or revitalisation works in those areas of greatest social need in Scotland; and (iii) to report on its progress to the 2016 General Assembly.

(C) MINISTRY

1. The General Assembly give thanks for the diligent work undertaken in all Church Extension Charges, Redevelopment Charges, Special Arrangements Charges and Locally Subsidised Charges. They call on the Church to continue in prayerful support of the work in these congregations.
2. The General Assembly note the terms of Act XI, Class II, 2010 renewing the redevelopment status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and declare that the current five-year term of redevelopment status be extended to the date of the March 2016 Commission of Assembly. They empower the said Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Home Missions Board on future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus as required by Paragraph 5 of Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness,

Lochaber and Ross to proceed without delay to prepare such a report so that it is in the hands of the Missions Board by 1st December 2015.

3. The General Assembly note the update on the Team Ministry in the North East area of Glasgow, and in particular the ongoing vacancies in the Team. They thank the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for its role in supporting the Team Ministry arrangements. They also thank the current Team members for their ministry. They call on the Church to continue in prayerful support of the work in the North East of Glasgow and that the ongoing vacancy in the Team will be filled.

4. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. Noting the particular circumstances of this vacancy to which Act I, 2011, provides no remedy, they waive the requirements of Act I, 2011, § 5.5 to the extent (1) in the event of the Team Ministry arrangement being terminated at the end of the current five-year period, any minister appointed hereafter may then be appointed to one of the constituent congregations in the Team Ministry for the remainder of the period of his terminable appointment subject to the submission by the Presbytery of a suitable ministerial plan to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board and a guarantee that the congregation is able to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry, or that any shortfall will be met by the Presbytery in terms of Act XIV, 2013; (2) that similarly any presbytery worker appointed shall be permitted to complete his three-year term on the provision of similar funding guarantees to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.

5. The General Assembly note the outcome of the review of North Coast Team Ministry completed by the Northern Presbytery and they receive the Petition of the Presbytery and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they grant its crave. They terminate the North Coast Team Ministry arrangements with effect from 30th June 2015. They thank all the members of the Team for their faithful ministry in the area since the Team's inception. With effect from the same date: (1) they terminate the appointment of Rev. Howard Stone to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries. They declare that Castletown and Community congregation be granted Alternative Ministerial Arrangements according to the provisions of Act XIII, Class II, 2014 and according to the terms of the Ministry Development Plan agreed by the Presbytery, the congregation and the Home Missions Board, and under the ministry of Rev. Howard Stone with his appointment continuous with his previous induction to the charge; (2) they grant the congregation of Thurso and North Coast the status of a fully sanctioned charge with permission to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund. They terminate the appointment of Rev. Hugh Ferrier to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries with his name being added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, Eligible for Call; (3) they instruct the Northern Presbytery to proceed immediately to take the necessary and appropriate steps to fill the vacancy in the fully sanctioned charge of Thurso and North Coast in order to secure the continuity of Rev. Hugh Ferrier's ministry there should that be the will of the congregation; (4) they grant the congregation of Wick and Keiss permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund with all the costs of ministry funded from reserves held by the congregation and with the Ministry Levy payable from the date of induction of a minister; (5) they also grant Helmsdale and Kinbrace permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, with the financial arrangements such that the congregation is required to remit at least 100% of the stipend payable from the date of the induction of a minister and should there be any shortfall from the requirements of the ministry and administration levies, the Northern Presbytery shall seek to secure the balance via local support or by way of an application to the Development Fund; and (6) they terminate the appointment of Mr James Morrison as Auxiliary Worker for the Team and direct that he be paid at the rate of 80% of the current stipend until the end of December 2015. They instruct the Northern Presbytery to provide pastoral support to Mr Morrison and to investigate the possibility of arriving at a local ministry arrangement in Lybster whereby he could continue to serve the Church. The General Assembly repeal Act VIII, Class II, 2011.

6. The General Assembly give thanks for the work of Rev. Norman Mackay at the G51 Church Plant in Govan, Glasgow. They also give thanks for the practical and prayerful support of this work and call on the Church to continue in such support of Mr Mackay and his work.

7. The General Assembly thank the members of the Evangelism Support Working Party for the help and support given to various congregations engaged in evangelistic outreach. They commend the work of the group to the interest and prayers of the Church and invite congregations who can benefit from such help and support to approach the Working Party.

8. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Covenant Church, Newmilns and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant the body of

Christians worshipping in Covenant Church, Newmilns, the status of a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Covenant Church, Newmilns (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to meet *in hunc effectum* at Downvale Free Church, Glasgow on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 6.30 pm (i) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (ii) *to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship to welcome them formally into the Presbytery*. They direct the congregation to submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Home Missions Board with income-based confirmation of their ability to meet the full costs of ministry. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

9. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Ministry at Cobham and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave to the extent that they declare the congregation of Cobham to be financially non-viable. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to complete the consultation process to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund paragraph 6.1.5 and 6.2.1 and to report on the completed consultation to the October 2015 Commission of Assembly. They further instruct the Presbytery to meet as soon as possible after the rising of the Assembly in order to initiate the said process.

10. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Assistantship, Downvale, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Downvale to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2017.

11. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Northern Presbytery: Assistantship, Rosskeen, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Rosskeen to reappoint Rev. Calum Macmillan as Assistant Minister for a further three-year term in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships.

12. The General Assembly thank the Presbytery of the Western Isles for the ongoing consultation with the congregation of Harris regarding future ministry in the congregation. They authorise the October 2015 Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Home Missions Board regarding arrangements for ministry at Harris.

(D) FINANCE

1. The General Assembly note with thankfulness that all congregations granted unrestricted permission to call a minister had met their Scheduled commitment to the costs of ministry in terms of the requirement of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 regarding congregational remittances.

2. The General Assembly note that references to the percentage of stipend in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund are now obsolete and declare that the Home Missions Board should only report on cases where a review has been initiated in consultation with the Presbytery.

3. The General Assembly approve of the ongoing efforts of the Board to fulfil the requirements of Act XV, Class II, 2010, with regard to Centrally Supported Ministries.

6 Covenant Church, Newmilns Mr Angus Steel, a member of the present eldership in Covenant Church, Newmilns was introduced to the Moderator.

7 Order of the Day There was an Order of the Day for the reception of Delegates.

The following Delegates were introduced to the Moderator and invited to address the Assembly:

Rev. Robert Johnstone	Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland
Ms Elaine Duncan	Scottish Bible Society
Rev. Dr P. J. Buys	Reformed Churches in South Africa
Rev. Fred Drummond	Evangelical Alliance
Rev. Thomas Dreyer	Reformed Churches in South Africa

8 Adjournment The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall at 6.30 o'clock evening whereof public intimation having been given, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall,
the 20th day of May 2015 years at 6.30 o'clock evening*

1 Assembly Constituted The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.

2 Supplementary Report: Home Missions Board: Ecumenical Relations The General Assembly took up consideration of a Supplementary Report from the Home Missions Board in the following terms:

It has been a very productive year as far as meaningful ecumenical relations have been concerned. The committee have changed the emphasis in that they now focus on the development of organic relationships with other churches rather than on relations which are perceived to be on a more formal basis. In practical terms we shall still exchange letters with like-minded denominations but we shall place more emphasis on developing local networking.

