

THE PRINCIPAL  
**ACTS**  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE



CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, MAY 2016  
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)







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**THE PRINCIPAL ACTS**  
**OF**  
**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**MAY 2016**

**CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

**None**

**CLASS 2 – ACTS THAT ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH**

**Act 1 – Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address**  
Number 1 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016*

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly the 24th day of May 2016, 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 give special thanks to Almighty God for Your Majesty's long reign over us, and for the good health and strength that have allowed Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to fulfil so faithfully and graciously all your considerable duties of state. We also express the deep affection in which Your Majesty is held, and the special pleasure given by the recent celebrations of your birthday. We pray, in the familiar words of the Bible, that "as your days, so may your strength be."

We continue to pray for Your Majesty and for all the Royal Family, seeking God's protection for you in these uncertain times, and asking that His gracious presence and favour will daily be with you, your children, your grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren.

We are grateful to Your Majesty for the great example you have set to our nation in the faithful performance of all your duties, and for the wisdom with which you have responded to the changes that affect so many aspects of your subjects' lives.

We would especially express our thanks that your commitment to the Christian Faith is not simply a matter of ceremonial oath, but has been openly and personally expressed in your Christmas Message and on other occasions.

We remember in our prayers Your Majesty's Ministers and Governments, both in Westminster and in Holyrood, as they discharge their responsibilities to promote the prosperity of all Your Majesty's subjects, to uphold law and order, to care for the needy, and to safeguard the peace of the Realm. We particularly pray for the education of the rising generation, for the quality of family life, and for respect for the sanctity of life, both of the unborn and of the aged.

We note with pleasure the Diamond Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which has given millions of young people opportunities for community service while gaining valuable skills and experiences.

We give thanks for Your Majesty's continued recognition of the work and ministry of the Free Church of Scotland by the visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, as we welcome Lord Hope this year. In the midst of the on-going centennial commemorations of the First World War, we recall that these visits began in the aftermath of that conflict, as a mark of recognition for the unique sacrifices made by the Scottish Highlands and Islands. We express

our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of Your Majesty's Armed Forces, and also our admiration for the work of His Royal Highness the Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales with various organisations that address the needs of wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans.

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

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**Act 2 – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery**

No. 2 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016*

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.

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**Act 3 – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye & Wester Ross**

Number 3 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly appoint Mr Callum Macdonald, elder at Urquhart and Resolis, to be General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.

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**Act 4 – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye & Wester Ross**

Number 4 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly declare that the appointment of Mr James Fraser, elder at Kiltarlity, as General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, which is due to expire at this Assembly according to the terms of Act II, Class 2, 2015, shall continue until such time as the Presbytery requests its termination. They repeal the said Act II, Class 2, 2015.

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**Act 5 – Act anent Register of Ministers without Charges Eligible for Call**

Number 5 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly amend Paragraph 2.2 of Act XXXIV, Class 2, 2012 to read as follows: The Principal Clerk shall furnish the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call. The revised Act is as follows:

The General Assembly, considering that various legislation governing the retirement and resignation of ministers, enacted over a period of thirty years, requires to be integrated and that the related legislation on membership of Presbyteries required some clarification, enact and ordain as follows:

**1. Retirement**

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

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

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

1.4 All applications for retirement must be supported by extract minutes from the relevant Kirk Session and Presbytery and these must show that the applicant has agreed to resile from his rights of active participation in the courts of the congregation - his right to respond to a specific request from the Moderator or Interim Moderator of the congregation being unchanged.

1.5 Retirement shall involve the surrender of the emoluments of the Charge, and the vacation of the manse unless the Deacons' Court permits continuing occupation for a period; the congregation shall be deemed to be and declared to be vacant by order of the Presbytery after the specified retirement date has been reached.

1.6 A minister who has retired in terms of this Act may have his name included in the Communion Roll of the congregation which he regularly attends.

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

## **2. Resignation**

2.1 A Register of Ministers without Charge and a Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers shall be kept by the Principal Clerk of Assembly. Only those whose names are placed on the Register shall be eligible for a call, and placement on the Register shall be taken to imply an individual's sincere readiness to accept a call in appropriate circumstances. Congregations may not address calls to ministers whose names are on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers.

2.2 The Principal Clerk shall furnish the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call.

2.3 When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery (or, in the case of an International Missions Charge, the Secretary of the International Missions Board) shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by Extract Minute. The Extract Minute shall include the resolution of the Presbytery to place the name of the minister either on the Register of Ministers without Charge or on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers.

2.4 The normal procedure shall be that the name of the resigning minister shall be placed on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers. If the Presbytery resolve to place the name on the Register of Ministers without Charge, they must minute positive reasons for such placement on the Register, or subsequent continuance on or transference to it, and the Extract Minute furnished to the Principal Clerk shall contain these reasons. Such reasons shall be of the following order:

2.4.1 Where resignation is due to a breakdown in health;

2.4.2 Where resignation or severance of the pastoral tie is due to non-censurable incompatibility with his congregation;

2.4.3 Where resignation is due to secondment by a responsible Board or Committee of the Free Church to other pastoral or para-pastoral work;

2.4.4 Where the contract of a minister in a terminable appointment is not renewed by resolution of the General Assembly.

2.5 Placement on the Register shall not be granted where the resigning minister has accepted an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland other than by secondment as noted at 2.4.3 above.

2.6 If a minister whose name has been placed on the Register or Roll shall be admitted to the ministry or other fulltime employment of another Church other than by secondment, his name shall be removed from the Register/Roll.

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

2.8 In no case shall the name of a minister remain on the Register of Ministers without Charge for more than three years from the date of inclusion in the Register unless application for an extension of the period, conforming to the conditions of Paragraph 6.2.4 above, be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three-year

period. When the minister resides outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, his application for retention on the Register shall be made to the Presbytery of which he was previously a member. In no case shall a name remain on the Register for more than six years.

2.9 If a Presbytery instruct that a minister's name be placed on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers, it shall remain on that Roll without limit of time, subject to the provisions of paragraph 6.2.6 above and paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13 below.

2.10 A minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers and who desires to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the General Assembly through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time, such petition to conform with the conditions of paragraph 6.2.4 above.

2.11 Ministers without Charge on the Register, and Resigned and Retired Ministers on the Roll shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence outwith the bounds of any Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.

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

2.13 Each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers who have informed them that they are resident within the bounds of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are required to make due investigation annually that such individuals continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland and after due intimation to the individual concerned, may order their name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found.

### **3. Membership of Presbyteries**

3.1 Ministers retiring upon attainment of retirement age, or on the grounds of ill health, may petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they are to reside, for a seat in that Presbytery. This shall continue as long as they reside within the bounds of the Presbytery. Upon relocation to another Presbytery they must apply for a seat in that Presbytery by petition or their names shall be added to the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers. In the case of ministers who take up residence in a Presbytery other than that receiving their application to retire, an extract minute from the Presbytery receiving their application to retire in support of the Petition, shall be obtained.

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

3.3 The General Assembly further direct that ministers and missionaries serving under the oversight of the International Missions Board, who, at retirement, choose not to apply for a seat in a Presbytery shall continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. In the event of any such minister moving outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church, he shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided. The General Assembly direct Presbyteries to keep the names of the said ministers on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers, maintained by the Clerk of each Presbytery and reviewed annually. Presbytery Clerks shall inform the Assembly Clerk at the beginning of each calendar year of the names on the said Roll. The Assembly Clerk shall maintain a complete Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers upon such information.

3.4 A minister, who has resigned his charge to accept an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland, and who seeks a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides, may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery.

3.5 A Minister granted a seat in Presbytery, other than on retiral from a pastoral charge, shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery for the duration of the period in which he holds the appointment on the basis of which he is granted his seat; and on ceasing to hold such an appointment his membership of Presbytery shall lapse and his name placed on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers in terms of paragraph 6.3.3 above unless he is inducted to another pastoral charge.

3.6 In the case of Ministers submitting Petitions for membership of Presbytery in terms of this Act, the rights of all parties to complaint and appeal shall be preserved.

3.7 The General Assembly direct that retired ministers who are granted a seat in a Presbytery, retired ministers who do not apply for a seat in Presbytery and ministers who have resigned shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the

congregation to which they belong, provided this be not their last charge before retirement, but they may not be elected, as Ruling Elders or appointed as Assessor Elders, either to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery and Synod, or as Commissioners to the General Assembly.

3.8 The General Assembly direct that for each Assistant Minister duly inducted and granted a seat in Presbytery, there be a corresponding Ruling Elder from the Kirk Session of the congregation in which the Assistant is placed. Corresponding elders for seats granted in terms of Paragraphs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 and for Assistant Ministers, shall retain their seats in Presbytery only for such time as seats are retained by the said ministers.

3.9 The provisions of this Act shall be without prejudice to the position of those retired ministers granted seats in Presbyteries prior to the General Assembly of 2002.

The General Assembly repeal Acts I, 1981, XIII, 1990, IV, 1991, XIX, 1999 and XIX, 2004.

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**Act 6 – Act anent Synods**  
Number 6 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

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.

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**Act 7 – Act anent Appointment of Principal Clerk of Assembly**  
Number 7 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the post of Principal Clerk of Assembly to take over from Rev. James Maciver. They declare that Mr Macleod shall take up his duties from the rising of the 2017 General Assembly, and that his appointment be according to the terms of Act X, Class 2, 2015.

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**Act 8 – Act anent Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call – Rev. David Parker**  
Number 8 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly declare that Rev. David Parker's name be retained on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call for a second and final three-year period according to the terms of Act XXXIV, Class 2, 2012 anent Retirement and Resignation of Ministers, paragraph 2.8.

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**Act 9 – Act anent Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call – Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod**  
Number 9 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly to transfer the name of Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod from the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers to the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call with immediate effect.

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**Act 10 – Act granting Rev. Robert Walker a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll**

Number 10 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant Rev. Robert Walker a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery.

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**Act 11 – Act granting Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross**

Number 11 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery.

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**Act 12 – Act appointing the Commission of Assembly**

Number 12 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly (GA) hereby appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of this GA along with Rev. Professor R. Akroyd named by the Moderator to be their Commission.

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 5th October 2016 and Wednesday 1st March 2017 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 connection with unresolved matters concerning the Free Church Continuing the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all necessary and appropriate steps in the interests 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 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 GA;

Furthermore the Commission is empowered to receive and dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Mission Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Mission Board; to appoint Ministers to overseas appointments and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; to take up and dispose of a Report from the Mission Board concerning an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Portree and Bracadale Free Church; to determine any matter relating to the sale of property or release of funds which in the view of the Board of Trustees should be determined by the Commission and brought by the Board on its own initiative; and to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks in relation to the records of the Presbyteries in North America and other items specified in the report of the Committee appointed to examine records.

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

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

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

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

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**Act 13 – Act appointing the 2017 General Assembly**

Number 13 of Class 2

*Category: General Assembly*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 22nd May 2017 at 6.00pm.

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**Act 14 – Act anent Stipend**

Number 14 of Class 2

*Category: Governance & Finance*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,500 from 1st January 2016. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

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**Act 15 – Act anent Storage of Records**

Number 15 of Class 2

*Category: Governance & Finance*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

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

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**Act 16 – Act anent Chairman of the Board of Trustees**  
Number 16 of Class 2

*Category: Governance & Finance*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly, noting the difficulties referred to by the Board in respect of identifying a suitable successor to Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, waive Paragraph 1 of Act XXIII, Class II, 2007, declare that the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board is extended until the close of the 2019 General Assembly.

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**Act 17 – Act anent Membership of the Board of Ministry**  
Number 17 of Class 2

*Category: Governance & Finance*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly, noting the need to strengthen the close working relationship between the Board of Ministry and Edinburgh Theological Seminary, and recognising how this relationship can be developed further by having the ETS Principal and one other member of the Senate on the Board, amend Act VI, Class 2, 2014, section 1.2.3, on the membership of the Board of Ministry by replacing the existing section of the Act with the following: “*Membership*: Nine members in total including the Principal of ETS (or his nominee) and one other member of the ETS Senate appointed annually by the Senate on an ex officio basis. The remaining membership of the Board of Ministry shall comprise three ministers and four 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.”

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**Act 18 – Act anent Editor of *The Record***  
Number 18 of Class 2

*Category: Governance & Finance*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Dr I. D. Campbell as Editor of *The Record* effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. They declare that Dr Campbell’s appointment be according to the terms of Act VIII, Class 2, 2015.

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**Act 19 – Act anent Recognition of Candidates and Admission of Ministers**  
Number 19 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry that existing legislation on the Recognition of Candidates for the Ministry and on the Admission of ministers and probationers of other churches be repealed and replaced with a comprehensive Act Anent Admission to the Ministry. Accordingly, the General Assembly enact and ordain as follows an Act Anent Admission to the Ministry:

The General Assembly direct that all Applications for Recognition as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland from those not already ordained to the ministry shall be processed by the Board of Ministry observing the following directives:

1.1 The Board of Ministry shall publish and regularly update a *Candidate Application Form*. The Form shall consist of Part A for the use of the candidate and Part B to be completed by a conjunct meeting of the applicant’s Kirk Session and the relevant Presbytery or Committee of Presbytery who shall oversee the initial stages of the application process. To comply with civil legislation, the form shall include information on the immigration and nationality of the applicant and shall also gather information on their previous education and experience, their understanding of the gospel and theological views, their vision for ministry including their wholehearted commitment to the authority of scripture and the doctrines of the Reformed faith. The application must be supported by suitable references and indicate that the candidate complies with PVG legislation.

1.2 Applicants must be communicant members of the Free Church of Scotland and should normally have a minimum two-year association with the Free Church or a similar sister church before being given recognition.

1.3 Where the relevant Presbytery approves an application the Board of Ministry shall interview the applicant and come to a view on recognising him as a candidate for the ministry. The Board shall have the right to require an additional appraisal of the candidate including an assessment day or conference when gifts and calling may be tested. The Board are authorised to require medical information if they regard this as necessary to ensure that a candidate is able to carry out the duties of a minister or to ensure that adequate support and provision is made. The Board may require some candidates to undertake preliminary studies (which may be a first degree) or to take part in an apprentice in ministry post or the equivalent if they shall see fit. Candidates should demonstrate an ability to benefit from the ETS course. However, candidates are not required to hold a first degree. The Board may regard candidates over the age of 30 years as a mature student and may adjust the requirements of their course accordingly. In coming to a view on the application, the Board shall properly assess the candidate's Christian character and temperament as well as his giftedness and sense of call.

1.4 Once a candidate is recognised the Board shall ensure that he receives adequate mentoring and oversight before and during his period of study. The candidates shall also receive pastoral oversight from his home Presbytery in accordance with Act XXXVIII, 2015. The Presbytery shall inform the Clerk to the Board of Ministry and the candidate's Director of Studies at ETS of any concerns they may have concerning the welfare and the life and conduct of the candidate so that appropriate support may be provided and any necessary action taken.

1.5 All candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally pursue the full programme of studies at Edinburgh Theological Seminary. The General Assembly declare that, in normal cases, candidates for the Free Church ministry should obtain a B.Th., MTh or L.Th., or their equivalent as a necessary vocational qualification. The Board of Ministry may make alternative arrangements such as agreeing to bi-vocational training with the agreement of the relevant Presbytery, part-time studies or a modified training course in special cases.

1.6 Where a candidate has already completed first degree level theological studies and the Board of Ministry is satisfied as to the quality of both teaching and achievement, the candidate shall normally be required to study under the oversight of the Board for two academic years. The Board shall determine the nature of the course to be taken and what supplementary training the candidate may require in terms of academic and practical study and shall take note of requests from the candidate for particular areas of supplementary training. In exceptional cases the Board, with the agreement of the relevant Presbytery, may agree to reduce the necessary additional training to one academic year. This would normally only be applicable to a candidate holding a theological qualification at post-graduate level and possessing extensive pastoral or practical experience. The Board shall have regard to the theological content of any previous study to ensure that each candidate for the Free Church ministry is adequately prepared for ministry having obtained an adequate training that is Confessional and Reformed as a strong basis for their future pastoral ministry. In the case of a modified course of study, the Board of Ministry will liaise with the Senate of the Seminary to facilitate the delivery of the course and any necessary supplementary training.

1.7 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to study courses in language and literature in both Old Testament (Hebrew) and New Testament (Greek) studies. The Board of Ministry, in conjunction with the Senate and teaching staff at ETS, may agree to concessions in language study particularly in the case of mature students.

1.8 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to attend the Free Church Ministry Module and any other vocational training and instruction that may be arranged and required.

1.9 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to participate in term-time and summer placements as arranged by the Board of Ministry.

1.10 Each candidate shall normally be required to submit a Dissertation as part of their studies in accordance with the regulations for the qualification they are enrolled in.

1.11 The Board of Ministry shall make appropriate financial provision for students and probationers in terms of the legislation of the church. Candidates who fail to enter the ministry may be liable for the repayment of funds received from SAAS or funds received from the Board in terms of the undertakings made between the candidate and the Church.

1.12 The General Assembly declare that the foregoing provisions contain all the legislation of the Church relating to Applications for Recognition as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland. The General Assembly repeal

(in as much as they have not already been repealed) Act XX, 1985; Act XIX, 1987; Act XXIII, 1989; Act XXI, 1991; Act XVI, 1992; Act XV, 1996; Act XIX, 2001; Act XXVIII, 2004; Act XXXII, 2014 and Act XXXIII, 2014.

The General Assembly direct that all Applications from Ministers or Probationers of other churches seeking admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall be processed by the Board of Ministry observing the following directives:

2.1 The Board of Ministry shall publish and regularly update a *Minister or Probationer's Application Form*. The Form shall consist of Part A for the use of the minister or probationer and Part B to be completed by the Presbytery or committee of Presbytery through whom the applicant is making application. The Presbytery shall oversee the initial stages of the application process. To comply with civil legislation, the form shall include information on the immigration and nationality of the applicant. The form shall gather information on their previous education and experience, their previous experience or work and ministry, their understanding of the gospel and theological views, their vision for ministry including their wholehearted commitment to the authority of scripture and the doctrines of the Reformed faith, together their reasons for wishing to leave their previous church and enter the ministry of the Free Church. The application must be supported by suitable references. This will normally include certification of their credentials and good standing within their past denomination. The candidate must declare their compliance with PVG legislation.

2.2 If the Presbytery supports the application and is satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a ministerial charge in the Free Church of Scotland, and if the applicant gives an unqualified agreement to the questions put to licentiates and is willing to sign the formula, then the Board shall agree to interview the applicant and come to a decision on the application.

2.3 The Board shall have the right to require an additional appraisal of the candidate including an assessment day or conference if deemed appropriate. The Board are authorised to require medical information if they regard this as necessary to ensure that a candidate is able to carry out the duties of a minister or to ensure that adequate support and provision is made in each case. The Board may require some applicants to undertake further theological studies. In coming to a view on the application the Board shall properly assess the candidate's reputation and history of service in the church of Jesus Christ along with their gifts and character.

2.4 Where the Board is satisfied with the applicant and approve the application they shall process the application through the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in terms of the following protocol:

2.4.1 The Board of Ministry shall give sufficient prior notification to Presbyteries of all applications from ministers of other churches being reported to the General Assembly or its Commission.

2.4.2 The relevant Presbytery and the Board of Ministry are responsible to process the whole application with due diligence on behalf of the denomination. For reasons of confidentiality nothing more than the name of the applicant, the Presbytery they are applying through, and the date when their application will be disposed of, is required by way of notification to other Presbyteries.

2.4.3 To assist all parties the following deadline shall apply to all applications. Papers relating to an application must be in the hands of the Board of Ministry not less than six weeks prior to the meeting of the General Assembly or its Commission. The Board shall be responsible to give notice to Presbyteries at least one month before the application is finally disposed of. Otherwise the application will await the next available Commission or General Assembly.

2.4.4 The full application papers need not be made available to the Assembly or its Commission in instances where the responsible Presbytery and the Board of Ministry has no hesitation in recommending that the application be received. A précis setting out the main aspects of the application shall be sufficient in such cases. In cases where dissent had been recorded, or reservations have been expressed, by either the Presbytery or the Board of Ministry, the full application shall come before the Assembly or its Commission.

2.5 In cases where it is clear that the applicant – either because of his age or particular circumstances – is neither interested in, nor able to take up a charge in the Free Church, then the decision to require a medical certificate or to interview the applicant shall be at the discretion of the Board.

2.6 The Board of Ministry shall not approve an application unless they are satisfied that the minister or probationer possesses educational qualifications and professional training comparable to those required of applicants for Licence by the Free Church of Scotland unless appropriate steps are taken to correct any deficiency. The Board shall ascertain that the minister is fully committed to maintaining the peace and unity of this Church and does not hold opinions or follow practices likely to be divisive.

2.7 The General Assembly directs the Board of Ministry that applicants for ministry in the Free Church from other denominations shall normally study the Free Church Ministry Module. The Board shall ensure that the minister or probationer has such knowledge of the *Practice of the Free Church of Scotland* as to render him a competent person to act as Moderator of a Kirk Session and to assume the responsibilities which normally fall upon Free Church ministers in the courts of the Church. The Board may also set suitable guided reading or require essays on aspects of Free Church history and theology or other relevant subjects, as they shall see cause. The Board may in certain circumstances require the completion of a placement under the supervision of an experienced minister of the Church.

2.8 The General Assembly declare that only the General Assembly or its Commission of Assembly shall admit ministers from other churches. The General Assembly authorise all future meetings of the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of all such applications as a matter of routine.

2.9 The General Assembly declare that the foregoing provisions contain all the legislation of the Church relating to Applications from Ministers or Probationers of other churches seeking admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland and accordingly repeal Act XXXV, 2005; Act XXXIV, 2013; and Act XXXIII, 2014.

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**Act 20 – Act anent Admission of Rev. Alberto de Paula**  
Number 20 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

1. The General Assembly receive the application from Rev. Alberto de Paula, 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 General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, to make arrangements for Mr de Paula to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The General Assembly declare Mr de Paula to be the minister of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church upon his signing the Formula under the direction of the Presbytery.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr. de Paula to avail himself of the online course in Free Church Practice and Principles under the supervision of Professor John Angus Macleod.

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**Act 21 – Act anent the admission of West Church, Inverness**  
Number 21 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant the body of Christians worshipping in West Church, Inverness, 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 West Church, Inverness (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Macmillan. They grant Mr Macmillan a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to meet at the earliest available opportunity: (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 and recognising the ministry of Rev. Andrew Macmillan.

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**Act 22 – Act anent the admission of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church**  
Number 22 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church 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 Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church within the Presbytery of the Edinburgh and Perth under the ministry of Rev. Alberto De Paula on his successful application to be admitted as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland. They declare that the minister's appointment be without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3. They instruct the Presbytery of the Edinburgh and Perth at the earliest available opportunity to (i) 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 meet with the congregation for public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Alberto De Paula.

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**Act 23 – Act anent Lyle Orr Awards**  
Number 23 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, declare that the Lyle Orr award system, and the associated exploration project, be discontinued, effective from the rising of this General Assembly.

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**Act 24 – Act anent Appointment of Rev. Colin Morison as Camps Supervisor**  
Number 24 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Colin Morison as Camps Supervisor in August 2015 and they commend him to the prayers of the Church.

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**Act 25 – Act anent the Appointment of Rev. David Meredith as Missions Director**  
Number 25 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. David Meredith as Missions Director on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 according to the provisions of Act XI, Class II, 2015 as amended by Act . . . ., Class II, 2016. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to induct Rev. David Meredith to the post of Missions Director on a date not later than 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016. They grant Mr Meredith a seat on the said Presbytery effective from the date of his induction.

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**Act 26 – Act anent Evangelism Support Group**  
Number 26 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly declare that the Evangelism Sub-Committee, so designated by Act XXVII, Class II, 2007, be disbanded effective from the rising of the 2016 General Assembly. They approve of the revised financial arrangements for evangelism support whereby funds allocated to the Sub-Committee for the support of evangelism will continue to be allocated by the Board from its budget for this purpose.

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**Act 27 – Act anent Change of Name for the Missions Board**  
Number 27 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly declare that the name of the Missions Board, appointed according to the terms of Act XIII, Class II, 2015, is changed from Missions Board to Mission Board. They amend the said Act XIII, 2015, accordingly. They instruct that all legislative and formal documentation be amended to reflect this change.

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**Act 28 – Act anent the Mission Board Principles of Funding**  
Number 28 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly approve the Missions Board's Principles of Funding document for the apportionment of the discretionary part of its budget to the mission work of the Church. They instruct that this Principles of Funding document be adopted by the Church. The Principles of Funding are as follows:

1. *Word Based Ministry.* The Missions Board will offer financial support primarily for the purpose of establishing, equipping and sustaining ministries that are Word-based.
2. *Partnerships.* The Board is committed to the local oversight and pastoral care of missionaries and missionary projects. Nevertheless, it recognises that in many cases it is not able to provide the necessary level of local oversight and care required due to limited financial and management resources. The Board will, therefore, set up suitable arrangements with partner missionary agencies and / or indigenous churches who have the resources to provide the necessary spiritual and practical care for those operating abroad. A list of suitable theological and missiological partner agencies will be compiled by the Board and reviewed on a regular basis. Such partner agencies may also provide support funding for missionaries as part of the arrangement.
3. *Funding* The Board will offer financial support of up to 50% of the package required, for fixed-term missionary projects. In some cases, the Board may provide up to 100% of the funding package for a time-limited period. The Board will establish levels of funding on a case by case basis. The Board will also provide assistance in the process of identifying and accessing other funding sources.

The Board is committed to time-limited funding in its support of its projects. Successful applications and proposals for funding will be for a fixed term and funding awarded will be for the duration of the fixed term. An application for an extension of the current funding can be submitted at the end of a current term. The Board will not commit to open-ended support of missionaries.

Funding for mission projects is largely dependent on income from congregations through the Missions Levy and the Missions Fund. The Board's ability to give financial support to its mission projects in the longer term will depend on income from these sources. The Board will fulfil the Church's financial commitment to its mission projects arising from General Assembly directives and the terms of legacy funding.

4. *Short Term Mission Grants* The Board will make budgetary provision annually (2-3% of overall budget) up to a maximum of £5,000 initially to distribute to Free Church members doing short-term mission work in various parts of the world. The financial support offered will not exceed £500 to any individual. This does two things: (i) it shows the Board is interested and supportive of all Free Church missionaries whether short or long-term, and (ii) it allows the Board to contribute a nominal fee to mission endeavours which would not qualify for larger funding.
  5. *Financial Sustainability* The Board will strive to achieve the financial sustainability of all its projects and of its combined total remit. This will be achieved through careful project-led funding and budget planning aimed at realising a balanced budget from year to year. Applications and proposals will be considered by the Board on a regular basis and prioritised in line with the Board's strategy. The Board will set out a timetable for such planning and agree a budget with the Board of Trustees each year.
  6. *Commitment to Communicate* The Board is committed to communicate the work undertaken through all its ministry, mission and missionary activities effectively within the Church and beyond.
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**Act 29 – Act anent Redevelopment Status of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon**  
Number 29 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly declare that the redevelopment status of the congregation of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon, granted according to the terms of Act XIV, Class II, 2011, and Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges, has expired. They approve of the Missions Board's decision to grant the congregation 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, paragraph 3.4.

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**Act 30 – Act anent East Kilbride as a Locally Subsidised Charge**  
Number 30 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note that the current three-year term of locally subsidised ministry at East Kilbride, according to the provisions of Act XIV, Class II, 2013, terminates at this Assembly. They declare that the locally subsidised arrangements be extended for one year until the 2017 General Assembly. They instruct the Missions Board to consult with the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and report to the 2017 General Assembly on future ministerial arrangements at East Kilbride.

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**Act 31 – Act anent Sleat and Strath as a Locally Subsidised Charge**  
Number 31 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note that the current three-year term of locally subsidised ministry at Sleat and Strath, according to the provisions of Act XIV, Class II, 2013, terminates at this Assembly. They declare that the current ministerial arrangements, under the provisions of the said Act, be extended for a second and final three-year term.

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**Act 32 – Act anent Campbeltown as a Locally Subsidised Charge**  
Number 32 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant the congregation of Campbeltown the status of a Locally Subsidised Charge for a three-year term according to the provisions of Act XIV, Class II, 2013.

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**Act 33 – Act anent Assistant Minister at Back**  
Number 33 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant permission to the congregation of Back 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 2018.

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**Act 34 – Act anent Assistant Minister at Smithton, Culloden and Nairn**  
Number 34 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant permission to the congregation of Smithton, Culloden and Nairn to appoint a second Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2018.

**Act 35 – Act anent Assistant Minister at Glasgow City**  
Number 35 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly grant permission to the congregation of Glasgow City 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 2018.

**Act 36 – Act anent the link between Glasgow City and Campbeltown**  
Number 36 of Class 2

*Category: Presbyteries & Congregations*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly disjoin the preaching-station of Campbeltown from Glasgow City Free Church in order to allow Campbeltown to develop its future ministry independent of Glasgow City Free Church. They repeal Act II, Class 2, October 2012 Commission of Assembly.

**Act 37 – Act anent uniting Portree and Bracadale**  
Number 37 of Class 2

*Category: Presbyteries & Congregations*

*Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly unite the congregation of Bracadale with the congregation of Portree with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court. They declare that the consolidated charge be known as Portree and Bracadale Free Church within the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross.

**Act 38 – Act anent Sale of Manse at Applecross**  
Number 38 of Class 2

*Category: Local Property & Assets*

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016*

The General Assembly note the sale of the Manse at Applecross in accordance with permission granted by Act I, Commission of Assembly, October 2003. They further note that a petition from the Deacons Court of Lochcarron and Applecross addressed to the 2015 General Assembly, seeking a revision of the terms of the said Act regarding the use of funds raised from the sale of the manse, was withdrawn but yet inadvertently included in Act XV, Class II, 2015 anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds. They therefore revise Act XV, Class 2, 2015 to the extent that Paragraph 1 is deleted. The revised Act XV is as follows:

1. **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.
2. **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.

3. **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.

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**Act 39 – Act anent Cobham Presbyterian Church**  
Number 5 of Class 2

**Category: Mission & Ministry**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Mr R.I. Haffenden and others regarding the finding of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly and the dissolution of the congregation of Cobham and grant its crave.
2. The General Assembly declare that the decision of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly regarding Cobham Presbyterian Church is *ultra vires*.
3. The General Assembly note the findings arising from the due process of consultation followed in the meetings of the Kirk Session of London City Presbyterian Church, the Kirk Session of Cobham Presbyterian Church, and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, held on 10th September 2015, 11th September 2015, and 22nd September 2015 respectively, together with the situation now prevailing as a result of the Commission's finding.
4. The General Assembly declare the congregation of Cobham to be united with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church. They further declare that the united charge be known as London City Presbyterian Church under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Pearson, with one Kirk Session exercising oversight of the combined congregation and with one Deacons' Court exercising fiduciary responsibility over the combined assets.
5. The General Assembly instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of the united charge to consult with the Board of Trustees concerning the loan from the Board of Trustees to the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 until the pastoral tie of Rev. David D. Miller was severed with the congregation, and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse.
6. The General Assembly repeal Act 19, Class 2, 2013.

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**ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**

**Act 1 – Act admitting Rev. John T. Mann to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**  
Number 1 of Class 2

**Category: Admission & Training**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. John T. Mann, resigned Church of Scotland minister, 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 Northern Presbytery to make arrangements for Mr John Mann to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly.
  3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Mann has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.
  4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Mann to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
  5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.
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**Act 2 – Act admitting Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**  
Number 2 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Malcolm Macleod, minister in the Associated Presbyterian Church, 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 the Western Isles to make arrangements for Mr Macleod to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. 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.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Macleod to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

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**Act 3 – Act admitting Rev. James Paterson to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**  
Number 3 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. James Paterson, minister in the Church of Scotland, 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 Paterson to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Paterson has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Paterson to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

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**Act 4 – Act admitting Rev. Robert Walker to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**  
Number 4 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Robert Walker, minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and, noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to make arrangements for Mr Walker to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Paterson has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.

4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Walker to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held in retentis.

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**Act 5 – Act anent Cobham Presbyterian Church**  
Number 5 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

1. The Commission of Assembly, noting the finding of the last General Assembly in regard to Cobham Presbyterian Church (Act XXVII, Class 2, 2015), in particular the declaration that the congregation to be financially non-viable, declare that the said congregation be dissolved with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. They direct the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of Cobham to meet prior to this date to record the Commission's finding and to complete such actions as may be required in relation to 2) – 5) below.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to make arrangements for the pastoral care of communicant members and adherents at Cobham. They direct the Presbytery to oversee the transfer of names presently on the Communion Roll of Cobham Presbyterian Church to the Communion Roll of London City Presbyterian Church by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, without prejudice to the right of any communicant to request a Disjunction Certificate from the Cobham Kirk Session before this date.
3. The Commission of Assembly direct that the entire assets which pertain to Cobham Free Church be allocated to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer. The Commission further direct that, after repayment of funds lent to Cobham Free Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse, the resultant asset value be distributed by the said Presbytery to further gospel work within their bounds, in accordance with the joint resolution of the Presbytery and the Board of Trustees and include some element to London City Presbyterian Church in recognition of their past endeavours to establish the Cobham congregation.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to take the necessary steps to dissolve the Cobham Free Church charity.
5. The Commission of Assembly direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to report on these matters above to the next Commission of Assembly through the Missions Board.

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**Act 6 – Act anent Redevelopment Status of the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus**  
Number 6 of Class 2

*Category: Mission & Ministry*

*Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016*

1. The Commission of Assembly declare that the Redevelopment Status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus in terms of Act XXXIV, Class 2, 1988 is now terminated.
2. The Commission of Assembly further declare that the ministry of Rev. Dr John S. Ross in the congregation shall continue until his retirement at the age of 70 with the full costs of ministry being borne by the congregation for the remainder of his ministry.