The following contacts and initiatives are noteworthy:

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) A meeting was held with Rev. Andy Hunter the Scotland Director of the FIEC. At present this is a small grouping with less than 20 churches but it is growing. The links with FIEC are being further strengthened through discussions regarding accessing the resources at Edinburgh Theological Seminary. Contact with FIEC churches (Charlotte Chapel, and Niddrie Community Church) through the East of Scotland Gospel Partnership has proved to be fruitful.

Niddrie Community Church and the wider work of Twenty Schemes has been an excellent platform in training our people in evangelism and church planting in our most deprived areas. A number of our students have had significant contact with Twenty Schemes.

Associated Presbyterian Churches (Scotland) There has been one meeting with the APC which was helpful. The APC is a small denomination with less than 300 members. They are noted for having a catholicity of spirit and this along with the fact that we share a similar view of subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith has led us to seek closer relations and even discuss union. The need for closer ties is highlighted by the fact that the two denominations operate often smaller struggling churches in the same locality.

Scottish Reformed Churches Forum This was an initiative of the APC which brought together representatives of the following Scottish Churches: Free Church of Scotland, Associated Presbyterian Churches, Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) and the International Presbyterian Church. There have been several meetings of this grouping under the able and gracious chairmanship of Rev Ian Hamilton of Cambridge. There was initial enthusiasm for this but momentum seems to have been lost during the last year. A joint statement was agreed by all parties apart from the FCC.

Affinity We are thankful for contact with other gospel centred churches and organisations in the UK. We are represented at all the Affinity council meetings which take place in London twice a year. Affinity has been an important platform for networking and sharing information. We are delighted to recommend the Affinity website at www.affinity.org.uk which is a significant resource as well as containing news about developments within Affinity. We are pleased to welcome the new Chairman of Affinity Rev. Paul Spear and also to thank the Director Rev. Peter Milsom and his assistant, Rev. Matthew Evans for all that they do.

International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) We continue as members of the ICRC. The Free Church of Scotland are founder members of the ICRC and are supportive of its aims and objectives.

The next conference is expected to be held in Ontario, Canada in 2017.

World Reformed Fellowship The World Fellowship of Reformed Churches (WFRC) was formed in 1994 by the Presbyterian Church in America, the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico, the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, and connected evangelical denominations from most of the countries of Latin America plus churches in India, East Africa and the United States. The International Reformed Fellowship (IRF) was also organized in 1994 to join evangelical Reformed leaders from Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, and all across Asia.

The WRF was formed to encourage understanding and cooperation among evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed denominations and institutions, and to link those institutions having ministry resources with those possessing vision but few resources. The fellowship promotes Reformed thinking, a Reformed world and life view, fosters evangelism

and strategies on missions, church planting and theological education, and promotes international communication for the further advancement of the Gospel.

The doctrinal position of WRF is stated as follows:

‘WRF stresses that, unlike other international bodies which have sought to unite Reformed Christians, WRF is a fellowship, not a council. Councils tend to require tight agreement doctrinally or in polity, or focus on mutual declarations of an academic nature. WRF is designed to surmount difficulties caused by geographic, cultural, or linguistic barriers and to offer a gathering point where Reformed leaders can grow to know one another and then work out mutually beneficial cooperative agreements. WRF provides one level of fellowship for denominations and another for agencies, institutions, lay persons and leaders. Each member will naturally agree with the following:

1. We affirm the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the authoritative, God-breathed and inerrant Word of God.
2. We stand in the mainstream of the historic Christian Faith in affirming the following creeds of the early Church: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Chalcedon Creed.
3. More specifically, every member must affirm one of the following historic expressions of the Reformed Faith: the Gallican, the Scots, the Belgic, or the Heidelberg Catechism Confessions; the Canons of Dort, the Westminster Confessions of Faith, the London Confessions of 1689, and the Savoy Declaration.’
4. We have had increasing contact with the WRF. Rev. Dr Fergus MacDonald and Rev. Dr John Nicholls are both on the Board of Directors. Fergus MacDonald attended their fourth General Assembly held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in March of this year. We already have a formal link with the WRF as the Edinburgh Theological Seminary is a member and many of our ministers are personal members. It is simple to become a personal member, there is a membership application which is easily accessible on the web site.
5. We recommend that the Free Church of Scotland apply to join the WRF as a means to extend our ecumenical reach.

Local Initiatives There have been a number of local initiatives. The following are some just some examples from the many our local congregations are involved in.

Joint Pentecost Service held in Culloden, Inverness A number of churches in the parish unite together under a very simple basis of faith for those who take part (UCCF doctrinal basis).

Dundee Evangelical Christian Alliance (DECA) Evangelical church leaders meet monthly for prayer and lunch and the churches meet annually for a joint service.

In Dornoch the leadership of the FCS and Dornoch Christian Fellowship have met together for prayer, the two congregations have had one joint evening service and a joint Christmas carol service. This is a great example of how two fellowships which perhaps did not have the best of relationships in the past are now moving on in unity and reconciliation.

Glenurquhart are involved in an annual Picnic and praise event at the historic Urquhart Castle on the shore of Loch Ness. They also have a monthly united prayer meeting, alternatively hosted by the Free Church and the Church of Scotland which brings together Free Church, Church of Scotland and Episcopalian evangelicals.

The Gairloch and District outreach group (GDO) comprises of leaders from Poolewe and Aultbea Free Church, Gairloch and Kinlochewe Free Church and Gairloch and Dundonnell Church of Scotland. GDO arrange pulpit swaps, joint service, various evangelistic initiatives and an annual communion service.

In Aberdeen Bon Accord Free Church join with Gilcomston Church and Hebron Evangelical Church to run a children's holiday club during the summer holiday.

The Committee would be glad to both encourage and advise other congregations who wish to organise similar events.

Legislation It is hoped to review the existing legislation regarding the various categories of relationships which we have with other denominations. We expect to present this new legislation to the General Assembly of 2016.

Future Possibilities The Committee are always open to suggestions regarding new ecumenical partners. It is proposed to contact the Presbyterian Church of Ireland to establish more meaningful contact. The committee noted the growing strength of evangelicalism within the PCI and wish to discuss matters of mutual interest. There is also a proposal to establish links with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil. In recent days we have had contact with the church of Central Africa, Presbyterian (CCAP) in Malawi, with the Livingstonia Synod.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Ecumenical Relations Committee of the Home Missions Board and thank the Chairman and members for their work.
2. The General Assembly thank the Committee for their diligence in promoting good relations with Churches and organisations in the UK and abroad.
3. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr Fergus MacDonald for attending the fourth General Assembly of the World Reformed Fellowship held in Sao Paulo, Brazil in March, 2015.
4. The General Assembly agree to the Free Church of Scotland applying to join the World Reformed Fellowship as a denominational member.
5. The General Assembly are thankful for the continued ministry and encouragement of Affinity and express their thankfulness for the service of its director, Rev. Peter Milson, the assistant to the director, Rev. Matthew Evans and the new Council Chairman, Rev. Paul Spear.
6. The General Assembly thank Rev. David Meredith for representing the Free Church of Scotland on the Affinity Council.
7. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr John Ross, Rev. David Meredith and Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean who met with representatives of the Associated Presbyterian Churches in Scotland (APC). They extend their best wishes and prayerful interest in the APC and encourage further talks with them.
8. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell, Rev. David Meredith and Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean for their attendance at the Scottish Reformed Churches forum. They thank Rev. Ian Hamilton for his gracious chairing of the forum. They await further developments with interest.
9. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean for his attendance at the General Assembly of the PCA in 2014.
10. The General Assembly are thankful for the development of the work of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) and look forward to closer co-operation with them, especially in Scotland. They commend the work of the national director, Rev. John Stevens and the Scottish director, Rev. Andy Hunter to the prayers of the denomination.
11. The General Assembly are thankful to God for the work of Twenty Schemes in the most socially deprived areas of Scotland. They commend the initiative to the prayers of our people and offer their continued prayerful support to Rev. Mez McConnell and his team.
12. The General Assembly note with thankfulness the various local ecumenical initiatives throughout Scotland, the rest of the UK and internationally. They encourage the development of such activities where there is clear gospel intentionality and a commitment to core evangelical principles.
13. The General Assembly note the proposed revision of categories of relationships which we have with various denominations and bodies and anticipate legislation to be presented to the General Assembly of 2016.

14. The General Assembly note the possibilities of greater contact with the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, The Presbyterian Church of Brazil and the church of Central Africa, Presbyterian (CCAP) in Malawi, with the Livingstonia Synod. They encourage the Board and the Committee to pursue these possibilities.

3 Seminary Board The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Seminary Board which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report, and thank the Board for its work, especially the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
2. The General Assembly express their thankfulness to God for the full-time staff of Edinburgh Theological Seminary and for their commitment to and competency in teaching the Reformed Faith. They also thank God for the visiting lecturers and their contribution to the instruction of students. They commend the work of the Seminary to the prayers of the Church.
3. The General Assembly thank Rev. Iver Martin for functioning as part-time Principal for the past two years and for providing wise and enthusiastic leadership of the Seminary.
4. The General Assembly acknowledge their deep gratitude to Stornoway Free Church for the sacrifice they have been called to make while their Pastor has been working as part-time Principal of the Seminary.
5. The General Assembly thank the Seminary Secretary, Mrs Heather Watson, for her enthusiastic and dedicated work for the Board and in the Seminary. They also thank Mr Colin Morrison for his cheerfulness, competence and commitment to his work as Property Officer.
6. The General Assembly are gratified with the increase in number of students participating in the various programmes of study offered by the Seminary.
7. The General Assembly are grateful for the good relations between the Seminary and Glasgow University.
8. The General Assembly commend the Seminary Board for producing a flexible Five Year Plan and thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Professor John Angus Macleod and Rev. Fergus Macdonald for their contributions.
9. The General Assembly commend the Board and the Seminary for the intention to have a Mission Centre in the Seminary.
10. The General Assembly note the Board's plans to provide larger study areas in the Seminary and encourage this development as soon as possible.
11. The General Assembly commend the Board and Seminary for the intention to have a Distance Learning Facility in the Seminary.
12. The General Assembly recognise the need for the Seminary to have an IT Administrator to oversee the Seminary's use of computer technology. The General Assembly also thank Professor John Angus Macleod for being responsible for IT maintenance and development for the last several years.
13. The General Assembly encourage the Seminary to provide Office-Bearer Training modules.
14. The General Assembly regard with interest the intention to produce an on-line journal connected to the Seminary and encourage the Board to proceed with this.
15. The General Assembly commend the Fundraising and Marketing Committee for its various initiatives to increase public awareness of ETS, including ETS Roadshow events. The General Assembly also express its gratitude to Sharon Macleod for designing the Seminary leaflets and brochures, and Catriona Stewart for providing suitable photographs.
16. The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the appointment of Principal to Edinburgh Theological Seminary:

1. *The Resignation of the Principal*

A Principal who is due to retire, or who intends to resign from his duties, shall intimate this fact, whenever possible, to the Seminary Board by 1st May of the year which precedes his final year in office.

2. *The Remit of the New Principal*

On receiving notice of such intention to retire, or on a vacancy otherwise occurring in the Principalship, the Board shall consider the remit of the Principal in the light of the most recent revision of the Five-year Plan and make any necessary adjustments.

3. *Nominations for the New Principal*

The Seminary Board shall write to Presbyteries informing them of the impending vacancy in the office of Principal, drawing attention to the terms of the Remit and the following requirements and asking for two nominations:

- 3.1. The remit of the Principal is to further the key mission objectives of the Seminary.
- 3.2. In fulfilment of these objectives, the Principal's remit shall normally include co-ordination, administration, supervision and part-time teaching internally, and representation, promotion of the Seminary and its mission objectives externally.
- 3.3. All suitable candidates must subscribe to the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and be ordained ministers in the Free Church of Scotland.
- 3.4. As the remit of the Principal will normally including part-time teaching and supervision within the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, the Seminary Board must ensure that the teaching of core subjects is carried out by staff who are suitably qualified at postgraduate level, in terms of Act XXVI, 2014 and reformed in doctrine, worship and practice.
- 3.5. The Principal is expected to uphold the witness, dignity and prestige of the Seminary without detriment to good relations, and also takes note of any actions or proposed actions on the part of others that could either benefit or prejudice the Seminary.
- 3.6. Any new additions to the remit arising from the review of the key mission objectives contained in the Edinburgh Theology Seminary Vision Five-year Plan mentioned above.

4. *Interviews for New Principal*

- 4.1. The Seminary Board shall appoint an interview panel from its own members, and identify a suitable list of candidates for interview from the nominations listed above, in addition to any new Seminary Board nominees.
- 4.2. Upon completion of all interviews the interviewing panel will make a recommendation to the Seminary Board. If the Seminary Board agrees with the recommendation, the successful candidate will be informed as soon as possible as to the Board's decision and asked to accept the appointment within a timeframe set by the Board.

5. *Appointment of New Principal*

In the event of his willingness to take up the appointment, and if the appointee is already an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, he will be inducted to the position by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth after following a procedure on the analogy of a call to a pastoral charge, all parties retaining the right of Appeal or Dissent and Complaint to the General Assembly. The new Principal will be granted a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

6. *Remuneration*

A full time Principal will be remunerated at a salary set by the Seminary Board in keeping with its budget constraints. The total remuneration package of a Principal must not be less than that of a minister in a pastoral charge in the Free Church of Scotland.

7. *Terms of Appointment*

The newly appointed Principal must sign Terms of Appointment as agreed by the Seminary Board.

8. *Term of Office*

The term of office for a Principal will normally be five years, renewable with the consent of the Principal and the Seminary Board.

9. *Call to Principal*

In the event of a Principal of the Seminary accepting a Call to a pastoral charge, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth are empowered to loose him from his charge. The Presbytery shall immediately inform the Seminary Board of such a Call.

Rev Andy Hunter, Scottish Secretary, FIEC, was introduced to the Moderator and welcomed to the Assembly.

4 Supplementary Report: Seminary Board: Appointment of Principal The General Assembly called for the Supplementary Report of the Seminary Board, in the following terms, which being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

The 2013 General Assembly appointed Rev. Iver Martin, minister of Stornoway Free Church of Scotland, to serve as part-time Principal of the Free Church College for two years. During that period, the name was changed to Edinburgh Theological Seminary (ETS). The temporary arrangement for the Principalship ceases with this year's General Assembly.