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**Act 7 – Act admitting Rev. John Marker to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**  
Number 7 of Class 2

*Category: Admission & Training*

*Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016*

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. John Marker, resigned minister in a Congregational Church, 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 Marker to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Marker has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Marker to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

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**Act 8 – Act renaming the Congregation of Gairloch and Kinlochewe**  
Number 8 of Class 2

**Category: Presbyteries & Congregations**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016**

The Commission of Assembly declare that the name of the congregation known as Gairloch and Kinlochewe Free Church be changed to that of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon Free Church to reflect the change in the composition of the congregation.

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**Act 9 – Act constituting the Presbytery of North America**  
Number 9 of Class 2

**Category: Presbyteries & Congregations**

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

1. The Commission of Assembly, noting the information received by extract from the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada, namely that the Free Church congregation at Toronto, Canada, is due to be admitted into the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America on 14th October 2015, and that as a result of this admission the congregation of Livonia will be the sole remaining Free Church congregation in the said Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada, dissolve the Synod of North America effective from 14th October 2015.
  2. The Commission of Assembly declare that the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada and the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island be united to form one Presbytery comprising the congregations of Livonia, Eastern Charge, Western Charge, and Central Charge, the Presbytery to be known as the Presbytery of North America, with its seat at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
  3. The Commission of Assembly direct that the Presbytery holds its first meeting at Charlottetown not later than 31st October 2015, the Moderator to be Rev. Kent Compton, and authorise this and future meetings to use electronic media for attendance and participation as required, provided always that the requirements for a quorum be fulfilled. They further direct that the Presbytery appoints its Clerk at the aforesaid meeting.
  4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Clerk to ensure that the records of the Presbytery are made available annually at the General Assembly for examination.
  5. The Commission of Assembly declare that the Presbytery of North America be associated with the Western Synod.
  6. The Commission of Assembly amend Act 6, Class 2, 2002 to the extent that all references to the Synod of North America be deleted.
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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**HELD AT EDINBURGH 23rd MAY 2016**

*At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2016 years at 6 o'clock evening*

- 1. Assembly Constituted** At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church there on 23rd May 2016, which day the Ministers and Elders, Commissioners from Presbyteries appointed to meet this day, were convened, and after sermon by Rev. David A. Robertson, Moderator of last General Assembly, who preached from Matthew 16 verse 3, the General Assembly was duly constituted.
- 2. Thanks** The General Assembly record their thanks to the Retiring Moderator, Rev. David A. Robertson, for his sermon and for his services in the chair.
- 3. Election of Moderator** The General Assembly then proceeded to elect a Moderator, when it was moved, seconded and agreed that the Assembly appoint Rev. Dr John D. Nicholls to be their Moderator. Intimation of his appointment was then made to Dr Nicholls, who, having being introduced and welcomed, took the Chair and thanked the Assembly.
- 4. Presentation of Bible to the Moderator** Ms Elaine Duncan presented a Bible to the Moderator on behalf of the Scottish Bible Society.
- 5. 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 2016**

**NORTHERN SYNOD**

**Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Dr John Nicholls, Smithton-Culloden and Nairn	Mr James Fraser,
Rev. Angus Macrae, Dingwall and Strathpeffer	Mr Callum Macdonald,
Rev. Farquhar Renwick, Knockbain	Mr James MacArthur,
Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean, Greyfriars-Stratherrick	Mr George Maclean,
Rev. Alexander Sutherland, Fortrose	Mr Iain A. Macdonald,
Rev. Colin Morison, Elgin and Forres	Mr Hamish Mackenzie,

**Northern Presbytery**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Duncan Macleod, Dornoch	Mr Norman Macleod,
Rev. Eric Paterson, Golspie	Mr John Laing,
Rev. John Forbes, Bonar Bridge and Lairg	Rev. William Paterson,
Rev. Alasdair Macaulay, Tain and Fearn	Mr Wildon Campbell,

**THE SOUTHERN SYNOD****Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. William D. Graham, retired	Dr James Boyd,
Rev. Principal M. Iver Martin, Edinburgh Theological Seminary	Mr John Scoales,
Rev. David MacPherson, Bon Accord, Aberdeen	Mr J. Clinkscale,
Rev. David A. Robertson, Dundee	Mr R. Proudlove,
Rev. David Court, Christ Church, Edinburgh	Mr Iain Macleod
Rev. Athole Rennie, Grace Church, Edinburgh	Mr William Duthie,

**Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. Benjamin van Rensburg, Arran	Mr Innes Macleod,
Rev. Rory Stott, Ayr and Kilwinning	Mr Norman Cumming,
Rev. Andy Longwe, Cumbernauld	Mr Colin MacDonald,
Rev. Sean Ankers, Mull and Coll	Mr Calum Ferguson,
Rev. James Beaton, Oban	Mr Clive Bailey,
Rev. Colin Macleod, Asian Outreach	Mr Gordon Strong,
Rev. Duncan Peters, Asian Outreach	Mr John MacKenzie,
Rev. Ivor Macdonald, Hope Church, Coatbridge	Mr Evan Macdonald,

**WESTERN SYNOD****Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. John H. Maclean, Trotternish	Mr Angus R. Gillies,
Rev. Marcos Florit, Lochcarron and Applecross	Mr Donald MacKenzie
Rev. Alasdair Macleod, Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon	Mr Calum Nicolson,
Rev. Gordon Matheson, Sleat and Strath	Rev. W. Robert F. Coke,

**Presbytery of the Western Isles**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Elders</i>
Rev. James Maciver, Stornoway Free Church	Mr Michael Townsend,
Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell, Point	Mr Donald A. Morrison,
Rev. Calum I. Macleod, Back	Mr Iain A. Mackinnon,
Rev. Iain T. Campbell, Park	Mr William Harris,
Rev. Andrew Coghill, Scalpay	Mr Murdo Macleod,
Rev. Hugh Ferrier, High Free Church, Stornoway	Mr Murdo MacPhail,

The General Assembly noted that Elder's Certificates were still outstanding regarding the following Commissioners: Rev. W. Robert F. Coke, Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, Mr Iain A. Macdonald, Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross, and Mr Wildon Campbell, Northern Presbytery. It was moved, seconded and agreed to that all three names would be included on the Roll pending receipt of the Certificate from their respective Kirk Sessions.

**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. Introducing Delegates** It was moved, seconded and agreed that Rev. David Meredith, Missions Director, be appointed to introduce visiting delegates to the General Assembly.

**8. Chief Executive Officer** It was moved, seconded and agreed that Mr Scott Matheson, Chief Executive Officer, be authorised to answer question from the General Assembly regarding the report of the Board of Trustees and any other financial and charity related matters.

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

**9.1 Committee to prepare a Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen**, consisting of: Messrs. John Nicholls, David A. Robertson, William D. Graham, John H. Maclean, Angus Macrae, Colin Morison, Duncan Peters and Athole Rennie, *ministers*; with Messrs. John Scoales, Iain Mackinnon, Iain A. Macdonald, J. Clinkscale, James Fraser, Robert F. Coke, Iain Macleod, Norman Macleod, and Innes Macleod, *elders*, with Rev. Dr John Nicholls as Convener. The Committee will meet on Tuesday morning, at 9.30am, in the Hall at Buccleuch Free Church. Please listen for an intimation before the closing on Monday evening.

**9.2 Committee to visit Presbytery, Synod and Committee Records**, consisting of: Messrs. Malcolm Maclean, Marcos Florit, Hugh Ferrier, Andrew Coghill, Ivor Macdonald, James Beaton, Benjamin van Rensberg, Alasdair Macaulay, Farquhar Renwick, Andrew Longwe, Calum I. Macleod, David MacPherson, Gordon Matheson, *ministers*; with Messrs. R. Proudlove, Colin MacDonald, Calum Ferguson, Evan Macdonald, Donald Mackenzie, William Harris, Murdo Macleod, Gordon Strong, James Macarthur, Hamish Mackenzie, William Paterson, Angus R. Gillies, and Callum Macdonald, *elders*, with Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean as Convener. The Committee will meet in Room 8 at the Free Church Offices. All record books will be deposited in that room. It may be necessary to meet for more than one session to complete this task. Please listen for an intimation before the closing on Monday evening to announce the time at which the Committee will begin its meeting.

**9.3 Committee to Prepare a Minute on Deceased Ministers and Elders**, consisting of: Messrs. John Forbes, Rory Stott, Alasdair Macleod, Colin Macleod, Alexander Sutherland, Duncan Macleod, Eric Paterson, Iain T. Campbell, *ministers*; with Messrs. Clive Bailey, John Mackenzie, William Duthie, Calum Nicolson, Murdo MacPhail, Hector MacLennan, Michael Townsend, George F. Maclean, and John Laing, *elders*, with Rev. John Forbes as Convener. The Committee meets at a convenient point in the week during lunch or afternoon breaks as arranged by the Convener. The Assembly Clerks expect to have most if not all of the information to hand by the time the Committee meets. Please listen for an intimation to announce the time at which the Committee will meet.

**9.4 Receiving Party for visit of Lord High Commissioner** Messrs. Iver Martin, Malcolm Macleod, Iain D. Campbell, David Court, Sean Ankers, Ministers, and Messrs. Donald A. Morrison, James Boyd, and Norman Cumming, Elders. The visit has been arranged for 12.00noon on the Thursday of the Assembly. There will be a rehearsal for the Receiving Party on the previous day at the conclusion of the afternoon business. Please listen for an intimation with details on Tuesday evening before the closing.

**10. Welcome** The following were introduced to the Moderator and welcomed to the Assembly: Rev. Lee Shelnut - Huntersville ARP Church, Huntersville, NC.

**11. 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) ADMISSION OF PAPERS

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the report of the Committee and thank the Committee.
2. The General Assembly receive the petitions and letters listed in 2 and 3 above into the Assembly.

#### (B) PETITIONS

1. The General Assembly direct that the Petition from the Northern Presbytery, requesting the appointment of an Assessor Elder, be treated as a routine Petition. The General Assembly receive the Petition from 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.
2. The General Assembly direct that the Petition from the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, requesting the appointment of an Assessor Elder, be treated as a routine Petition. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross and grant its crave. They appoint Mr Callum Macdonald, elder at Urquhart and Resolis, to be General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly declare that the appointment of Mr James Fraser, elder at Kiltarlity, as General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, which is due to expire at this Assembly according to the terms of Act II, Class II, 2015, shall continue until such time as the Presbytery requests its termination. They repeal the said Act II, Class II, 2015.
4. The General Assembly direct that Petitions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 from Rev. David G. Parker, Rev. Robert M. Walker, Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod, Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson, and Mr Richard Haffenden with Mr Adam de Jong, respectively, be taken up at a suitable point in the Assembly's business.

#### (C) LETTERS

1. The General Assembly receive the letter from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and thank them for their greetings which they reciprocate. They regret that the Free Church of Scotland is unable to send a delegate to their forthcoming General Assembly and instruct the Principal Clerk to arrange for a letter of greetings to be sent to the Stated Clerk to the OPC Assembly.
  2. The General Assembly are pleased to receive the letter from the Free Church in Southern Africa and thank them for the greetings which they reciprocate.
  3. The General Assembly receive the letter from the Presbyterian Church of Australia and thank them for the greetings which they reciprocate. They welcome the continuing dialogue towards closer relations with the Free Church of Scotland and direct the Ecumenical Relations Committee to maintain communication with the PCA Committee on Relationships with Other Churches and to report on developments accordingly. They thank the PCA for the cordial invitations extended to Rev. David A. Robertson and to Rev. Dr John Nicholls as specified in their letter.
- 12. Burghead Kirk Session** The General Assembly received a request from the Kirk Session at Burghead for permission to meet during the sitting of the Assembly to consider an urgent matter. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the requested permission be granted.
- 13. Adjournment** The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall on Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 9.00am, whereof public intimation having being given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church  
the 24th day of May 2016 years at 9 o'clock forenoon*

1. **Assembly Constituted** At Edinburgh, on 24th May 2016 at 9.00am, and within Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, the General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.
2. **Moderator's Address** The Moderator addressed the Assembly on the theme 'The Church, the Great Commission, and the Presence of Jesus.'
3. **Minutes** The minutes of Sederunt 1 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 the address as follows was agreed to and appointed to be duly signed and transmitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland, with a letter from the Clerk.

**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 24th day of May 2016, 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 give special thanks to Almighty God for Your Majesty's long reign over us, and for the good health and strength that have allowed Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to fulfil so faithfully and graciously all your considerable duties of state. We also express the deep affection in which Your Majesty is held, and the special pleasure given by the recent celebrations of your birthday. We pray, in the familiar words of the Bible, that "as your days, so may your strength be."

We continue to pray for Your Majesty and for all the Royal Family, seeking God's protection for you in these uncertain times, and asking that His gracious presence and favour will daily be with you, your children, your grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren.

We are grateful to Your Majesty for the great example you have set to our nation in the faithful performance of all your duties, and for the wisdom with which you have responded to the changes that affect so many aspects of your subjects' lives.

We would especially express our thanks that your commitment to the Christian Faith is not simply a matter of ceremonial oath, but has been openly and personally expressed in your Christmas Message and on other occasions.

We remember in our prayers Your Majesty's Ministers and Governments, both in Westminster and in Holyrood, as they discharge their responsibilities to promote the prosperity of all Your Majesty's subjects, to uphold law and order, to care for the needy, and to safeguard the peace of the Realm. We particularly pray for the education of the rising generation, for the quality of family life, and for respect for the sanctity of life, both of the unborn and of the aged.

We note with pleasure the Diamond Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which has given millions of young people opportunities for community service while gaining valuable skills and experiences.

We give thanks for Your Majesty's continued recognition of the work and ministry of the Free Church of Scotland by the visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, as we welcome Lord Hope this year. In the midst of the on-going centennial commemorations of the First World War, we recall that these visits began in the aftermath of that conflict, as a mark of recognition for the unique sacrifices made by the Scottish Highlands and Islands. We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of Your Majesty's Armed Forces, and also our admiration for the work of His Royal Highness the Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales with various organisations that address the needs of wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans.

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 presented by the Chairman, Mr James Fraser, who addressed the Assembly.

*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 and the Church's staff for their work.
2. 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.
3. The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,500 from 1st January 2016. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

#### **(B) CAPITAL PROJECTS AND SUPPORTING GROWTH**

1. The General Assembly note the increased demand for Board of Trustee loans. They endorse the Board's view that regular strategic planning at congregational and Presbytery levels may assist in decision making.
2. The General Assembly recognise the importance of planning over a longer time horizon and instruct Boards and Committees to work with the Board of Trustees to produce budget schedules for 2017, 2018 and 2019 and Presbyteries to work closely with the Missions Board and formulate strategic plans for increasing the impact of Presbyteries on the populations which they serve.

#### **(C) COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

1. The General Assembly note the Board's on-going work in assessing the risks facing the Church. They instruct the Board to keep these risks under review and seek the assistance of Presbyteries, Boards and Committees in managing the relevant risks.
2. The General Assembly instruct the Board to raise awareness of Charity Trustee's duties and responsibilities across the Church and provide guidance where appropriate.
3. The General Assembly note the benefits of a Conflicts of Interest Policy in promoting good governance at Committee and Board level. They urge all involved in meetings and decision making across the Church to continue to refer to the principles during the conduct of business.
4. The General Assembly note the potential for 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 2017 Assembly through the Board of Trustees.
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 where necessary. They extend their gratitude to Mr Iain MacLeod for his service as Lead Signatory for PVG Applications.
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.
7. The General Assembly remind both congregational courts and Presbyteries of their obligations to ensure compliance with all employment legislation pertaining to any persons they may engage or appoint on a contract basis. Accordingly, they instruct them to ensure compliance with all appropriate employment legislation, and to have in place Employer's Liability insurance.

8. 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.

#### (D) COMMUNICATIONS

1. The General Assembly endorse the Board's desire to refine its work in the areas of public policy and contemporary issues and to investigate ways to improve access to research on current issues and respond and engage with policy makers.

2. The General Assembly encourage any congregations with little or no online presence to make contact with the Communications Officer for advice and assistance in this area.

3. The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Dr I. D. Campbell as Editor of *The Record* and record their gratitude for the work of the previous Editor, Rev. Dr M. Maclean.

4. The General Assembly endorse the Board's plan to undertake a detailed review of *Free* and *Compass* magazines. They thank Mrs Nicolson and Mrs Howat for their editorial of *Free* and *Compass* and are grateful to them for agreeing to continue in post while the review occurs.

#### (E) MINISTERIAL CATEGORIES FOR MINISTERS NOT IN A CHARGE

The General Assembly ordain that from the close of this Assembly the following categories and related stipulations shall apply to all ordained ministers of the Free Church of Scotland with the exception of those in a Charge, those in posts specified as equivalent to a Charge and which include a seat in a Presbytery of the Free Church, and those who are without a Charge but have been awarded a seat in a Presbytery of the Free Church.