In line with legislation requirements, the Seminary Board asked Presbyteries for nominations for the next Principal. Each Presbytery could nominate two persons. The Seminary Board, when making this request, informed the Presbyteries that it intended to ask this year's General Assembly to appoint a full-time Principal.

The nominations from the Presbyteries were as follows:

Northern	Rev. Iver Martin
Glasgow and Argyll	Rev. Iver Martin, Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell
Skye and Wester Ross	Rev. Iver Martin, Professor John Angus Macleod
Western Isles	Rev Iver Martin, Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell
Edinburgh and Perth	Rev. Iver Martin
Inverness, Lochaber and Ross	Rev. Iver Martin, Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean

Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell, Professor John Angus Macleod and Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean each withdrew their names.

As can be seen from the list of nominations, Rev. Iver Martin is a unanimous choice from the Presbyteries (the Seminary Board did not receive a response from the American Presbyteries).

The Seminary Board unanimously agrees with the nomination of Rev. Iver Martin for the position of full-time Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

MALCOLM MACLEAN, *Chairman*

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Supplementary Report of the Seminary Board and thank the Board.
2. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Iver Martin, B.Sc. as Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary in accordance with current legislation.

3. The General Assembly hereby release Mr Martin from his present pastoral charge at Stornoway Free Church and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps to induct him to the post of Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary not later than 7th September 2015, his relationship to his present charge to continue until he be inducted to the post aforesaid.

4. The General Assembly grant Rev. Iver Martin a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth from the date of his induction for as long as he remains Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

5. The General Assembly direct that in the event of the termination of Mr Martin's appointment his name shall be placed on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call and he shall receive his remuneration for a period of six months from that date or until such time as he receives a new appointment, whichever is sooner.

The Moderator intimated the finding of the General Assembly to Rev. Iver Martin. Mr Martin stated his willingness to accept the appointment.

At the request of the Moderator Rev. James Maciver engaged in prayer.

Mr Norman Macleod, elder at Stornoway, expressed the good wishes of the Kirk Session and congregation of Stornoway on Mr Martin's appointment.

5 Presentation: Seminary Board A presentation promoting the Edinburgh Theological Seminary was made.

6 Petition: Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross: Union of Kilmorack and Kiltarlity

The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, appointed to meet in Edinburgh on 18th May 2015, the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross humbly shows that:

1. Whereas the Free Church congregation in Beaully (Kilmorack) has been under the control of those who left the Free Church in January 2000, and the congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass was consolidated with Glen Urquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church in May 2008;

2. Whereas the church building at Fasnakyle (Strathglass) was subsequently disposed of and the resultant funds were disbursed for gospel purposes;

3. Whereas the church building and manse at Beaully (Kilmorack) remain occupied by the FCC congregation and it is desirable to resolve matters of disputed property in the near future;

4. Whereas the nearest Free Church congregation, located at Kiltarlity, has experienced growth and now has a full time pastor and properly functioning local church courts, and the Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Free Church does not own a manse for the use of their pastor, and the congregation is minded to extend its outreach work into the Beaully community;

5. Whereas the Presbytery recommend to all interested parties that the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass be disjoined from the congregation of Glen Urquhart and Fort Augustus, and that the congregation of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill be united with Kilmorack and Strathglass, under one Kirk Session and Deacons' Court, the new united congregation to be known as Kiltarlity, Kirkhill and Beaully Free Church, with freedom to use whatever name seems best for local publicity purposes;

6. Whereas the Presbytery recommend that steps be taken to resolve matters of disputed property; and to facilitate this Presbytery recommend that Permission be given to the congregation to take steps to reclaim, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property in Beaully in the interests of the gospel and for the good of the congregation;

7. Whereas the congregations of Glen Urquhart and Fort Augustus and of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill have been consulted and have agreed to the terms of this petition; Wherefore your Petitioners request that your Venerable Court disjoin the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from Glen Urquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church and unite the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass with Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Free Church, the united congregation to be known formally as Kiltarlity, Kirkhill

and Beaully Free Church, with freedom to use whatever name seems best for local publicity purposes, the united congregation having one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court.

Furthermore your Petitioners request that authority be granted to the united congregation to reclaim, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property in Beaully in the interests of the gospel and for the good of the congregation, any transaction to be carried out under the oversight of the Free Church legal officer, and that any capital released and any interest payable upon the capital shall be held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation, with the interest and capital being made available to the congregation on due application for the provision of a manse or for other congregational purposes.

Or do otherwise, as your Venerable Court may be pleased to order.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross and grant its crave.

(1) They disjoin the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church and unite the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass with Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Free Church, the united congregation to be known formally as Kiltarlity, Kirkhill and Beaully Free Church, with freedom to use whatever name seems best for local publicity purposes, the united congregation having one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court.

(2) Furthermore they authorise the united congregation to reclaim, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property in Beaully in the interests of the gospel and for the good of the congregation, any transaction to be carried out under the oversight of the Free Church legal officer, and that any capital released and any interest payable upon the capital to be held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation, with the interest and capital being made available to the congregation on due application for the provision of a manse or for other congregational purposes.

7 Adjournment The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall on Thursday at 9.30 o'clock forenoon, whereof public intimation having been given, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall,
the 21st day of May 2015 years at 9.30 o'clock forenoon*

1 Assembly Constituted The General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.

2 Minutes The minutes of the previous day's sederunts were read and approved.

3 Board of Ministry The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Board of Ministry which, being printed and the in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

First Motion: It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the report and thank the Board, especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Clerk.

2. The General Assembly give thanks to Almighty God that he continues to call and equip men for the ministry of the Church. They encourage congregations to be diligent in supporting prayerfully and practically all students and their families, and those entrusted with training.

3. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr David Ford and Mr George Maclean for coordinating the recent In-Service Training Course. The Assembly further thank Mr Donald MacDonald for his generosity in providing, at a much reduced cost, accommodation and meals at the Holyrood Hotel.

4. The General Assembly remind Presbyteries to take great care when processing Applications for the Ministry, to ensure that referees have the knowledge to make judgements on an applicant's character and skills, following up references where necessary, and making a proper assessment of the applicant's giftedness for teaching, preaching, inter-personal skills, Christian character and temperament.

5. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to investigate with the Seminary Board and Senate the possibility of creating a Diploma or Licentiate award for candidates on modified courses who will not qualify for a BTh award.

6. The General Assembly, in view of the ongoing uncertainty of the church scene in Scotland at present, waive the requirement of Act XXXV, 2005, that authority to grant admission to ministers of other denominations lies solely with the General Assembly and empowers the Commission of Assembly at its meetings before the General Assembly of 2016, to receive and dispose of any such applications seeking admission to the Free Church ministry duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry.

7. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry on routes into ministry and endorse the Board's policy that it shall no longer be the normal requirement for applicants under the age of thirty to possess a qualification at degree level prior to being accepted as a candidate for the ministry. The General Assembly direct the Board of Ministry to advise each applicant individually on the best course of action to take preparatory to obtaining formal training for the ministry.

8. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to consult the Missions Board and the Presbyteries of the Church on appropriate routes into ministry and the varying types of ministry model that are biblical and necessary for the health of the church.

9. The General Assembly note Appendix One in the Report of the Board of Ministry anent Ministry Apprenticeship training and instruct the Board of Ministry to consult with Presbyteries and other Boards as appropriate and to bring forward proposals on Ministry Apprenticeship training to the 2016 General Assembly.

10. The General Assembly approve of proposals to give candidates for the ministry increased opportunities to learn and gain skills and experience in pastoral work through involvement in local churches during term time. The General Assembly repeal the preamble to Act XX § 6, 1985 and Act XX § 6.II.10, 1985, relating to the number of times students are permitted to preach and instruct the Board of Ministry to keep the frequency of

student's preaching under regular review in conjunction with the Pastoral Theology department at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

11. The General Assembly approve of the general principles set out in Appendix Two to the report of the Board of Ministry anent Scripture Examinations and presbyterial oversight of candidates for the ministry, namely that an annual written scripture examination shall be set and marked by the Board of Ministry, covering the whole Bible in three years, with some biblical books set for private study and some set for written examination and that presbyteries shall examine candidates orally on the doctrine of *Shorter Catechism* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and on books in practical and pastoral theology recommended by the Board of Ministry according to a three year schedule. The General Assembly enact and ordain that these shall be the regulations for Scripture Examinations and Presbytery oversight of students from this General Assembly, and empower the Board of Ministry to modify and publish amended regulations from time to time consistent with these general principles. Candidates already under the care of a Presbytery may elect to follow the previous syllabus for Presbytery oversight for one year only, by arrangement with their Presbytery. The General Assembly repeal Act XXXVI, 2011, Act XXVI 2003, Act XXIII, 2002, and any other Acts inconsistent with this new Act.

12. The General Assembly encourage ministers to consider studying for a post-graduate qualification in theology, to consider a short course of Sabbatical Studies at Edinburgh Theological Seminary and remind them of provision in legislation to take an extended Sabbatical Study Leave.

13. The General Assembly note that a *Panel of Pastoral Care* has been appointed by the Board of Ministry, and is available to give advice and support to ministers and their families. The General Assembly thank the members of the panel (Rev. Angus MacRae, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Robert MacLeod, Rev. D. Iain MacDonald, Dr Martin Walker, Dr Colin Mackay and Mrs Helen Mackay) and commend the Panel and Presbytery Pastoral Panels to the prayers of the church.

14. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry regarding arrangements for the Licence of students. The General Assembly enact and ordain an Act anent Licensing of Candidates for the Ministry, as follows:

The General Assembly, recognising that only those who are duly qualified should be licensed to preach the gospel ordain that:

1. A student applying for licence shall inform the Clerk of their presbytery and the clerk to the Board of Ministry, normally by 31st December in the year prior to licence. No student should be taken on trials for licence unless the Clerk to the Board of Ministry has circulated a minimum notice of three months to each presbytery.

2. If no objection is received from any presbytery before 30th April, or as a minimum within three months of notice being given, the licensing presbytery shall be entitled to proceed.

3. The Presbytery shall fix a date for trials for license observing the following directions:

3.1 The Presbytery shall meet in private when discussing each stage in the process;

3.2 If the student has been resident outwith the bounds of the Presbytery they shall satisfy themselves that the applicant is a proper person to be taken upon trials for licence;

3.3 No student shall be taken on trials for licence who is under twenty-one years of age;

3.4 No student shall be taken on trials for licence unless he has been a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland (or a sister church) for a minimum period of two years prior to the date of his being taken on trials, or unless the presbytery has satisfied itself with the *bona fides* of the candidate and has obtained the agreement of the Board of Ministry to proceed;

4. Any presbytery that objects to the licensing of an applicant shall be entitled to send representatives to state its objections at the bar of the presbytery to which the student has applied. These objections shall be heard when the presbytery is considering the motion to proceed to trials. If these representatives find themselves unable to acquiesce in the presbytery's decision they shall have the right to appeal; and such an appeal shall automatically sist procedure until a final decision is pronounced by the superior court.

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5. Before proceeding to trials a presbytery must have before it the following documents:
- 5.1 A completion certificate from the Senate of Edinburgh Theological Seminary indicating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed his studies, including the Free Church Ministry Module; and that his conduct, so far as is known to the Senate, is consistent with the high office he has in view;
- 5.2 A completion certificate from the Board of Ministry;
- 5.3 A copy of his Seminary Dissertation duly sustained. At its discretion the Presbytery may also ask for copies of any essays or assignments submitted by the student as part of his programme of studies.
6. The Presbytery shall satisfy itself that the student is competent to preach and conduct public worship, and shall normally arrange for the student to conduct public worship, including sermon, and shall appoint representative to attend and report on the competence of the student. If they report themselves dissatisfied, the presbytery shall resolve to proceed no further and inform the student that they cannot grant him a licence in his present circumstances.
7. The General Assembly remind presbyteries to bear in mind that the student has already satisfied both the Seminary Senate and the Board of Ministry as to his academic proficiency. Trials should accordingly normally consist of oral examination, making appropriate use of the Dissertation and other written assignments submitted by the student. Trials should seek to establish that the student is in a position honestly and intelligently to sign the Formula and is a proper person to be eligible for a call to a charge. The trials should establish that:
- 7.1 The student has a well-informed grasp of the whole doctrine of the Confession of Faith and is prepared to subscribe to it unreservedly;
- 7.2 He sincerely and intelligently adheres to the principles of the Free Church of Scotland;
- 7.3 He has a sound working knowledge of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland and is able to play a part in church courts;
- 7.4 He has an evangelistic vision and sense of mission such that “zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and desire of saving souls” are “his great motive and chief inducement to enter the holy ministry”;
- 7.5 He has sufficient experience of human life, sufficient sympathy with his people and knowledge of practical theology to enable him to lead, counsel, encourage and warn the people of God;
- 7.6 He is firmly committed to maintaining the unity and peace of the Church and does not pursue practices likely to be divisive.
8. The student having gone through the trials for license, the Presbytery shall proceed as follows:
- 8.1 It shall take a careful and combined view of the trials;
- 8.2 If it forms the opinion that the student is not properly qualified to sign the Formula and to perform the duties of a minister of the Gospel it shall not grant him a licence. Since the Presbytery are the sole hearers of the trials (and therefore the only party competent to judge them) its decision shall be final. No member of the court shall have the right of Dissent and Complaint; and neither the student nor any other party shall have the right of Appeal. The Moderator of Presbytery shall, however, inform the student that he has the right to apply to be taken on trials again by this, or any other, presbytery of the Church, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3 (2) above;
- 8.3 If, upon review of the trials, the Presbytery is fully satisfied with the student, the Moderator shall inform him and the presbytery shall record the decision in its Minutes;
- 8.4 The Presbytery shall then meet in open court;
- 8.5 The Presbytery shall then, or at a later public meeting of Presbytery, put to the student the Questions appointed for Probationers by Act XII, 1846. Having given satisfactory answers, the presbytery shall require the

student to subscribe the Formula. No student shall be licensed will not give explicit and satisfactory answers and subscribe the Formula;

8.6 The Moderator, in the name and by the authority of the presbytery, shall solemnly license the student as a preacher of the Gospel; and the presbytery clerk shall issue him an extract of his Licence;

8.7 Within one week the Clerk of Presbytery shall forward the name and address of the licentiate, with the date of his Licence, to the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly.