The Principal Clerk of Assembly shall maintain a complete record comprising the names of all those listed in the categories below. He shall produce the complete list annually and shall report the same to the General Assembly through the report of the Board of Ministry.

##### 1. Roll of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call

The Roll of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call shall comprise all ordained ministers of the Free Church in good standing who are not already in a Charge and are in a position to receive a Call. Placement on this Roll shall be taken to imply an individual's sincere readiness to accept a call in appropriate circumstances. Congregations shall not address a Call to any Minister listed in Categories 2, 3 and 4 of this Act.

1.1 Ministers on this Roll who become unavailable for call must inform their Presbytery who shall in turn direct the Principal Clerk to transfer their name to whichever category is relevant to their circumstances. While remaining on this Roll ministers shall not be eligible for a seat in Presbytery or to serve on Assembly-appointed Boards and Committees of the Church.

1.2 In no case shall the name of a minister remain on the Roll of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call for more than three years from the date of inclusion in the Roll unless application for an extension of the period be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three-year period. When the minister resides outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, his application for retention on the Roll shall be made to the Presbytery of which he was previously a member. In no case shall a name remain on the Roll for more than six years.

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

##### 2. Roll of Ministers without Charge not Eligible for Call

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

2.1 Ministers on this Roll who indicate that they wish to be available for Call must petition the General Assembly through the Board of Ministry for transference to the Roll of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call. While remaining on the Roll of Ministers without Charge not Eligible for Call, ministers shall not be eligible for a seat in Presbytery or to serve on Assembly-appointed Boards and Committees of the Church.

2.2 A minister on this Roll who has an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland, and who seeks a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides, may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery. He shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery for the duration of the period in which he holds the appointment on the basis of which he is granted his seat; and on ceasing to hold such an appointment his membership of Presbytery shall lapse and his name placed on the Roll of Ministers without Charge not Eligible for Call, or the Roll of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call, whichever is the more appropriate.

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

2.4 Ministers on the Roll of Ministers without Charge not Eligible for Call shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence outwith the bounds of any Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.

### **3. Roll of Retired Ministers**

The Roll of Retired Ministers shall comprise all ordained ministers of the Free Church in good standing who have taken retirement but do not have a seat in Presbytery, including those who have been received from other denominations since retiring.

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

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

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

3.4 All applications for retirement must be supported by extract minutes from the relevant Kirk Session and Presbytery and these must show that the applicant has agreed to resile from his rights of active participation in the courts of the congregation - his right to respond to a specific request from the Moderator or Interim Moderator of the congregation being unchanged.

3.5 Retirement shall involve the surrender of the emoluments of the Charge, and the vacation of the manse unless the Deacons' Court permits continuing occupation for a period; the congregation shall be deemed to be and declared to be vacant by order of the Presbytery after the specified retirement date has been reached.

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

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

3.8 The General Assembly further direct that ministers and missionaries serving under the oversight of the Missions Board, who, at retirement, choose not to apply for a seat in a Presbytery shall continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. In the event of any such minister moving outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church, he shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided. The General Assembly direct Presbyteries to keep the names of the said ministers on the Roll of Resigned Ministers, maintained by the Clerk of each Presbytery and reviewed annually. Presbytery Clerks shall inform the Assembly Clerk at the beginning of each calendar year of the names on the said Roll.

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

3.10 A minister who has retired in terms of this Act may have his name included in the Communion Roll of the congregation which he regularly attends.

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

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

3.13 Each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the Roll of Retired Ministers who are resident within the bounds of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are required to make due investigation annually that such individuals continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland and after due intimation to the individual concerned, may order their name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found.

#### **4. Roll of Resigned Ministers**

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

4.1 This list includes the following:

(a) Ministers who resigned their charge *simpliciter*;

(b) Ministers who resigned their charge and are employed by other agencies and are financially supported by the Free Church but not seconded by a Board or Committee of the Free Church of Scotland;

(c) Ministers who resigned their charge and are employed by other agencies but are not financially supported by the Free Church.

4.2 When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery (or, in the case of a Missions Board Charge, the Clerk of the Missions Board) shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by Extract Minute. The Extract Minute shall include the resolution of the Presbytery to place the name of the minister either on the Register of Ministers without Charge eligible for call or on the Roll of Resigned Ministers.

4.3 The normal procedure shall be that the name of the resigning minister shall be placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers. If the Presbytery resolve to place the name on the Roll of Ministers without Charge eligible for call, they must minute positive reasons for such placement on it, or subsequent continuance on or transference to it, and the Extract Minute furnished to the Principal Clerk shall contain these reasons. Such reasons shall be of the following order:

4.3.1 Where resignation is due to a breakdown in health;

4.3.2 Where resignation or severance of the pastoral tie is due to non-censurable incompatibility with his congregation;

4.3.3 Where resignation is due to secondment by a responsible Board or Committee of the Free Church to other pastoral or para-pastoral work.

- 4.3.4 Where the contract of a minister in a terminable appointment is not renewed by resolution of the General Assembly.
- 4.4 Placement on the Roll of Resigned Ministers shall not be granted where the resigning minister has accepted an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland other than by secondment as noted at 4.3.3 above.
- 4.5 If a minister whose name has been placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be admitted to the ministry or other full-time employment of another Church other than by secondment, his name shall be removed from the Roll.
- 4.6 A Minister whose name is placed on the Roll is required to notify the Clerk of Presbytery of any change of address. If a minister takes up residence within the bounds of another Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall also inform the Clerk of that Presbytery of his address and thereafter becomes under the jurisdiction of that Presbytery. In such a case the Presbytery Clerk shall advise the Principal Clerk.
- 4.7 A request by an individual whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers to have his name removed therefrom shall be dealt with by the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides. That Presbytery after due investigation and on due grounds shown (such as, the individual concerned no longer associates with the Free Church of Scotland) may declare him to be no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and order that his name be removed from the Roll.
- 4.8 A Minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers and who desires to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the General Assembly through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time, such petition to conform with the conditions of paragraph 4.4 above.
- 4.9 A minister, who has resigned his charge to accept an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland, and who seeks a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides, may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery. He shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery for the duration of the period in which he holds the appointment on the basis of which he is granted his seat; and on ceasing to hold such an appointment his membership of Presbytery shall lapse and his name placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers.
- 4.10 Ministers who have resigned shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation to which they belong but they may not be elected, as Ruling Elders or appointed as Assessor Elders, either to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery and Synod, or as Commissioners to the General Assembly.
- 4.11 Ministers on the Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence outwith the bounds of any Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.
- 4.12 Each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the Roll of Resigned Ministers who are resident within the bounds of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are required to make due investigation annually that such individuals continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland and after due intimation to the individual concerned, may order their name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found.

## **5. Roll of Probationers**

This list comprises all Probationers in good standing licensed by the Free Church of Scotland and who are available for Call. Probationers who no longer wish to be available for Call shall inform their Presbytery specifying the reasons. If their request to be removed from the Roll of Probationers is granted the Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute authorising him to remove their name from this list.

- 5.1 A Probationer is a candidate for the ministry who has completed the course of studies required by the Board of Ministry and has been licensed to preach by his Presbytery. He is eligible for calls to pastoral charges.
- 5.2 Clerks of Presbyteries shall send the names and addresses of all who may be licensed by them as Probationers, with dates of license, within one week thereafter, to the Principal Clerk of Assembly with a copy to the Clerk to the Board of Ministry.
- 5.3 The Principal Clerk shall prepare and maintain a Roll of all Probationers of the Free Church according to date of license and shall provide the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Roll, and the Board shall incorporate the list into its report to the General Assembly.

5.4 No name shall remain on the Roll of Probationers for more than six years, except as provided for in 5.5 and 5.6 below.

5.5 At any time between the sixth and tenth anniversaries of his name having been placed on the Roll of Probationers, an individual may petition the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides to have his name restored to the Roll, and the Presbytery, if it sees good cause, shall inform the Principal Clerk who shall restore the name to the Roll where it shall be retained until ten years have elapsed from the initial registration.

5.6 After ten years have elapsed from a name being added to the Roll of Probationers, it shall not be continued except by direct instruction of the General Assembly upon consideration of a petition for that purpose, supported by the Presbytery within whose bounds an individual then resides, and presented through the Board of Ministry.

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

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

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

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

5.11 If when granted a Disjunction Certificate, a Probationer does not lodge it within six weeks with another Free Church congregation, he shall be deemed to have removed his name from the Roll of Probationers.

6. The General Assembly direct that Act XVIII, Class II, 2013, be amended by the addition of the following as new paragraph 6, with existing paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 renumbered accordingly:

The General Assembly direct that for each Assistant Minister duly inducted and granted a seat in Presbytery, there be a corresponding Ruling Elder from the Kirk Session of the congregation in which the Assistant is placed. A corresponding elder granted a seat in Presbytery to offset an Assistant Ministers shall retain his seat only for such time as a seat is retained by the said Assistant.

7. The General Assembly repeal Act XXXIII, Class II, 2012 and Act XXXIV, Class II, 2012.

## (F) OTHER MATTERS

1. The General Assembly note the Board's concern over the storage of older Kirk Session, Deacons' Court and Finance Committee records and (i) instruct Presbyteries to identify a suitable public archive for storage of records and to pass records of churches within their bounds to the public storage where the records are 100 or more years of age with the proviso that Presbyteries are permitted at their discretion to pass records which are less than 100 years old to the same public storage; (ii) instruct Presbyteries to ensure that where records are being kept locally that they ensure that the place of storage are known, suitable and secure; and (iii) that where no suitable storage is available for records not deposited in a public archive such records are passed to the church offices in Edinburgh for storage until such time as they are eligible for storage in a public archive.

2. General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Assembly Clerks office, to review the appointment process and duties and responsibilities of the Moderator of the General Assembly and report to the 2017 General Assembly. They instruct, in particular, that the review include examination of the duties and responsibilities of the Moderator in the period between the Assembly they moderate and the succeeding Assembly.

3. The General Assembly instruct the Board to undertake a review of the Bookshop and the services provided and report to a future Assembly.

4. The General Assembly note the resignation from Rev. James Maciver as Principal Clerk of Assembly with effect from the end of 2017 General Assembly. They record their appreciation for the work of Mr Maciver to date and are grateful to him for giving sufficient notice of his resignation, allowing for a smooth handover of duties. The General Assembly direct that the appointment of a Principal Clerk of Assembly to succeed Rev. James Maciver be taken up as a separate item at a suitable point in the Assembly's business.
5. The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that a change in current manse arrangements may lead to financial and practical complications and reaffirm the principle that, in holding a charge, ministers should occupy the manse.
6. The General Assembly note the display of the Disruption Painting at Tate London this summer.
7. The General Assembly record their appreciation for the work of Mr Rod Morrison, Chief Administrative Officer and are pleased to note the appointment of Mr Scott Matheson as Chief Executive Officer and trust he will know the Lord's blessing in the role.
8. The General Assembly note the specification in Act I, Class II, 2006, (Act anent Presbytery Returns under the Barrier Act) that "the total number of Presbyteries in the Church shall constitute the appropriate base for calculating a majority and a non-return shall be taken as signifying disapproval of the matter contained in the Overture." The General Assembly further note that returns from Presbyteries to, (a) the Overture proposing an increase in proportional representation in the General Assembly; and (b) the Overture proposing measures relating to the election of elders to the General Assembly did not provide a majority in favour of passing either of the said Overtures and that, therefore, the Assembly is prohibited from passing the proposals into a standing law for the church. Therefore, the General Assembly pass from the matters contained in both these Overtures.

#### (G) NOMINATIONS

1. The General Assembly note the resignation of Mr John Matheson and Rev. Chris Smart from the Board of Trustees and thank them for their work. They approve the interim appointment of Mr Iain Gray to the Board of Trustees. They also approve of Mr Gray's appointment for a full term of service on the Board of Trustees as from the 2016 Assembly.
2. The General Assembly note the difficulties referred to by the Board in respect of a successor to Mr James Fraser as Chairman. The General Assembly, waiving Paragraph 1 of Act XXIII, Class II, 2007, extend the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman until the close of the 2019 General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly appoint the following membership of Committees and Boards:

Board of Trustees			2016
	Mr James M. Fraser	ILR	[3/3]
	Mr Donald Mackenzie	SWR	[3/1]
	Mr Callum Macdonald	ILR	[3/1]
	Mr Iain Gray	GA	[4/1]
	Mr Angus Mackay	ILR	[3/2]
	Rev. Kenneth J. Macleod	GA	[2/1]
	Rev. David C. Meredith	ILR	[2/1]
	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	ILR	[1/1]
	Rev. Paul Clarke	EP	[3/2]
	Rev. Calum Iain Macleod (Back)	WI	[4/1]
	Mr Alastair Oliver	EP	[4/1]
	Mr Murdo Macleod	WI	[3/2]
	Principal Clerk <i>ex officio</i>		
<b>Chairman:</b>	Mr James M. Fraser		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Chief Executive Officer		

<b>Board of Ministry</b>			2016
	Rev. Angus MacRae	ILR	[4/2]
	Rev. Ivor Macdonald	GA	[1/1]
	Rev. Gordon Matheson	SWR	[4/2]
	1 member appointed by Senate		
	Mr Murdo Murray	WI	[2/1]
	Mr Michael W. J. Townsend	WI	[2/1]
	Mr Colin Mackay	GA	[2/1]
	Mr Charles Anderson	ILR	[2/1]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. Angus MacRae		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Rev. David Ford		

<b>Seminary Board</b>			2016
	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	[1/1]
	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	ILR	[4/2]
	Rev. Dr Fergus A. J. Macdonald	EP	[2/1]
	Mr Murdo MacPhail	WI	[4/2]
	Dr Graham Keith	GA	[4/2]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Seminary Secretary		

<b>Missions Board</b>			2016
	Rev. Chris Smart	ILR	[3/2]
	Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod	SWR	[1/2]
	Rev. Iain Macaskill	N	[3/1]
	Rev. Malcolm Macleod	WI	[1/2]
	Rev. David Kirk	ILR	[3/1]
	Rev. Dr Colin Dow	GA	[3/1]
	Mr Iain A. Macdonald	ILR	[3/2]
	Dr John Morrison	EP	[3/1]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Miss Sarah Macleod		

<b>Psalmody &amp; Praise Committee</b>			2016
	Rev. Alex J. MacDonald	EP	[2/1]
	Rev. Ruairidh Maclean	GA	[3/1]
	Mr Cameron Maciver	GA	[2/1]
	Dr George H. Coghill	EP	[3/2]
	Mr Colin Mackay	EP	[1/2]
	Mr Angus T. Macleod	GA	[4/1]
<b>Convener:</b>	Rev. Ruairidh Maclean		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Mr Angus T. Macleod		

**(H) JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

The General Assembly reappoint the Judicial Commission as follows:

Judicial Commission		
	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 moved and seconded that Deliverance Section (E) Ministerial Categories for Ministers Not in Charges be deleted and replaced with the following:

The General Assembly instruct the Assembly Clerks, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Board of Ministry to consider amended legislation pertaining to the categories of ministers without charge, and to bring these proposals to the 2017 General Assembly.

**Third Motion** The following amendment to Section (H) Judicial Commission was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Eric Paterson, Northern Presbytery, to the Judicial Commission instead of Rev. Iain Macaskill, who is no longer a member of the said Presbytery.

**Fourth Motion** The following amendment to Section (D) Communication was moved and seconded: that Paragraphs D.1 and D.4 be deleted from the Board's Deliverance Section (D) and that D.1 be replaced with the following:

The General Assembly enact and ordain that the work of the Assembly with regard to the church's communications between their meetings shall be prosecuted by a standing committee which shall be called the Communications Committee. This committee to exercise oversight of: the Church Bookshop, denominational publications; to consider and give guidance on media issues; to oversee *The Record*, *Free* and *Compass* magazines including taking the necessary steps for recommending to the General Assembly editorial candidates for appointment; to facilitate the flow of information about matters of general interest to and from individuals, congregations, presbyteries and committees of the Church; to distribute to local congregations and other relevant agencies information supplied by committees and courts of the Church including the General Assembly with a view to stimulating informed prayer for the Church's work and witness; to oversee the Church's web site; to discuss, formulate and disseminate responses to issues of public concern; to promote the application of new technology to the work of the Church where appropriate; to supervise and support the work of the Church's Media Officer and Communications Officer - including taking the necessary steps for recommending to the General Assembly candidates for appointment in the event of vacancy according to procedure analogous to that used in the appointment of the Editor of the Church's magazines; to carry out all communications functions presently discharged by the Board of Trustees.

The Committee to be composed a chair and 4 additional members (2 ministers and 2 elders) with the Media Officer, editor of *The Record* and Moderator of Assembly as ex officio members. The Communications Officer will attend as a consultant. The committee will meet as needs arise but normally at least twice per year. The Communications Committee to appoint its own executive in order to expedite business requiring immediate attention. The Committee to present a Communications Committee Report annually to the General Assembly.

**Fifth Motion** The following addendum to Section (D) Communications was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly note that the Free Church of Scotland believes in the Establishment Principle and that as such, we have a duty to speak the Word of the Lord to those in power of the nation. The Assembly are concerned that there are no issues of national importance or significance before this Assembly. The Assembly also note that the Free Church has a concern for all the people of Scotland and that we wish to apply the Word of God in all situations. The Assembly also note that there is an opportunity to have a prophetic witness in the media. Therefore, the Assembly (a) agree to appoint a provisional Media and Public Questions Board until the 2017 General Assembly; (b) that this Board should come with proposals for a permanent board to the 2017 Assembly; (c) that this interim board should liaise with the Media Officer, Parliamentary Officer, Assembly Clerks and Presbyteries; and (d) that this board should bring before the church matters of national interest and be responsible for liaising with the media on such issues.

**Sixth Motion** The following addendum to Section (F) Other Matters was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly note the sale of the Manse at Applecross in accordance with permission granted by Act I, Commission of Assembly, October 2003. They further note that a petition from the Deacons Court of Lochcarron and Applecross addressed to the 2015 General Assembly, seeking a revision of the terms of the said Act regarding the use of funds raised from the sale of the manse, was withdrawn but yet inadvertently included in Act XV, Class II, 2015 anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds. They therefore, revise Act XV, Class II, 2015 to the extent that Paragraph 1 is deleted.

**Seventh Motion** The following addendum to Section (F) Other Matters was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly authorise the Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Missions Board, to sell properties in Peru subject to legal advice, with the proceeds of the sale to be used for international mission.

**Eighth Motion** The following addendum to Section (G) Nominations was moved and second:

The General Assembly, noting the need to strengthen the close working relationship between the Board of Ministry and Edinburgh Theological Seminary, and recognising how this relationship can be developed further by having the ETS Principal and one other member of the Senate on the Board, amend Act VI, Class II, 2014, section 1.2.3, on the membership of the Board of Ministry by replacing the existing section of the Act with the following: "Membership: Nine members in total including the Principal of ETS (or his nominee) and one other member of the ETS Senate appointed annually by the

Senate on an ex officio basis. The remaining membership of the Board of Ministry shall comprise three ministers and four 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.”

**Ninth Motion** The following addendum was moved and seconded:

The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to organise and coordinate a national day of prayer and fasting for the nation and the church of Jesus Christ throughout the land. This day to be organised in conjunction with the Boards of the Free Church and suitable information to be sent to all Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries.

**Finding** With the permission of the Assembly, the Chairman accepted Motions 2-3 and Motions 6-9. Regarding the addendum in Motion 5, the Chairman indicated that the Board of Trustees would address the immediate issue of the impending vacancy of the Communications Officer and of the Media Officer. He also gave the assurance that the Board will work on a detailed proposal for setting up a board to address public questions, media and communications, and be guided by the said addendum in Motion 5 proposed by Rev. David Robertson. Furthermore, he intimated that the Board will seek to set up a group to give immediate guidance to the people fielding the vacancies, whilst undertaking to replace the Communications Officer post subject to examining the job description and how it fits into any support for a Public Questions Board. With the permission of the General Assembly, Mr Robertson withdrew the said addendum.

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

Wherefore the finding of the General Assembly was as follows:

#### **(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 and the Church's staff for their work.
2. 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.
3. The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,500 from 1st January 2016. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

#### **(B) CAPITAL PROJECTS AND SUPPORTING GROWTH**

1. The General Assembly note the increased demand for Board of Trustee loans. They endorse the Board's view that regular strategic planning at congregational and Presbytery levels may assist in decision making.
2. The General Assembly recognise the importance of planning over a longer time horizon and instruct Boards and Committees to work with the Board of Trustees to produce budget schedules for 2017, 2018 and 2019 and Presbyteries to work closely with the Missions Board and formulate strategic plans for increasing the impact of Presbyteries on the populations which they serve.

#### **(C) COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

1. The General Assembly note the Board's on-going work in assessing the risks facing the Church. They instruct the Board to keep these risks under review and seek the assistance of Presbyteries, Boards and Committees in managing the relevant risks.
2. The General Assembly instruct the Board to raise awareness of Charity Trustee's duties and responsibilities across the Church and provide guidance where appropriate.
3. The General Assembly note the benefits of a Conflicts of Interest Policy in promoting good governance at Committee and Board level. They urge all involved in meetings and decision making across the Church to continue to refer to the principles during the conduct of business.

4. The General Assembly note the potential for 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 2017 Assembly through the Board of Trustees.
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 where necessary. They extend their gratitude to Mr Iain MacLeod for his service as Lead Signatory for PVG Applications.
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.
7. The General Assembly remind both congregational courts and Presbyteries of their obligations to ensure compliance with all employment legislation pertaining to any persons they may engage or appoint on a contract basis. Accordingly, they instruct them to ensure compliance with all appropriate employment legislation, and to have in place employer's liability insurance.
8. 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.

#### (D) COMMUNICATIONS

1. The General Assembly endorse the Board's desire to refine its work in the areas of public policy and contemporary issues and to investigate ways to improve access to research on current issues and respond and engage with policy makers.
2. The General Assembly encourage any congregations with little or no online presence to make contact with the Communications Officer for advice and assistance in this area.
3. The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Dr Iain D. Campbell as Editor of *The Record* and record their gratitude for the work of the previous Editor, Rev. Dr M. Maclean.
4. The General Assembly endorse the Board's plan to undertake a detailed review of *Free* and *Compass* magazines. They thank Mrs Nicolson and Mrs Howat for their editorial of *Free* and *Compass* and are grateful to them for agreeing to continue in post while the review occurs.

#### (E) MINISTERIAL CATEGORIES FOR MINISTERS NOT IN A CHARGE

1. The General Assembly instruct the Assembly Clerks, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Board of Ministry to consider amended legislation pertaining to the categories of ministers without charge, and to bring these proposals to the 2017 General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly amend Paragraph 2.2 of Act XXXIV, Class II, 2012 to read as follows: 'The Principal Clerk shall furnish the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call. The General Assembly notes that "eligibility" does not presuppose such a minister's availability to accept a call, but rather the church's recognition of his status as a minister of this church.'

#### (F) OTHER MATTERS

1. The General Assembly note the Board's concern over the storage of older Kirk Session, Deacons' Court and Finance Committee records and (i) instruct Presbyteries to identify a suitable public archive for storage of records and to pass records of churches within their bounds to the public storage where the records are 100 or more years of age with the proviso that Presbyteries are permitted at their discretion to pass records which are less than 100 years old to the same public storage; (ii) instruct Presbyteries to ensure that where records are being kept locally that they ensure that the place of storage are known, suitable and secure; and (iii) that where no suitable storage is available for records not deposited in a public archive such records are passed to the church offices in Edinburgh for storage until such time as they are eligible for storage in a public archive.
2. General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Assembly Clerks Office, to review the appointment process and duties and responsibilities of the Moderator of the General Assembly and report to the 2017

General Assembly. They instruct, in particular, that the review include examination of the duties and responsibilities of the Moderator in the period between the Assembly they moderate and the succeeding Assembly.

3. The General Assembly instruct the Board to undertake a review of the Bookshop and the services provided and report to a future Assembly.

4. The General Assembly note the resignation from Rev. James Maciver as Principal Clerk of Assembly with effect from the end of 2017 General Assembly. They record their appreciation for the work of Mr Maciver to date and are grateful to him for giving sufficient notice of his resignation, allowing for a smooth handover of duties. The General Assembly direct that the appointment of a Principal Clerk of Assembly to succeed Rev. James Maciver be taken up as a separate item at a suitable point in the Assembly's business.

5. The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that a change in current manse arrangements may lead to financial and practical complications and reaffirm the principle that, in holding a charge, ministers should occupy the manse.

6. The General Assembly note the display of the Disruption Painting at Tate London this summer.

7. The General Assembly record their appreciation for the work of Mr Rod Morrison, Chief Administrative Officer and are pleased to note the appointment of Mr Scott Matheson as Chief Executive Officer and trust he will know the Lord's blessing in the role.

8. The General Assembly note the specification in Act I, Class II, 2006, (Act anent Presbytery Returns under the Barrier Act) that "the total number of Presbyteries in the Church shall constitute the appropriate base for calculating a majority and a non-return shall be taken as signifying disapproval of the matter contained in the Overture." The General Assembly further note that returns from Presbyteries to, (a) the Overture proposing an increase in proportional representation in the General Assembly; and (b) the Overture proposing measures relating to the election of elders to the General Assembly did not provide a majority in favour of passing either of the said Overtures and that, therefore, the Assembly is prohibited from passing the proposals into a standing law for the church. Therefore, the General Assembly pass from the matters contained in both these Overtures.

9. The General Assembly note the sale of the Manse at Applecross in accordance with permission granted by Act I, Commission of Assembly, October 2003. They further note that a petition from the Deacons Court of Lochcarron and Applecross addressed to the 2015 General Assembly, seeking a revision of the terms of the said Act regarding the use of funds raised from the sale of the manse, was withdrawn but yet inadvertently included in Act XV, Class II, 2015 anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds. They therefore revise Act XV, Class II, 2015 to the extent that Paragraph 1 is deleted.

10. The General Assembly authorise the Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Missions Board, to sell properties in Peru subject to legal advice, with the proceeds of the sale to be used for international mission.

11. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to organise and coordinate a national day of prayer and fasting for the nation and the church of Jesus Christ throughout the land. This day to be organised in conjunction with the Boards of the Free Church and suitable information to be sent to all Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries.

### (G) NOMINATIONS

1. The General Assembly note the resignation of Mr John Matheson and Rev. Chris Smart from the Board of Trustees and thank them for their work. They approve the interim appointment of Mr Iain Gray to the Board of Trustees. They also approve of Mr Gray's appointment for a full term of service on the Board of Trustees as from the 2016 Assembly.

2. The General Assembly note the difficulties referred to by the Board in respect of a successor to Mr James Fraser as Chairman. The General Assembly, waiving Paragraph 1 of Act XXIII, Class II, 2007, extend the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman until the close of the 2019 General Assembly.

3. The General Assembly, noting the need to strengthen the close working relationship between the Board of Ministry and Edinburgh Theological Seminary, and recognising how this relationship can be developed further by having the ETS Principal and one other member of the Senate on the Board, amend Act VI, Class II, 2014, section 1.2.3, on the membership of the Board of Ministry by replacing the existing section of the Act with the following: "Membership: Nine members in total including the Principal of ETS (or his nominee) and one other member of the ETS Senate appointed

annually by the Senate on an ex officio basis. The remaining membership of the Board of Ministry shall comprise three ministers and four 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.”

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

<b>Board of Trustees</b>			2016
	Mr James M. Fraser	ILR	[3/3]
	Mr Donald Mackenzie	SWR	[3/1]
	Mr Callum Macdonald	ILR	[3/1]
	Mr Iain Gray	GA	[4/1]
	Mr Angus Mackay	ILR	[3/2]
	Rev. Kenneth J. Macleod	GA	[2/1]
	Rev. David C. Meredith	ILR	[2/1]
	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	ILR	[1/1]
	Rev. Paul Clarke	EP	[3/2]
	Rev. Calum Iain Macleod (Back)	WI	[4/1]
	Mr Alastair Oliver	EP	[4/1]
	Mr Murdo Macleod	WI	[3/2]
	Principal Clerk <i>ex officio</i>		
<b>Chairman:</b>	Mr James M. Fraser		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Chief Executive Officer		

<b>Board of Ministry</b>			2016
	Rev. Angus MacRae	ILR	[4/2]
	Rev. Ivor Macdonald	GA	[1/1]
	Rev. Gordon Matheson	SWR	[4/2]
	1 member appointed by Senate		
	Mr Murdo Murray	WI	[2/1]
	Mr Michael W. J. Townsend	WI	[2/1]
	Mr Colin Mackay	GA	[2/1]
	Mr Charles Anderson	ILR	[2/1]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. Angus MacRae		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Rev. David Ford		

<b>Seminary Board</b>			2016
	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	[1/1]
	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean	ILR	[4/2]
	Rev. Dr Fergus A. J. Macdonald	EP	[2/1]
	Mr Murdo MacPhail	WI	[4/2]
	Dr Graham Keith	GA	[4/2]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Seminary Secretary		

<b>Missions Board</b>			2016
	Rev. Chris Smart	ILR	[3/2]

	Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod	SWR	[1/2]
	Rev. Iain Macaskill	N	[3/1]
	Rev. Malcolm Macleod	WI	[1/2]
	Rev. David Kirk	ILR	[3/1]
	Rev. Dr Colin Dow	GA	[3/1]
	Mr Iain A. Macdonald	ILR	[3/2]
	Dr John Morrison	EP	[3/1]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Miss Sarah Macleod		

<b>Psalmody &amp; Praise Committee</b>			2016
	Rev. Alex J. MacDonald	EP	[2/1]
	Rev. Ruairidh Maclean	GA	[3/1]
	Mr Cameron Maciver	GA	[2/1]
	Dr George H. Coghil	EP	[3/2]
	Mr Colin Mackay	EP	[1/2]
	Mr Angus T. Macleod	GA	[4/1]
<b>Convener:</b>	Rev. Ruairidh Maclean		
<b>Clerk:</b>	Mr Angus T. Macleod		

#### (H) JUDICIAL COMMISSION

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

<b>Judicial Commission</b>		
	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. Eric Paterson	[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]
<b>Chairman:</b>	Rev. A. J. MacDonald	
<b>Clerk:</b>	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. Principal Clerk of Assembly** The General Assembly took up consideration of the appointment of a Principal Clerk of Assembly to take over from Rev. James Maciver who has intimated his retirement effective from the 2017 General Assembly. It was moved, seconded and agreed to that Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Assistant Clerk of Assembly, be appointed as Mr Maciver's successor, with the term of his appointment according to the terms of Act X, Class II, 2015. Mr Macleod was called into the Assembly. The Moderator announced the Assembly's decision to him and asked him to declare his mind regarding his willingness to accept the appointment. Mr Macleod intimated that he is willing to accept the appointment after which he solemnly promised to discharge the duties thereof faithfully.

**7. Petition from Mr R. I. Haffenden and Others** The General Assembly took up consideration of a petition from Mr R.I. Haffenden and others regarding the finding of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly and the dissolution of the congregation of Cobham in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, appointed to meet in Edinburgh on 23rd May 2016, the petition of the undersigned humbly shows that:

1. Whereas the 2015 General Assembly declared the congregation of Cobham to be financially non-viable and instructed 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;
2. Whereas the Kirk Session of Cobham Presbyterian Church met on the 23rd of August, 2015 and agreed to a union with London City Presbyterian Church, following which meeting they met with the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church on 11th September, 2015 who agreed to the proposal to unite with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church;
3. Whereas the Kirk Session of London City Presbyterian Church met on the 28th August, 2015 and agreed to a union with Cobham Presbyterian Church, following which meeting they met with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church on 10th September, 2015 who agreed to the proposal to unite with the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church;
4. Whereas the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth met on the 22nd of September 2015 and, having received extract minutes from Cobham Presbyterian Church and London City Presbyterian Church confirming that the consultation process had been completed and that all parties involved agreed to the union of Cobham Presbyterian Church and London City Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth approved the proposed union;
5. Whereas the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth reported this finding to the Mission Board;
6. Whereas Act I, Class I, 2013 paragraph 6.2.1 requires that the Mission Board recommends inter alia in its report to the General Assembly that "the Presbytery be instructed to make all necessary arrangements for linkage, union, or district ministry as local circumstances permit";
7. Whereas the Missions Board did not recommend that the Presbytery be instructed to make all necessary arrangements for linkage, union, or district ministry as local circumstances permit to the October 2015 Commission of Assembly in accordance with Act I, Class I, 2013, but rather recommended that the congregation of Cobham be dissolved;
8. Whereas there is no instance recorded in the Acts of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland of a congregation being dissolved *simpliciter*, and such instances as do occur are associated with congregations "ceasing to assemble" (Act

VII, 1908) or “dissolving and uniting” (Act XXVII, 1975) the circumstances of neither of which applies in this instance;

9. Whereas the October 2015 Commission of Assembly resolved to dissolve the congregation of Cobham;
10. Whereas the decision of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly to dissolve the congregation of Cobham goes beyond the provisions of Act 1, Class I, 2013, paragraph 6.2.1(2) that, “the Presbytery be instructed to make all necessary arrangements for linkage, union, or district ministry as local circumstances permit”, therefore rendering the decision of the Commission *ultra vires*;
11. Whereas both the decision of and process at the October 2015 Commission of Assembly creates a conflict with the civil requirements of Section 66 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, details of which have been provided by the petitioners to the Clerks of Assembly;

Wherefore your petitioners humbly crave that the General Assembly take these premises into consideration and:

1. Declare that the decision of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly regarding Cobham Presbyterian Church is *ultra vires*;
2. Declare that in view of Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 above, together with the situation now prevailing as a result of the Commission’s finding, the congregation of Cobham be declared as united with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church forthwith, under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Pearson, with one Kirk Session exercising oversight of the combined congregation and with one Deacons Court exercising fiduciary responsibility over the combined assets. They further declare that the united congregation be known as London City Presbyterian Church. They instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons’ Court of the united charge to consult with the Board of Trustees concerning the loan from the Board of Trustees to the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 until the pastoral tie of Rev. David D. Miller was severed with the congregation, and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse;
3. Repeal Act XIX, Class II, 2013.