9. The General Assembly repeal Act XX, 2001, and any Acts not consistent with this Act and declare that this Act contains the whole of the Assembly's directions relating to the Trials of Students and the Licensing of Probationers.

10. To ensure that this Act is observed, the General Assembly ordain: that it shall be printed among their other printed Acts; that it shall be made available by itself and copies shall be placed on appropriate websites and lodged with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Senate and in the Seminary Library; and that a copy shall be transmitted annually by the Clerk to the Board of Ministry, and at the commencement of the Seminary session, to every candidate for the ministry who is entering his final year of study at Edinburgh Theological Seminary; and a copy shall likewise be sent to Presbytery Clerks for the use of their respective courts and members.

Second Motion: It was also moved and seconded that:

Amendment Part 1

Remove the following paragraph from Appendix 2 after the heading Syllabus of titles on Practical and Pastoral theology for Presbytery Annual Oral Examinations:

Students may elect to arrange with their Presbytery to take this examination in the summer prior to entering each session at ETS, or to take this examination in January mid-way through each year of study at ETS at the time of the annual Scripture Examination.

Amendment Part 2 (Addendum Part 1)

Insert the following into Appendix 2 after 'Westminster Confession' in introductory paragraph 2:

'Presbyteries shall complete their examination of students by 31st August annually in order to furnish the Secretary of the Senatus with the relevant certificate showing that the student has passed the examination before entering on the first and subsequent years of studies at the Seminary.'

Amendment Part 2 (Addendum Part 2)

Proposed Addendum to Deliverance Paragraph 11:

The General Assembly, recognising the key role of the Presbytery in the ongoing assessment of students for the ministry, instruct Presbyteries to complete the examination of students by 31st August annually in order to furnish the Secretary of the Senatus with the certificate required by Act XX, Class II, 1985 as amended by Act XXII, Class II, 2002, Section III – Certificates and Examination of Students, Paragraphs 1 and 3, prior to entrance to the first and subsequent years of their studies at the Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

Third Motion: It was also moved and seconded that:

The following addendum be added to the Deliverance:

The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry, through its Panel of Pastoral Care, to consult with Presbyteries as to how a more effective and practical support can be provided for ministers and their families during periods of long-term absence from work through ill-health. They further instruct the Board to formulate a policy on the pastoral care of ministers, on the completion of the said consultation, showing (i) the role of the Panel in relation to the Presbytery's Pastoral Support Committees; (ii) a plan for the pastoral care of ministers and their families; (iii) how such a plan will be implemented; and (iv) how the implementation of such a plan will be monitored, assessed and reviewed.

With the permission of the General Assembly, the Chairman accepted the Third Motion.

On a vote being taken between the Second Motion and the First Motion, the First Motion was declared carried by a majority.

Finding: It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Board, especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Clerk.
2. The General Assembly give thanks to Almighty God that he continues to call and equip men for the ministry of the Church. They encourage congregations to be diligent in supporting prayerfully and practically all students and their families, and those entrusted with training.
3. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr David Ford and Mr George Maclean for coordinating the recent In-Service Training Course. The Assembly further thank Mr Donald MacDonald for his generosity in providing, at a much reduced cost, accommodation and meals at the Holyrood Hotel.
4. The General Assembly remind Presbyteries to take great care when processing Applications for the Ministry, to ensure that referees have the knowledge to make judgements on an applicant's character and skills, following up references where necessary, and making a proper assessment of the applicant's giftedness for teaching, preaching, inter-personal skills, Christian character and temperament.
5. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to investigate with the Seminary Board and Senate the possibility of creating a Diploma or Licentiate award for candidates on modified courses who will not qualify for a BTh award.
6. The General Assembly, in view of the ongoing uncertainty of the church scene in Scotland at present, waive the requirement of Act XXXV, 2005, that authority to grant admission to ministers of other denominations lies solely with the General Assembly and empowers the Commission of Assembly at its meetings before the General Assembly of 2016, to receive and dispose of any such applications seeking admission to the Free Church ministry duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry.
7. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry on routes into ministry and endorse the Board's policy that it shall no longer be the normal requirement for applicants under the age of thirty to possess a qualification at degree level prior to being accepted as a candidate for the ministry. The General Assembly direct the Board of Ministry to advise each applicant individually on the best course of action to take preparatory to obtaining formal training for the ministry.
8. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to consult the Missions Board and the Presbyteries of the Church on appropriate routes into ministry and the varying types of ministry model that are biblical and necessary for the health of the church.
9. The General Assembly note Appendix One in the Report of the Board of Ministry anent Ministry Apprenticeship training and instruct the Board of Ministry to consult with Presbyteries and other Boards as appropriate and to bring forward proposals on Ministry Apprenticeship training to the 2016 General Assembly.
10. The General Assembly approve of proposals to give candidates for the ministry increased opportunities to learn and gain skills and experience in pastoral work through involvement in local churches during term time. The General Assembly repeal the preamble to Act XX § 6, 1985 and Act XX § 6.II.10, 1985, relating to the number of times students are permitted to preach and instruct the Board of Ministry to keep the frequency of student's preaching under regular review in conjunction with the Pastoral Theology department at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
11. The General Assembly approve of the general principles set out in Appendix Two to the report of the Board of Ministry anent Scripture Examinations and presbyterial oversight of candidates for the ministry, namely that an annual written scripture examination shall be set and marked by the Board of Ministry, covering the whole Bible in three years, with some biblical books set for private study and some set for written examination and that presbyteries shall examine candidates orally on the doctrine of *Shorter Catechism* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and on books in practical and pastoral theology recommended by the Board of Ministry according to a three year schedule. The General Assembly enact and ordain that these shall be the regulations for Scripture Examinations and Presbytery oversight of students from this General Assembly, and empower the Board of

Ministry to modify and publish amended regulations from time to time consistent with these general principles. Candidates already under the care of a Presbytery may elect to follow the previous syllabus for Presbytery oversight for one year only, by arrangement with their Presbytery. The General Assembly repeal Act XXXVI, 2011, Act XXVI 2003, Act XXIII, 2002, and any other Acts inconsistent with this new Act.

12. The General Assembly encourage ministers to consider studying for a post-graduate qualification in theology, to consider a short course of Sabbatical Studies at Edinburgh Theological Seminary and remind them of provision in legislation to take an extended Sabbatical Study Leave.

13. The General Assembly note that a *Panel of Pastoral Care* has been appointed by the Board of Ministry, and is available to give advice and support to ministers and their families. The General Assembly thank the members of the panel (Rev. Angus MacRae, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Robert MacLeod, Rev. D. Iain MacDonald, Dr Martin Walker, Dr Colin Mackay and Mrs Helen Mackay) and commend the Panel and Presbytery Pastoral Panels to the prayers of the church.

The General Assembly further instruct the Board of Ministry, through its Panel of Pastoral Care, to consult with Presbyteries as to how a more effective and practical support can be provided for ministers and their families during periods of long-term absence from work through ill-health. They further instruct the Board to formulate a policy on the pastoral care of ministers, on the completion of the said consultation, showing (i) the role of the Panel in relation to the Presbytery's Pastoral Support Committees; (ii) a plan for the pastoral care of ministers and their families; (iii) how such a plan will be implemented; and (iv) how the implementation of such a plan will be monitored, assessed and reviewed.

14. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry regarding arrangements for the Licence of students. The General Assembly enact and ordain an Act anent Licensing of Candidates for the Ministry, as follows:

The General Assembly, recognising that only those who are duly qualified should be licensed to preach the gospel ordain that:

1. A student applying for licence shall inform the Clerk of their presbytery and the clerk to the Board of Ministry, normally by 31st December in the year prior to licence. No student should be taken on trials for licence unless the Clerk to the Board of Ministry has circulated a minimum notice of three months to each presbytery.

2. If no objection is received from any presbytery before 30th April, or as a minimum within three months of notice being given, the licensing presbytery shall be entitled to proceed.

3. The Presbytery shall fix a date for trials for license observing the following directions:

3.1 The Presbytery shall meet in private when discussing each stage in the process;

3.2 If the student has been resident outwith the bounds of the Presbytery they shall satisfy themselves that the applicant is a proper person to be taken upon trials for licence;

3.3 No student shall be taken on trials for licence who is under twenty-one years of age;

3.4 No student shall be taken on trials for licence unless he has been a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland (or a sister church) for a minimum period of two years prior to the date of his being taken on trials, or unless the presbytery has satisfied itself with the *bona fides* of the candidate and has obtained the agreement of the Board of Ministry to proceed;

4. Any presbytery that objects to the licensing of an applicant shall be entitled to send representatives to state its objections at the bar of the presbytery to which the student has applied. These objections shall be heard when the presbytery is considering the motion to proceed to trials. If these representatives find themselves unable to acquiesce in the presbytery's decision they shall have the right to appeal; and such an appeal shall automatically sist procedure until a final decision is pronounced by the superior court.

5. Before proceeding to trials a presbytery must have before it the following documents:

5.1 a completion certificate from the Senate of Edinburgh Theological Seminary indicating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed his studies, including the Free Church Ministry Module; and that his conduct, so far as is known to the Senate, is consistent with the high office he has in view;

5.2 a completion certificate from the Board of Ministry;

5.3 a copy of his Seminary Dissertation duly sustained. At its discretion the Presbytery may also ask for copies of any essays or assignments submitted by the student as part of his programme of studies.

6. The Presbytery shall satisfy itself that the student is competent to preach and conduct public worship, and shall normally arrange for the student to conduct public worship, including sermon, and shall appoint representative to attend and report on the competence of the student. If they report themselves dissatisfied, the presbytery shall resolve to proceed no further and inform the student that they cannot grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

7. The General Assembly remind presbyteries to bear in mind that the student has already satisfied both the Seminary Senate and the Board of Ministry as to his academic proficiency. Trials should accordingly normally consist of oral examination, making appropriate use of the Dissertation and other written assignments submitted by the student. Trials should seek to establish that the student is in a position honestly and intelligently to sign the Formula and is a proper person to be eligible for a call to a charge. The trials should establish that:

7.1 The student has a well-informed grasp of the whole doctrine of the Confession of Faith and is prepared to subscribe to it unreservedly;

7.2 He sincerely and intelligently adheres to the principles of the Free Church of Scotland;

7.3 He has a sound working knowledge of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland and is able to play a part in church courts;

7.4 He has an evangelistic vision and sense of mission such that “zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and desire of saving souls” are “his great motive and chief inducement to enter the holy ministry”;

7.5 He has sufficient experience of human life, sufficient sympathy with his people and knowledge of practical theology to enable him to lead, counsel, encourage and warn the people of God;

7.6 He is firmly committed to maintaining the unity and peace of the Church and does not pursue practices likely to be divisive.

8. The student having gone through the trials for license, the Presbytery shall proceed as follows:

8.1 It shall take a careful and combined view of the trials;

8.2 If it forms the opinion that the student is not properly qualified to sign the Formula and to perform the duties of a minister of the Gospel it shall not grant him a licence. Since the Presbytery are the sole hearers of the trials (and therefore the only party competent to judge them) its decision shall be final. No member of the court shall have the right of Dissent and Complaint; and neither the student nor any other party shall have the right of Appeal. The Moderator of Presbytery shall, however, inform the student that he has the right to apply to be taken on trials again by this, or any other, presbytery of the Church, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3 (2) above;

8.3 If, upon review of the trials, the Presbytery is fully satisfied with the student, the Moderator shall inform him and the presbytery shall record the decision in its Minutes;

8.4 The Presbytery shall then meet in open court;

8.5 The Presbytery shall then, or at a later public meeting of Presbytery, put to the student the Questions appointed for Probationers by Act XII, 1846. Having given satisfactory answers, the presbytery shall require the student to subscribe the Formula. No student shall be licensed will not give explicit and satisfactory answers and subscribe the Formula;

8.6 The Moderator, in the name and by the authority of the presbytery, shall solemnly license the student as a preacher of the Gospel; and the presbytery clerk shall issue him an extract of his Licence;

8.7 Within one week the Clerk of Presbytery shall forward the name and address of the licentiate, with the date of his Licence, to the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly.

9. The General Assembly repeal Act XX, 2001, and any Acts not consistent with this Act and declare that this Act contains the whole of the Assembly's directions relating to the Trials of Students and the Licensing of Probationers.

10. To ensure that this Act is observed, the General Assembly ordain: that it shall be printed among their other printed Acts; that it shall be made available by itself and copies shall be placed on appropriate websites and lodged with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Senate and in the Seminary Library; and that a copy shall be transmitted annually by the Clerk to the Board of Ministry, and at the commencement of the Seminary session, to every candidate for the ministry who is entering his final year of study at Edinburgh Theological Seminary; and a copy shall likewise be sent to presbytery clerks for the use of their respective courts and members.

4 Order of the Day There was an Order of the Day at 12 noon.

The General Assembly had the honour of a visit from the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Hon. Lord Hope of Craighead, who, at the Moderator's invitation, addressed the House. The Moderator expressed the Assembly's sense of honour conferred by a visit of Her Majesty's representative.

5 The late Miss Anne Macleod The Moderator made reference to the recent passing of Miss Anne Macleod, former Secretary to the College Board. It was agreed that the sympathy of the General Assembly be expressed to Miss Macleod's family.

6 Missionary Delegate The following missionary delegate was introduced to the Moderator and invited to address the General Assembly:

Mr Joseph Steinberg Christian Witness to Israel

7 International Missions The General Assembly then called for the Report of the International Missions Board, which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

First Motion It was moved and seconded that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the International Missions Board and thank the Board, especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

2. The General Assembly greet all our missionary personnel and assure them of their continued support. The General Assembly also give thanks for safety and security for all the mission workers over the last year and pray for their ongoing well-being in circumstances that can be precarious.

3. The General Assembly greet all our Free Church members working in areas of direct Free Church missionary operation and assure them of our prayerful and practical support.

4. The General Assembly thank Rev. David and Mrs Olwen Ford for their service as Editors of the Mission section of *The Record*.

5. The General Assembly thank Mrs Mairi MacDonald for producing the monthly Missionary Prayer Notes and commend her to the prayers of the Church.