Or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem best. And your Petitioners will ever pray.

**First Motion** It was moved and seconded that the General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They declare the decision of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly regarding Cobham Presbyterian Church to be *ultra vires*.

They further declare that, in view of Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 above, together with the situation now prevailing as a result of the Commission’s finding, the congregation of Cobham be declared as united with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church forthwith, under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Pearson, with one Kirk Session exercising oversight of the combined congregation and with one Deacons Court exercising fiduciary responsibility over the combined assets, and that the united congregation be known as London City Presbyterian Church.

They instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons’ Court of the united charge to consult with the Board of Trustees concerning the loan from the Board of Trustees to the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 until the pastoral tie of Rev. David D. Miller was severed with the congregation, and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse.

They Repeal Act XIX, Class II, 2013.

**Second Motion** It was also moved and seconded that the General Assembly receive the petition from Messrs Haffenden and de Jong and grant its crave, to the extent that: (a) They declare that in arriving at their finding in October 2015 regarding Cobham Presbyterian Church, the Commission of Assembly acted beyond the powers granted to it by Act 1, Class I, 2013; (b) They direct that in view of Clauses 3, 4 and 5 of the Petition, together with the situation now prevailing as a result of the Commission’s finding, the congregation of Cobham be declared as united with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church forthwith, under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Pearson, with one Kirk Session and one Deacons Court. They further declare that the united congregation be known as London City Presbyterian Church; and (c) They further instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons’ Court of the united charge to make all the necessary arrangements, including the removal of any legal and technical obstacles, to enable the Board of Trustees to sell the Cobham Manse under the

supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, in order to repay loans and debts owed by the congregation of Cobham as soon as possible, with the balance of the proceeds to be held by the Board, 50% on behalf of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and 50% on behalf of the united charge, all for the development or improvement of congregational assets.

2. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Clerks of Assembly to draft legislation applicable to the dissolution simpliciter of congregations where such might be appropriate.

3. The General Assembly repeal Act XIX, Class II, 2013.

**Finding** On a vote being taken between the First Motion and the Second Motion, the First Motion was declared carried by a majority. Wherefore the finding of the General Assembly was as follows:

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They declare the decision of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly regarding Cobham Presbyterian Church to be *ultra vires*.

They further declare that, in view of Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 above, together with the situation now prevailing as a result of the Commission's finding, the congregation of Cobham be declared as united with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church forthwith, under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Pearson, with one Kirk Session exercising oversight of the combined congregation and with one Deacons Court exercising fiduciary responsibility over the combined assets, and that the united congregation be known as London City Presbyterian Church.

They instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of the united charge to consult with the Board of Trustees concerning the loan from the Board of Trustees to the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 until the pastoral tie of Rev. David D. Miller was severed with the congregation, and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse.

They Repeal Act XIX, Class II, 2013.

**8. Order of the Day** There was an order of the day at 4.15pm when the following delegates were welcomed by the Moderator and invited to address the General Assembly:

Ms Elaine Duncan, Scottish Bible Society

Mr Mervyn Langtry, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland

Rev. Alan Black, London City Mission

Rev. Graham Nicholls, Affinity

Rev. Teo Yew Tiong, Presbyterian Church, Singapore

**9. Adjournment** The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall at 6.30pm, whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within the Free Assembly Hall,  
the 24th day of May 2016 years at 6.30 o'clock evening*

**1. Assembly Constituted** At Edinburgh on 24th May 2016 at 6.30pm, and within Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, the General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.

**2. Missions Board (G) – Youth** The General Assembly then called for the report of the Missions Board (G) Youth, which being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Convener of the Board's Youth Committee, Rev. Dr Colin Dow, who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

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

1. 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.
2. The General Assembly note with approval the role of the Board's Youth Committee and its support of Sunday Schools. They declare that the Lyle Orr award system, and the associated exploration project, be discontinued, effective from the rising of the General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly thank Mrs Irene Howat for the work undertaken overseeing the Free Church Sunday School materials.
4. 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.
5. The General Assembly approve of the appointment of Rev. Colin Morison as Camps Supervisor, and commend him to the prayers of the Church.
6. The General Assembly thank Mrs Laura MacAulay for her work as Camps Administrator, along with the Office staff who help with the Camps administration, and commend them to the prayers of the Church.
7. The General Assembly also thank all leaders, cooks and others who have contributed to the success of last year's Camp's programme and urge congregations to be active in supporting the work of camps in prayer.
8. 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.
9. The General Assembly welcome the encouraging report of the Leadership Bootcamp. They thank all those who helped to organise the BootCamp and all those who helped with its teaching ministry. They commend the proposed 2016 BootCamp and the intending participants to the prayers of the Church.
10. 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.

**Second Motion** The following addendum was moved and seconded that:

The General Assembly express their thankfulness and support for teachers, pupils and parents involved in Scotland's state education system. They express their concern at the increasing secularisation and removal of Christianity from Scotland's Christian state education system. They also note that this gradual removal of Christianity has been accompanied with a general decline in educational and moral standards. They instruct the Missions Board in conjunction with other interested parties within the Church, to prepare a report for next year's General Assembly, looking at the whole question of Christian education. This report should look at how the Church can support Christians involved in state education and the possibility of the Free Church setting up Christian schools within our bounds.

**Finding** On a vote being taken between the Second Motion and the First Motion, the Second Motion was carried and the finding of the General Assembly was as follows:

1. 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.
2. The General Assembly note with approval the role of the Board's Youth Committee and its support of Sunday Schools. They declare that the Lyle Orr award system, and the associated exploration project, be discontinued, effective from the rising of the General Assembly.

3. The General Assembly thank Mrs Irene Howat for the work undertaken overseeing the Free Church Sunday School materials.
4. 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.
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8. 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.
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10. 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.
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**3. Missions Board Youth Supplementary Report – Awards 2015-2016** The Convener also presented a Supplementary Report in the following terms:

The following is a list of all who were awarded certificates for Sunday School work and for Explorations on the Names of Jesus. 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 724 certificates were awarded (858 last year) and 171 Explorations were submitted (132 last year).

### INFANT GRADE

There were 221 (277) certificates awarded and 15 (38) Explorations received. Numbers in brackets indicate 2015 figures.

#### Prize-winners:

1st	Colin Pearson	London City	<i>Lyle Orr Award</i>
2nd	Ruby MacLennan	Lochbroom and Coigach	<i>Duncan Maclean Memorial Prize</i>
3rd	Lois Macleod	Lochbroom and Coigach	<i>Macdonald Memorial Prize</i>
4th	David Ross	Urquhart and Resolis	<i>Cathie Macrae Memorial Prize</i>

### CERTIFICATES AWARDED

#### PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

**Buccleuch and Greyfriars:** Dara Faulkner, Euan Lytle, Fraser Macleod, Catriona Hammer, Rosa Lytle, Andrea Chandra, Ellie Macleod, Soo Hyuan, Soo A, Eva Lytle, Calum Lytle, Lauren Clunie, Lily Macleod, Jacob Sladek, Dickens Chandra  
**Dunfermline:** Sylvia Reid, Maddison Ferrier, Christian Thomson, Millie Bell, Eilidh Campbell, Tamlyn Thomson, Maura Thomson, Neil Ross  
**Falkirk:** Eilidh Macleod, Lucy Myles, John MacLeod, Calum Macleod  
**Leith:** Joseph Fioretti, Joseph Simpson, Esther Davis  
**London City:** Colin Pearson, Ellie-Rose Pearson, Jacques Prinsloo, Mateo Pestana, John Huey, Adam Bitner, Sebastian Hopkins, Katharina Hopkins, Philippa Hopkins  
**Perth:** Mairi McGregor  
**St Andrews:** Xander Sneddon, Rebecca Sneddon, Ellie Ylitalo

### PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

**Ayr:** Anisa Moyo, Ian Grains, Alanna Moyo  
**Downvale:** Ava Douglas, Kathryn Redman, Roseanna MacDonald, Ryan Mackenzie, Cailean MacDermaid **Coatbridge:** Tyrone Masangomai, Juliet Devoti  
**Cumbernauld:** Cheyenne Kolegar, Hannah Mugenyi  
**Dumfries:** Danny Smith (M)  
**East Kilbride:** Keiran MacDonald (M)  
**Glasgow City:** Mark Connor (D), Alastair Macdonald (M), Daniel Lockington (D), Jessica Brown (M), Joseph Wylie (M)  
**Govanhill:** Jacob Haw, Zoe Haw, Mohamed Bah, Finlay Clark, Alasdair MacGillivray, Beth Hastings  
**Oban:** Anna MacKellar, Alexander Malloch

### PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

**Greyfriars-Stratherrick:** Liam Cowie (M), Alister MacKenzie (D), Kaitlyn MacPhail (M), Jon Fleming (M), Calum MacAskill (M), Aeva Duff (M), Calum MacRaild (D), Ross Fleming (M), Lewis MacLeman (M), Tianna Cowie, Lewis Gray (D), Sianna Maciver (D), Jennifer Murray, Aaron Dunn (M), Thomas MacRaild (D), Jessie Fraser (M), Ryan Birse, Sandy Fraser, Samuel Macleod (M)  
**Elgin:** Grace Urquhart, Kate MacLeod, Joshua Toonen  
**Free North:** Nico Nordvik, Martha MacIver, Holly Cameron, Innes Holmes, Ruairidh MacLeod, Rhys Clark, Kirsty Sumner, Seumas MacIver, Christopher Cuthbert, Cameron Macrae, Dylan Clark  
**Free North, Madras Street:** Neil Sutherland, Jayden Bryce, Niall Jenkins, Aaron Hargreaves, Fiadh Forsyth, Ava, Kai  
**Knockbain:** Roslyn Topping, Calum Turner, Elizabeth Ross, Niamh Ross  
**Maryburgh and Killearnan:** Daniel Stewart (D)  
**Ferintosh:** Cameron Brown, Jack Maclean-Yuille, Callum Crawford, Finlay Crawford  
**Resolis and Urquhart:** Abbie Bathgate, David Ross (D), Miriam MacPherson (D)  
**Urray and Strathconon:** Ruby MacLennan, Calum MacLennan, Marie Maclean, Abby Taylor

### PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

**Plockton and Kyle:** Leah Stewart, Abigail Stewart, Mairi Finlayson, Alasdair Talbot, Donald Finlayson, Lexy MacLean  
**Poolewe and Aultbea:** James Grant, Lewis MacRae, Lily Rose, Ellie MacRae, Amelia MacLeod  
**Portree:** Jonathan MacDonald, Owen Gordon, Tormod MacLeod, Oliver Rose, Finlay Crawford, Andrew Rose, Angus Oag, Katie MacRae, Gordon Mackenzie, Caleb Caldwell, Katie MacDonald

### NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

**Fearn:** Victoria Rennie, Lois Ockenden, Annabel Scaman, Jorgie Gordon, Morris Scaman, Keith Munro  
**North Coast:** Michael Magee, Emily Mackay, Emily Farquhar, Fraser Drennan, Calum Farquhar

### PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

**Back:** Coinneach Mackenzie (M), Lilia MacDonald (M), Thomas Cunningham (M), Ashton Pidcock (M), Jamie Macritchie (M), Finlay Montgomery (M), Ruairidh Macphail (M), Robbie McMurdo (M), Hannah Stewart (M), Demi Macdonald (M), Angus MacLeod (M), Maree Martin (M), Amelia Mackay (M), Jayden Pidcock (M), Daniel France (M), Cara MacRitchie (M), Cerys MacIver (M), Samuel MacLennan (M), Luke Smith (M), Mark Macdonald (M), Joel Graham (M), Coinneach Stewart (M)  
**Barvas:** Connor Graham (M), Sarah Ann Mackenzie (D), Lauren Marie Macleod (D), Michael Macmillan (D)

**Callanish:** Alyssa Macleod (D), Sarah Macbain (D), Mairi Anna Reid (D), Enoch Finlayson (D), Cailean Mackenzie (D), Erin Macdonald (D), Coinneach Smith (D)

**Carlaway:** John Davis (M), Andrew Maciver, Lorca Macleod, Matthew Macleod, Ruby MacLeod

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

**Shawbost:** Katie Macrae (M), Craig Murray (M), Domhnall Macarthur (M)

**Stornoway:** Kenneth Macleod (M), Peter Macmillan (M), Finlay Macmillan (M), Oliver Maciver (M), Abigail Poke (M), Megan Maclean (M), Hetty Neally (M), Iona Mackenzie (M), Eilidh Campbell (M), Lydia MacDonald (D), Kaitlyn MacLeod (D), Scott Macaulay (D), Hector Neally (D), Cailean Macritchie

## INFANT EXPLORATIONS

### Exploring the Names of Jesus

The following were awarded certificates:

#### PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

**London:** Colin Pearson

#### PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

**Campbeltown:** Chrissie Ewart

**Dumfries:** Danny Smith

**Oban:** Alexander Malloch

#### PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

**Urquhart and Resolis:** David Ross, Isla Fraser

**Greyfriars-Stratherrick:**

**Maryburgh:** Daniel Stewart

#### PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

**Lochbroom and Coigach:** Ruby MacLennan, Lois Macleod

**Lochcarron:** Jack Junor Stewart

#### WESTERN ISLES PRESBYTERY

**Shawbost:** Craig Murray

**Stornoway:** Abigail Poke, Kenneth Macleod, Eilidh Campbell, Iona Mackenzie

## JUNIOR GRADE

Numbers in brackets indicate 2015 figures.

There were 328 (387) certificates awarded and 110 (59) Explorations received.

### Prize-winners:

1st	Rebecca Ross	Urquhart and Resolis	<i>Lyle Orr Award</i>
2nd	Daniel Ferguson	Stornoway	<i>Kenneth M. MacKay Memorial Prize</i>
3rd	Mark Connor	Glasgow City	<i>Donald MacPherson Memorial Prize</i>
4th	Lewis Connor	Glasgow City	<i>John Shaw Memorial Prize</i>
5th	Ealasaid MacLean	Oban	<i>Mrs Macleod Memorial Prize</i>
6th	Domhnall Calum Reid	Callanish	
7th	Joni Smith	Dumfries	
8th	Aimee Maciver	Greyfriars	

## CERTIFICATES AWARDED

### PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

**Buccleuch and Greyfriars:** James McKenna, Fraser McKenna, Iain Hammer, Ben Hammer, Abi Lytle, Addison Sladek  
**Dunfermline:** Sarah Gordon, Nicole Sanders, Tanya Sanders, Robbie Ross, Ariana Cumming, Callum Gordon  
**Falkirk:** Nina Gibson, Angus Gibson, Duncan Morrison, Eilidh Macmillan, David Nicolson, Megan Randall, Sophie Randall, Katy Thomson, Joanna Macleod, Finlay Morrison  
**Leith:** Grace Davis, Abigail Fioretti, Nathaniel Davis, David Fioretti  
**London City:** James Bitner, John Bitner, Samuel Bitner, Allan Fraser, Martin Prinsloo, Cameron Macdonald  
**Perth:** Rebecca Gibson (D), Anna McGregor (D), Eilidh McGregor (D), Eleanor Smith (D), Lexie MacMillan, Emily Goligher  
**St Andrews:** Harry Purvis, Beth Purvis, Sophie Clarke, Ezra Ylitalo

### PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

**Ayr:** Kate Paton, Colleen Grains, Joel Moyo, Samuel Douglas, Cloe Cummings  
**Campbeltown:** Ruby Soper, Jim Ewart, Crissie Ewart  
**Coatbridge:** Jacob Campbell, Rhona MacIver, Stewart Campbell, David Devoti, Joel Robertson, Alex Wilson, Amily Devoti, Nathan Fallon, Katie Bruce, Marc Devoti  
**Cumbernauld:** Abigail Fraser, Rachel MacDonald  
**Dowanvale:** Hannah Morrison, Hannah Redman, Keira Allison, Andrew Macleod, Kirsty Mackay, Ava, Iver Campbell, Lewis Sutherland, Nathan Peters, Samuel Morrison, Andrew Macleod  
**Dumfries:** Joni Smith (D), Marissa Smith (M), Jack  
**Glasgow City:** Lewis Connor (D), Jonathan Dow, Hannah Lockington (D), Rory Macaskill (M), Georgia MacDougall (M), Kirsten MacDougall (M), Jessica McGarvie, Marianne Ridland (M), Scott Morrison (D), Madelyn MacDougall (D), Michael Alaa (D), Cameron Stephen (D), Alex Maclean (D) Joshua McGarvie (D)  
**Govanhill:** Mariama Bah, Ceit MacGillivray, Seonag MacGillivray, Daniela Lingurar  
**Oban:** Archie Malloch, Ewen Campbell, Ealasaid MacLean

### PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

**Elgin:** Emily Stirling, Samuel Stirling, Beth Urquhart, Ruiraidh MacLeod  
**Fort William:** Leonard Baak, Emma MacColl, Allan MacColl  
**Free North:** Isla Sumner, Katie Lobban, Evan Cameron, Ewan MacIver, Archie Holmes, Noah, Rachel Cameron, Roddy MacLennan, Neil Sutherland, Niall Jenkins, Rosie Crooks, Rachel Sutherland, James Cuthbert, Scott Montgomery  
**Free North (Madras Street):** Rosie Crookes, Neila Karlisone, Hannah Jeremiah, Rachel Sutherland, Alicia Hargreaves, Shaun Morrison, Struan Mackintosh, Stephen Noble, Shaun Drummond, Joshia Williamson, Rian Forsyth  
**Greyfriars-Stratherrick:** David Fleming, Heather Thomson, Matthew Davidson (D), Rebecca MacRae (M), Rebecca MacPhail (M), Evette MacAskill (M), William MacKenzie (D), Finlay Morrison (D), Lachlan Fraser (M), Scott MacKenzie (D), Donald MacKenzie (M), Tyler Paton (M), Lachlan MacAskill (D), Eilidh Gray (D), Scott Gray (D), James MacKenzie (D), Alasdair Mackinnon (M), Maree MacAskill (D), Alexander MacLeman (D), Aimee Maciver (D), Joshua Mackenzie (M), Hayley Fraser (M), Nicole Birse (M)  
**Knockbain:** Marina Macdonald, Harrison Renwick, Josh Taylor, Kirsty Topping, John Turner, Fraser Urquhart, Alasdair Macdonald, Isabella Taylor  
**Maryburgh and Killearnan:** David Chisholm (D), David Stewart (D), Ross Munro (D)  
**Ferintosh:** Farquhar MacRae, Joshua Smart, James Stewart, Beth Fraser, Rebecca Stewart, Evie Maclean-Yuille, Alexander Brown, Marcus MacRae, Isla Fraser, James Fraser, Matthew Smart, Caitlin MacGowan, Lailah Matheson, Jordan MacDonald  
**Resolis and Urquhart:** Sophie Bathgate, Rebecca Ross (D), Rebekah MacPherson (D)  
**Urray and Strathconon:** Rachel Martin, Katie Maclean, Abby Taylor, Mairi MacLean, Calum MacLennan, Riby MacLennan

### NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

**Fearn:** Rachel Ross, Shona MacKay, Hannah Paterson, Jamie Munro, Madison Fleming, Laina Munro, Kayleigh MacDonald, Joel Ockenden, Ali MacKay, Olivia Rennie, Seth Ockenden, Rory Bain, Jack Ross  
**North Coast:** Scott Drennan, Iain Magee, Maisie Mackay, Donald Farquhar, Rosalie Jack

### PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

**Lochbroom and Coigach:** Alasdair Last, Mairead Last, Daniel Heaney, Andrew MacLeod, Duncan MacLeod  
**Poolewe and Aultbea:** Ace Paterson, Jack MacKenzie, Cameron MacRae, Grace Stephen, Sammy Smith, Rachel Moir, Coll MacKenzie, Taylor Moore, Alasdair Mackay, Fox Paterson, Jacob MacRae, Charlotte Smith  
**Plockton and Kyle:** Hannah Matheson, Bethany Stewart, Hector Finlayson, Nathan Stewart  
**Portree** Alexander Jackson, Ross Evans, Daisy Dickson, Ayla MacRae, Anna Moller, Charlie Oag, Lewis Mackenzie, Callie Maclean, Findlay MacDonald, John MacDonald, Isla Macinnes, Ethan Caldwell, Myles Jackson, Andrew MacRae, Calum Maclean, Katie Dickson, Mairi MacDonald, Freya Turner, Shannon MacLeod, Jack Evans  
**Staffin:** Declan Malloy

### PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

**Back:** Iain Kenneth MacLennan (M), Jack Graham (M), Samuel Cunningham (M), Jonathan Graham (M), Ross MacIver (M), Dylan MacKenzie (M), MaryAnne MacLeod (M), Bella Wilson (M), Bethany MacRitchie (M), Kyla McMurdo (M), Sandy Macdonald (M), Rebekah MacKenzie (M), Alison Graham (M), Talia Graham (M), Ellen McMurdo (M), Caitlin Morrison (M), Aimee MacIver (M), Alexander Macleod (M), Kitty Anne MacIver, Euan Macleod, Caitlin Macleod, Calum Macrae, Murdo Macdonald, Glenn Martin, Daniel Macleod, Seumas Murray  
**Barvas:** Ross Macdonald (M), Faye Smith (M), Seumas Smith (M), Alisha Mason (M), Emma Mason (M), Kirsty Maclean (M), Maria Maclean (M), Stewart Graham (M), Iona Maclean (M), Jenny Macleod (M),  
**Callanish:** Jacob Morrison (D), Matthew Maclean (D), Domhnall C. Reid (D), Lois Morrison (D)  
**Carloway:** Aaron Ingram (D), Tom Davis, Aoife Ingram, Calum MacLeod  
**Cross:** Alasdair Macdonald, Samuel Libby, Emma Gibbons  
**Pairc:** Stephanie Frobisher, Eric Frobisher, Gregor Begg, Innes Begg, Murray Begg  
**Shawbost:** Tormod MacLennan (M), Finlay John Macaulay (M), Daniel Macarthur (M), Daniel Gillies (M), Catriona Macarthur (M), Samantha Macarthur (M), Scott Macarthur (M), Alex Murray (M), Olivia Macleod (M), Anna Macleod (M), Eva Macinnes,  
**Stornoway:** Aileen Morrison (M), David Finlayson (M), Finlay Campbell (M), Harris Mackay (M), James Macmillan (M), Kirsty Macleod (M), Leah Morrison (M), Emma Macleod (M), Emma Smith (M), Daniel MacNeill, Joshua MacNeill

### JUNIOR EXPLORATIONS

#### Exploring the Names of Jesus

The following were awarded certificates:

#### PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

**Perth:** Rebecca Gibson, Eilidh McGregor, Anna McGregor

#### PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

**Ayr:** Anisa Moyo

**Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill:** Lewis Court

**Campbeltown:** Roby Soper, Jim Ewart

**Coatbridge:** David Devoti, Amily Devoti, Rhona MacIver

**Cumbernauld:** Hannah Mugyeni, Abigail Fraser, Rachel MacDonald

**Downvale:** Kathryn Redman, Cailean MacDermaid, Ryan Mackenzie, Ava Douglas

**Dumfries:** Joni Smith, Marissa Smith

**Glasgow City:** Mark Connor, Lewis Connor, Kirsten MacDougall, Georgia MacDougall, Hannah Lockington, Daniel Lockington, Rory Macaskill

**Oban:** Ealasaid MacLean, Archie Malloch

#### PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

**Fortrose:** Joanna Lipp, Catherine Lipp

**Free North:** Rachel Sutherland, Katie Lobban, Neil Sutherland

**Greyfriars-Stratherrick:** James Mackenzie, Scott Mackenzie, Donald MacKenzie, Alister Mackenzie,

Scott Gray, Eilidh Gray, Aimee Maciver, Josh MacKenzie

**Knockbain:** Alasdair MacDonald, Marina MacDonald

**Maryburgh and Killearnan:** Ross Munro, David Chisholm

**Urquhart and Resolis:** Rebecca Ross, Marcus MacRae, Joshua Smart, James Fraser, Evie Maclean-Yuille, Rebekah Macpherson, Beth Fraser, Rebecca Stewart, Alexander Brown, Matthew Smart

**Urray and Strathconnon:** Rachel Martin

### NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

**Tain and Fearn:** Maya Elizabeth McArthur, Iona Ferries, Eva Webster, Jocelyn Webster, Martha Bauld, Ally Ross, Kate Macaulay, Matthew Campbell, Leah Ross, Joel Ockenden, Madison Fleming, Hannah Paterson  
Ali Mackay

### PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

**Lochbroom and Coigach:** Duncan Macleod, Andrew Macleod, Amy Gilliland, Shannon Urquhart,

### PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

**Barvas:** Ross Macdonald

**Callanish:** Mairi Anna Reid, Domhnall Calum Reid, Lois Morrison, Matthew Maclean, Sarah Mairi MacBain

**Carloway:** John Davis, Aaron Ingram, Aoife Ingram, Tom Davis

**Laxdale:** Donny Murray, Emma Smith, Leah Morrison, Emma Macleod, Catherine MacDonald, Lisa Macdonald, Alana Martin, Lily Macphail, Zoe Mackay

**Shawbost:** Daniel Gillies, Alex Murray, Samantha MacArthur, Anna Macleod, Scott MacArthur, Catriona MacArthur, Katie MacRae, Domhnall Macarthur

**Stornoway (Central):** David Finlayson, Scott MacAulay, Daniel Ferguson, Cailean Macaulay, Lydia Marie MacDonald, Kaitlin Macleod

**Tong:** Grace Macleod, Cailean, Daniel James Macdonald, Jamie Ferguson

### BIBLE CLASS

There were 175 (194) certificates awarded and 46 (35) Explorations received. Numbers in brackets indicate 2015 figures.

#### Prize-winners:

1st	Anna MacQueen	Greyfriars	<i>Lyle-Orr Award</i>
2nd	Hannah Ferguson	Stornoway	<i>M. Mackay Memorial Prize</i>
3rd	Kate Connor	Glasgow City	<i>Donald MacPherson Memorial Prize</i>
4th	Jayne Gillies	Shawbost	
5th	Kate Macmillan	Stornoway	
6th	Anna Macaulay	Shawbost	

#### Special awards for Explorations:

### CERTIFICATES AWARDED

#### PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH

**Buccleuch and Greyfriars:** Ailis Maclean, Mhairi Maclean, Sam Maclean, Conrad Sladek, Jennifer Macleod, Lauren Macleod, Michael Macleod, Carys Lytle

**Falkirk:** Sam MacMillan, Tiffy Daramola, Jessica Morrison, Kayleigh Graham, Sol MacMillan, Luke Randall, Tiwi Daramola, Joshua Tait, James Morrison, Steven Randall, Andrew Tait

**St Andrews:** Archie Clarke, Sophie Clarke, Emma Ylitalo, Eli Ylitalo, Fin MacDonald, Kenny MacIver

**London City:** Shona Fraser, Hannah Macdonald, Maisie Macdonald

**Perth:** Dylan Gibson, Mairead MacSween, William MacSween

#### PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

**Dowanvale:** Angus Buck, Amy Buck, Ruaridh Morrison, Iain Grant, Abby Morrison, Catriona-Mairi Cuthbert, Eilidh Jenkins, Lauren Allison, Johanna Peters, Calum Morrison, Calum Morrison , Miriam Smith, Donald Smith, Isabel Speirs, Kirsty, Evelyn, Ivor MacDonald

**Glasgow City:** Kate Connor (D)

**Govanhill:** Alina Lingurar, Marta Couac

**Oban:** Hannah MacDonald, Beth Campbell, Stuart Head, Isla Head

### **PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS**

**Fort William:** Walter Baak

**Free North:** Beth Crooks, Lizzie Tidey, Heather Montgomery, Finlay Jenkins, Rian Forsyth, Jake Maclean, Michael Bruce

**Free North (Madras Street):** Matthew Tidey, Jordan Morrison, Cloe McMeechan, Elise Ayres, Danuta Karlisone, Finlay Jenkins, Beth Crookes, Lizzie Tidey

**Greyfriars-Stratherrick:** Anne Mackinnon, Amy Murray, Kayleigh Watson, David Graham (M), Christine Gleeson (D), Anna MacQueen (D), Reanne MacRae (M), Luke Davidson (M), Skye Birse, Leanne Maciver, Lewis MacKenzie (M), Brodie Watson, Scott Murray, Jayne Morrison (D), Bethany Gleeson (M), Lauren Maciver, Chloe Maciver, Michael Birse

**Knockbain:** Ruth Topping, Samantha Hutchison, Lewis Armstrong, Debbie Hutchison, Sarah Oliver, Amy Renwick, Rachel Urquhart, Finlay Renwick, Ellie Stewart, William Urquhart

**Maryburgh and Killearnan:** Ruairidh Munro (D), Anna Munro (D), Anna-Maria Stewart (D)

**Ferintosh:** Demi MacNab, Kelsey MacNab, Elmarie Matheson, Issy MacRae, Susanna Stewart, Bronwyn Mackenzie, William Fraser, Murray Stewart, Ross Stewart

**Urray and Strathconon:** Grant MacIennan, Heather Macdonald

### **NORTHERN PRESBYTERY**

**North Coast:** Alannah Drennan, Heather Mackay, Murron Drennan, Rolo Bradley, Anna Magee

### **PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS**

**Plockton and Kyle:** Sine MacLeod, Naomi Stewart, Brighde Rankin

**Poolewe and Aultbea:** Calum MacKenzie, Eoin Cumming, Anndra Cumming, Carys Townsend, Ezekiel Balanquit, Grant Walton, Cameron Walton

**Portree:** Holly Maclean, Sileas Urquhart, Rebekah Dickson, Abby Maclean, Murdo MacLean, Corrina Coll, Finlay Turner

**Staffin:** Jonathan Beaton

### **PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES**

**Back:** David Anderson (M), Luke Macleod (M), Colin Ferguson (M), Robert Macdonald (M), Kyle Macleod (M), James Morrison (M), Alana Macdonald (M), Isla Murray (M), Cara Graham (M), Olivia McElhatton (M), Hannah Mackenzie (M)

**Barvas:** Lisa Mason (M), Jane Finlayson (M), Eilidh MacDonald (M), Adam Maclean (M), Joanna Maclean (M)

**Callanish:** Carmen Finlayson (D), Cara MacDonald (D), Uisdean Reid (D), Aaron MacDonald (D), Luke Morrison (D), Zara Maclean (D)

**Cross:** Eilidh Ferguson, Katie Macdonald, Katherine Matheson

**Pairc:** Alasdair Kennedy, Murdo Angus Kennedy

**Shawbost:** Ruairidh MacIennan (M), Ross Macdonald (M), Anna Macaulay (M), Natalie Mackay (M), Jayne Gillies (M)

**Stornoway:** Alison Matheson (D), Emma Macleod (D), Hannah Ferguson (D), Rachel Jefferson (D), Kate Macmillan (D)

### **BIBLE CLASS EXPLORATIONS**

#### **Exploring the Names of Jesus**

The following were awarded certificates:

### **PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND PERTH**

**Perth:** Eleanor Smith

### PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW AND ARGYLL

**Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill:** Eilidh Court

**Glasgow City:** Alex MacLean, Scott Morrison, Madelyn MacDougall, Kate Connor

### PRESBYTERY OF INVERNESS, LOCHABER AND ROSS

**Fortrose:** Alasdair Lipp

**Free North:** Rosie Crookes

**Greyfriars-Stratherrick:** Anna MacQueen, Jayne Morrison, Luke Davidson, Colin William Mackenzie, Matthew Davidson, Bethany Gleeson, Christina Gleeson, Lewis Mackenzie

**Maryburgh and Killearnan:** David Stewart, Anna Munro, Anna Maria Stewart, Ruairidh Munro

**Urquhart and Resolis:** Farquhar MacRae, James Stewart

### NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

**Tain and Fearn:** Sam McNeil, Emma Macaulay, Shona Mackay, Rachel Ross

### PRESBYTERY OF SKYE AND WESTER ROSS

**Gairloch:** Anna-Kate MacLennan

**Lochbroom and Coigach:** Aliyah Kanyinda

**Poolewe and Aultbea:** Cameron Walton, Grant Walton, Eoin Cumming

### PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

**Cross:** Eilidh Ferguson

**Lochs:** Daniel MacLeod

**Shawbost:** Jayne Gillies, Natalie Jane Mackay, Ross Macdonald, Ruairidh MacLennan, David Macarthur, Tormod MacLennan, Finlay John Macaulay, Anna Macaulay

**Stornoway:** Kate Macmillan, Hannah Ferguson, Alison Matheson

**Tong:** Mary Anne Macphail, Kelci Smith

**4. Order of the Day** There was an Order of the Day at 7.30pm. The following Lyle-Orr Award prize-winners were introduced to the Moderator, suitably addressed, and presented with their awards:

Colin Pearson	London City Presbyterian Church	Infant Grade
Rebecca Ross	Urquhart and Resolis	Junior Grade
Anna MacQueen	Greyfriars-Stratherrick	Bible Class

The Moderator engaged in prayer before the prize-winners and their families left the General Assembly.

**5. Psalmody and Praise Committee** 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 the Convener, Rev. Ruairidh Maclean, who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

**First Motion** It was moved and seconded 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 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 precentors, congregations and ministers, a duty of intelligent and skilful psalm-singing, and the maintenance overall of a high standard of praise.
3. The General Assembly commend *Sing Scripture* to the Church.