6. The General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude the part played by the Mission Support Groups in raising funds and fostering an awareness of the special needs found in all areas of our missionary activity.

7. The General Assembly commend the work of Women for Mission and express their gratitude for raising funds for mission and raising the profile of mission in the Church. They express their appreciation for the help and advice given by their representatives on the Board, Mrs Mairead Morrison and Mrs Sarah Cumming.

8. The General Assembly thank Miss Anna MacDonald and Mrs Mary MacMillan for their work in looking after the furlough flat in Edinburgh.

9. The General Assembly instruct the new Missions Board to consult the wider church about the future direction of missions and seek to re-engage the whole denomination with the missionary mandate of Christ.

Second Motion It was also agreed and seconded that:

The General Assembly note with concern, the decision of the International Missions Board to discontinue the payment of a grant in 2015 for the support of Miss Catriona Macdonald, a teacher in the Colegio San Andres, and urges the new Missions Board to consider the provision of adequate financial support for Miss Macdonald in 2016. It further instructs the new Missions Board to outline the criteria for the awarding of annual grants to overseas work and report to the General Assembly of 2016.

On a vote being taken between the Second Motion and the First Motion, there was an equality of votes between each and the Moderator exercised his casting vote in favour of the Second Motion.

Finding Wherefore:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the International Missions Board and thank the Board, especially the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

2. The General Assembly greet all our missionary personnel and assure them of their continued support. The General Assembly also give thanks for safety and security for all the mission workers over the last year and pray for their ongoing well-being in circumstances that can be precarious.

3. The General Assembly greet all our Free Church members working in areas of direct Free Church missionary operation and assure them of our prayerful and practical support.

4. The General Assembly thank Rev. David and Mrs Olwen Ford for their service as Editors of the Mission section of *The Record*.

5. The General Assembly thank Mrs Mairi MacDonald for producing the monthly Missionary Prayer Notes and commend her to the prayers of the Church.

6. The General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude the part played by the Mission Support Groups in raising funds and fostering an awareness of the special needs found in all areas of our missionary activity.

7. The General Assembly commend the work of Women for Mission and express their gratitude for raising funds for mission and raising the profile of mission in the Church. They express their appreciation for the help and advice given by their representatives on the Board, Mrs Mairead Morrison and Mrs Sarah Cumming.

8. The General Assembly thank Miss Anna MacDonald and Mrs Mary MacMillan for their work in looking after the furlough flat in Edinburgh.

9. The General Assembly instruct the new Missions Board to consult the wider church about the future direction of missions and seek to re-engage the whole denomination with the missionary mandate of Christ.

10. The General Assembly note with concern, the decision of the International Missions Board to discontinue the payment of a grant in 2015 for the support of Miss Catriona Macdonald, a teacher in the Colegio San Andres, and urge the new Missions Board to consider the provision of adequate financial support for Miss Macdonald in 2016. It further instructs the new Missions Board to outline the criteria for the awarding of annual grants to overseas work and report to the General Assembly of 2016.

8 Appointments The General Assembly proceeded to make the following appointments:

Missions Board
Psalmody and Praise Committee

Dr John Morrison
Rev. Ruairidh Maclean, Convener

The Moderator was appointed to attend the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in June 2016.

9 North American Synod

The Principal Clerk reported on the process of the negotiations with the North American Synod.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

The General Assembly authorise the Clerks to maintain communication with the North American Presbyteries and report to the Commission of Assembly in October 2015.

10 Visitation of Records The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Committee on Visitation of Presbytery, Synod and Committee Records which was submitted by the Convener in the following terms:

The Committee met on 19th May 2015 and was constituted with prayer.

Having examined all the available records the Committee found as follows:

SYNODS

None of the home Synods met since the 2014 General Assembly.

The Records of the Synod of North America were in order.

PRESBYTERIES

Northern

All in order

Glasgow and Argyll

All in order

Western Isles

All in order apart from Moderator's signature missing from minutes of 23rd June 2014

Inverness, Lochaber and Ross

All in order

Skye and Wester Ross

All in order

COMMITTEES

Seminary Board

All in order

Board of Ministry

All in order

Home Missions Board

All in order

Board of Trustees

All in order

International Missions Board

All in order apart from minute of 10th March 2015 where:

1. Minute should read 25th November 2015
2. Date of minute should read 10th March 2015
3. Typographical errors in minute

Psalmody and Praise Committee

All in order apart from minutes have been secured in binder out of sequence.

Finding It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive the Report and thank the Committee.
2. The General Assembly direct that all the records unavailable for examination be submitted to the Clerks of Assembly so that they may be examined. They further instruct the Clerks to report their findings to the Commission of Assembly in October 2015.
3. The General Assembly authorise the Clerk to attest all the records without defects.
4. The General Assembly authorise the Clerk to attest the other records when the defects mentioned are made good.

11 Deceased Ministers and Elders The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Committee appointed to prepare a Minute to Deceased Ministers and Elders, which was submitted by the Convener and approved and ordered to be engrossed as follows:

Ministers:

There were no ministers lost through death.

Elders:

The returns indicated the loss of eight elders through death:

Mr Murdo Munro, Point
 Mr Norman Smith, Cross
 Mr Malcolm John Macleod, Carloway
 Mr Angus Murray, North Tolsta
 Mr Francis Maclean, Harris
 Mr John Norman Campbell, Stornoway
 Mr Alasdair J. M. Fraser, Plockton and Kyle
 Mr John K. Macleod, Carbost

12 Protestations Protestations were called for but none was given in.

13 Commission The General Assembly proceeded to appoint the Commission:

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

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 7th October 2015 and Wednesday 2nd March 2016 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 the said 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, in view of unresolved matters concerning the Free Church Continuing, including legal processes, the occupation of property, the retention of other assets, and frozen bank accounts, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all necessary and appropriate steps in the interest of the Church in connection with these matters, and declare that meetings of the Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all such matters which may arise, provided always that notice of proposals in terms of this empowerment shall be sent to commissioners at least ten days before the Commission are to convene, this requirement not implying any curtailment of amendment to such proposals.

Furthermore the said Commission are hereby authorised to receive and dispose of any 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 fully dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Missions Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Missions Board; to appoint Ministers to overseas appointments and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board of Trustees on the application of Ministers to become members of the PVG scheme; to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board of Trustees concerning the Appointment of the Editor of *The Record*; 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 *ex proprio motu*; to receive a report from the Missions Board on arrangements for future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus; and to receive a report from the Missions Board on arrangements for future ministry at Harris; to receive a report from the Missions Board in relation to Cobham Presbyterian Church; to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks anent the Presbytery in North America.

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.

14 Thanks The thanks of the General Assembly were accorded to: The Moderator; Principal Clerk; Rev. D. C. Meredith, Convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee of the HMB, Mr Andrew Longwe, Assembly Officer, Rev. William M. Mackay, Hospitality Co-ordinator; those assisting with the sound and video address system; doorkeepers, Mrs Sharon Fraser, ladies who provided hospitality, the cleaners and the Deacons' Court of St Columba's.

15 Appointment of next General Assembly The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 6 o'clock.

16 Minutes The Minutes of this session's Sederunt were read and approved.

17 Closure The General Assembly was closed with prayer, the singing of Psalm 117 and the Apostolic Benediction.