4. The General Assembly encourage the use of *Songs of the Spirit* at congregational events such as guest services, youth work, joint services and psalmody classes.
5. The General Assembly note the usefulness of the workshop service offered by the Committee to give practice in precenting and in better congregational singing, and encourage the Church to make use of this facility.
6. 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.
7. The General Assembly support the Committee in its endeavours to promote an improved presence on the Free Church website and commend the Praise Pages in the website to the interest of the Church.
8. 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.

**Second Motion** The following addendum was moved and seconded: that (i) Paragraph 3 of the Deliverance be deleted; and (ii) that the words “and sing scripture” be deleted from Paragraph 6 in the Deliverance.

**Third motion** The following addendum was moved and seconded: that the General Assembly authorise the Psalmody and Praise Committee to publish a staff music-only edition of *Sing Psalms* for use by congregations.

**Finding** With the permission of the Assembly, the Convener accepted the Third Motion. On a vote being taken between the Second Motion and the First Motion, the First Motion was carried and the following became the finding of the General Assembly:

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 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 precentors, congregations and ministers, a duty of intelligent and skilful psalm-singing, and the maintenance overall of a high standard of praise.
3. The General Assembly commend *Sing Scripture* to the Church.
4. The General Assembly encourage the use of *Songs of the Spirit* at congregational events such as guest services, youth work, joint services and psalmody classes.
5. The General Assembly note the usefulness of the workshop service offered by the Committee to give practice in precenting and in better congregational singing, and encourage the Church to make use of this facility.
6. 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.
7. The General Assembly support the Committee in its endeavours to promote an improved presence on the Free Church website and commend the Praise Pages in the website to the interest of the Church.
8. 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.
9. The General Assembly authorise the Psalmody and Praise Committee to publish a staff music-only edition of *Sing Psalms* for use by congregations.

**Dissent** From this finding of the General Assembly Rev. Farquhar Renwick and Rev. John Forbes entered a simple dissent.

**6. Petition – Rev. David Parker** The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from Rev. David Parker with supporting documents in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable, the General Assembly indicted to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 23rd May 2016 the Petition of the Rev. David Parker humbly show that:

1. Whereas the Petitioner had his name on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Available for Call since May 2012.
2. Whereas the Petitioner wishes his name to be retained on this register.
3. Whereas in accordance with Act XXXIV, Class II, 2012 your Petitioner has addressed his Petition through the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll.
4. Whereas the Presbytery are supportive of your Petitioner's application.

Wherefore it is humbly requested that the General Assembly take these premises into their considerations and grant that your Petitioner be retained on the Register of Ministers without Charge Available for Call.

Or do otherwise as in their wisdom they 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. David Parker and grant its crave. They declare that Mr Parker's name be retained on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call for a second and final three-year period according to the terms of Act XXXIV, Class II, 2012 anent Retirement and Resignation of Ministers, paragraph 2.8. They instruct the Principal Clerk to advise Mr Parker accordingly.

**7. Petition – Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod** The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod with supporting documents in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland indicted to meet in Edinburgh on 23rd May 2016, the Petition of the undersigned humbly shows that:

1. Whereas your Petitioner was inducted to the charge of Urray and Strathconnon Free Church in September 2000, and ministered there until resigning his charge in August 2005 in order to take up appointment as Chaplain to Her Majesty's Armed Forces;
2. Whereas your Petitioner's resignation became effective on 25th September 2005;
3. Whereas your Petitioner, on the instruction of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross, was placed on the Roll of Resigned & Retired Ministers in terms of Act XIII, 1990, on 25th September 2005;
4. Whereas your Petitioner left his charge as a minister of the Church in good standing;
5. Whereas your Petitioner was granted a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth by the General Assembly according to the terms of Act XXII, Class II, 2010;
6. Whereas your Petitioner now wishes to make himself available for a Call by a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland;
7. Whereas in accordance with Act XXXIV, Class II, 2012, paragraph 2.10, your Petitioner has addressed his Petition to the General Assembly through the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth;
8. Whereas the Presbytery are supportive of your Petitioner's application;

Wherefore it is humbly requested that the General Assembly take these premises into their consideration and grant that your Petitioner be transferred from the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers to the Register of Ministers without Charge Available for Call.

Or do otherwise as in their wisdom they 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. Major Colin F. Macleod and grant its crave. They instruct the Principal Clerk to transfer Mr Macleod's name from the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers to the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call with immediate effect and to advise Mr Macleod accordingly.

**8. Petition – Rev. Robert Walker** The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from Rev. Robert Walker with supporting documents in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly indicted to meet at Edinburgh on 24th May 2016 the Petition of Rev. Robert M. Walker to be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll humbly shows that:

1. Whereas your Petitioner was previously Minister at Covenant Reformed Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois, USA;
2. Whereas your Petitioner was admitted as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland by the Commission of Assembly in October 2015;
3. Whereas having a seat on a Presbytery would enhance the ministry of your Petitioner and also be of benefit to a Presbytery;
4. Whereas the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll support your Petitioner's application for a seat on Presbytery;

Wherefore it is humbly requested that the General Assembly take these premises into their consideration and grant your Petitioner a seat on the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll.

Or do otherwise as in their wisdom they 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. Robert Walker and grant its crave. They grant Mr Walker a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery and they instruct the Principal Clerk to advise Mr Walker and the said Presbytery accordingly.

**9. Petition – Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson** The General Assembly took up consideration of a Petition from Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson with supporting documents in the following terms:

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland indicted to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 23rd May 2016 the petition of the undersigned humbly shows that:

1. Whereas your Petitioner was ordained as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland in 1994, and has been since ordination been actively involved in the Free Church of Scotland, as a serving minister, a missionary, an elder and member of a local Free Church congregation;
2. Whereas your Petitioner served as Assistant Minister in the Free North Church from 1994-1996; resigned to take up the post of Lecturer in New Testament at Highland Theological College, 1996-2005, (located in Elgin and Dingwall), responded to a request to become a serving missionary of the Free Church of Scotland as Principal-designate and then Principal of Dumisani Theological College, South Africa 2005-2014 and resigned from this post in December 2014 to become a Lecturer in New Testament at Highland Theological College;
3. Whereas your Petitioner throughout this period has been actively involved as a member, elder and worshipper in Free Church congregations in Elgin, Dingwall, Resolis and Urquhart and presently in Smithton Free Church and has preached regularly and continues to do so in many Free Churches;
4. Whereas your petitioner is a lecturer in an organisation that is evangelical and Reformed in its constitution and teaching and has the Westminster Confession of Faith as its subordinate standard; that has numbered amongst its staff and governors, Free Church office-bearers and encourages the active participation of staff members in the life of their own denomination;
5. Whereas your Petitioner having gained considerable experience in both theological education and cross-cultural mission would like to offer that experience to the Free Church of Scotland and to the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross, in whatever form may be helpful and appropriate
6. Whereas the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross wholeheartedly support your Petitioner's application for a seat on Presbytery

Wherefore it is humbly requested that the General Assembly take these premises into their consideration and grant your Petitioner a seat on the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross.

Or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may deem best.

And your Petitioner will ever pray.

9th November 2015

Rev. Dr Alistair Wilson

**Finding** It was moved, seconded and agreed that the General Assembly receive the Petition of the Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson and grant its crave. They grant Dr Wilson a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery and they instruct the Principal Clerk to advise Dr Wilson and the said Presbytery accordingly.

**10. Adjournment** The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this hall on Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 9.00am, whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church  
the 25th day of May 2016 years at 9.00 o'clock forenoon*

**1. Assembly Constituted** At Edinburgh on 25th May 2016 at 9.00am, and within Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, the General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises, when the following took part at the request of the Moderator: Rev. John H. Maclean, Rev. Rory Stott, Rev. Iain T. Campbell, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Malcolm Macleod, Rev. William D. Graham, Mr Iain A. Macdonald, Mr Norman Cumming, and Mr Calum Nicolson.

**2. Minutes** The minutes of Sederunt 1 and Sederunt 2 were read and approved.

**3. Missions Board (A) – (F)** The General Assembly then called for the Report of the Missions Board, (A) – (F) which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman, Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod, who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

**First Motion** It was moved and seconded that:

**(A) GENERAL**

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Missions Board (A) – (F) and thank all members of the Board especially the Chairman, Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod, the Vice-Chairman, Rev. Chris Smart, the Missions Director, Rev. David Meredith and the Missions Coordinator, Miss Sarah Macleod.
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 and overseas.
3. The General Assembly thank the Chief Executive Officer, the Finance Manager, and members of the Offices staff for their contribution to the work of the Board.
4. The General Assembly thank the Missions Director for his work on behalf of the denomination. They note the recommendation of the Board and declare that Act XI, Class II, 2015 anent the appointment of a Missions Director be amended to the extent that that the Missions Director shall be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth on his appointment. The revised Act is as follows:  
  
*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. They declare that the Missions Director be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth on his appointment.*
5. The General Assembly commend the work of Women for Mission and express their gratitude to the group for raising funds for mission and for raising the profile of mission in 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 missionary activity.
7. The General Assembly thank the Evangelism Support Group for the financial support they have given to congregations and groups in Scotland for outreach activities. Noting the recommendation of the Missions Board, they declare that the Evangelism Support Group will disband effective from the rising of the 2016 General Assembly and they approve of the revised financial arrangements for evangelism support. They thank all who served on the Committee over the years.
8. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr David Ford for his service as Editor of the Mission section of *The Record*.
9. The General Assembly thank Mrs Mairi MacDonald, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye, for producing the monthly *Missionary Prayer Notes* and commend her to the prayers of the Church.
10. The General Assembly note the recommendation of the Missions Board and declare that the name of the Board be changed from Missions Board to Mission Board. The General Assembly further instruct that all legislative and formal documentation be amended to reflect this change.
11. The General Assembly note the recommendation of the Missions Board and instruct the Board to explore the proposal to update, revise and summarise all the legislation which covers ministry under its oversight, and to report on its findings to the 2017 General Assembly.

**(B) GENERAL ASSEMBLY REMITS**

1. The General Assembly thank the 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 establishing of a Church Planting Committee that will have the remit to recruit, train, coach and mentor church planters. They direct the Board to continue its communication with the

Board of Ministry, the Seminary, and 20 Schemes regarding church planting and revitalisation. They instruct the Board to report on its progress, and on the work of the proposed Church Planting Committee, to the 2017 General Assembly.

2. The General Assembly thank the Missions Board for work done in consulting with the wider denomination about the future direction of mission. They instruct the Board to continue consulting with the wider church about the future direction of mission and seek to re-engage the whole denomination with the missionary mandate of Christ.

3. The General Assembly thank the Missions Board for work done sourcing provision of adequate funding for Miss Catriona MacDonald in 2016. They note that a minimum of £9,000 was raised in support of Miss MacDonald for 2016 through the South Mission Support Group.

4. The General Assembly welcome the formulation of the Missions Board's Principles of Funding document for mission work. They instruct that this Principles of Funding document be adopted by the Church. They thank the Board for its consultation with Presbyteries whilst compiling the document.

5. The General Assembly thank the Missions Board and the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for their partnership and consultation in appointing suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide the day-to-day management for the work of Asian Outreach. They further thank the Board for their consideration of suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4. They approve the following financial arrangements for the support of the Project: (i) the Board gives 100% funding to the Asian Outreach project for the duration of the current five-year term; and (ii) that Mr Peters will identify future funding sources for the Project in the last two years of this term of the work in order to facilitate the implementation of the Board's principles of funding to any future term of the Project.

### (C) MINISTRY - HOME

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

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross regarding West Church, Inverness and, noting the recommendation of the Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant the body of Christians worshipping in West Church, Inverness, 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 West Church, Inverness (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Macmillan. They grant Mr Macmillan a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to meet at the earliest available opportunity: (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 and recognising the ministry of Rev. Andrew Macmillan.

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the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and report to the 2017 General Assembly on future ministerial arrangements at East Kilbride.

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7. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding the congregations of Glasgow City and Campbeltown and grant its crave. They disjoin the preaching-station of Campbeltown from Glasgow City Free Church to allow it to develop its future ministry independent of Glasgow City Free Church.

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10. The General Assembly thank Rev. James Ross for his ministry in the work of Service to Overseas Students in Glasgow, and commend him and his family to the prayers of the Church as he prepares to begin a new ministry in Buccleuch and Greyfriars.

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#### **(D) MINISTRY – OVERSEAS**

1. 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 on-going well-being in circumstances that can be precarious.

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

3. The General Assembly give thanks for Rev. Donnie Smith and his exceptional leadership and diligence in his work at Lima Evangelical Seminary in Peru. The Board note Mr Smith's formal retirement from the Free Church in December 2015, and commend him, his family and his work to the prayers of the Church.

#### **(E) ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

1. The General Assembly emphasise the importance of Biblical ecumenicity and encourage each congregation within the denomination to strive for unity and co-operation at a local level when this is possible.

2. The General Assembly acknowledge that gospel cooperation is possible only when there is agreement on the core elements of classic evangelicalism.
3. The General Assembly pass their greetings to the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland, they thank them for recent fellowship and encourage them in contending for 'the faith once delivered to the saints'.
4. The General Assembly pass their warm greetings to the annual Presbytery of the Associated Presbyterian Churches of Scotland and thank them for cooperation in the gospel. They state their desire for close cooperation in the future and express their prayerful good wishes for the discussions currently being held between the two denominations.
5. The General Assembly express their greetings to the Presbytery of the International Presbyterian Church. They look forward to closer cooperation with IPC congregations, especially in Scotland.
6. The General Assembly wish to communicate their prayerful support and interest in the work of the Presbyterian Church of England and Wales. They wish to encourage the EPCEAW in their church-planting activities and rejoice in a measure of gospel success.
7. The General Assembly record their thankfulness for the past relationship and cooperation with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland. They look forward to future cooperation in mission and evangelism as they articulate the historic reformed faith to a new generation.
8. The General Assembly pass on its greetings to the Assembly of the Baptist Union of Scotland and encourage them in their adherence to classic evangelicalism which has been a hall-mark of the Scottish Baptist movement.
9. The General Assembly pass their warm greetings to the Moderator and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. They thank the PCI for courageous leadership in the province during difficult times and look forward to greater cooperation and interaction in the future.
10. The General Assembly express their appreciation for the testimony of the Presbyterian Church in America. They assure the PCA of their prayerful interest in their Church and nation during this election year.
11. The General Assembly note with pleasure the recommendation of the inter-church relationship committee of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to enter formal, fraternal relations with the Free Church of Scotland. The Free Church of Scotland express their desire to enter a similar relationship and they recognise the ARPC as an ecumenical partner.
12. The General Assembly note with thanks increasing contact with the Presbyterian Church of Australia and they express their desire that this would continue. They note the recent visit of their Moderator to Scotland and his warm comments regarding the Free Church of Scotland.
13. The General Assembly send warm greetings to the Presbyterian Church in Singapore, they look forward to welcoming vice Moderator, Rev. Teo Tew Tiong to Edinburgh in the near future.
14. The General Assembly express their appreciation of the work and fellowship of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) and look forward to continuing involvement in ICRC at world and European level.
15. The General Assembly express its support of the work of Affinity in building authentic gospel partnerships. They wish to extend prayerful good wishes to Graham Nicholls on his appointment as Director.
16. The General Assembly rejoice in the good relationships with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches. They thank the FIEC for sharing models of winsome practice in church planting, evangelism and revitalisation. In particular, they assure the Director John Stevens and the Scottish Director, Andy Hunter of their prayerful good wishes.
17. The General Assembly note the importance of good practice in developing ecumenical relationships and they ask the Missions Board to examine existing legislation pertaining to ecumenical activity and to come to the General Assembly of 2017 with suggested improvements.

#### (F) FINANCE

1. The General Assembly approve of the on-going efforts of the Board to fulfil the requirements of Act XV, Class II, 2010, with regard to Centrally Supported Ministries.

**Second Motion** It was moved and seconded that Paragraph 4 in Section (B) General Assembly Remits be deleted and replaced by the following:

The General Assembly note the Principles of Funding document prepared by the Missions Board following consultations with Presbyteries. They instruct that the Missions Board regard this document as a working draft, and that they continue to revise it in the light of comments received and that they bring it for approval to the next General Assembly.

**Third Motion** It was moved and seconded that the General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to induct Rev. David Meredith to the post of Missions Director on a date not later than 31st July 2016. They grant Mr Meredith a seat on the said Presbytery effective from the date of his induction.

**Fourth Motion** It was moved and seconded that it was moved and seconded that that following paragraph be inserted as new paragraph Deliverance (A) General Paragraph 12: The General Assembly commend the work of Solas to the Church, and encourage congregations, Presbyteries and the Board to liaise with Solas. They commend in particular the Solas magazine.

**Finding:** With the permission of the General Assembly, the Chairman accepted the Third Motion and the Fourth Motion. On a vote being taken between the First Motion and the Second Motion, the First motion was declared carried by a majority. Wherefore, the General Assembly finding was as follows:

#### (A) GENERAL

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Missions Board (A) – (F) and thank all members of the Board, especially Rev. Alasdair M. Macleod, Chairman, Rev. Chris Smart, Vice-Chairman, Rev. David Meredith, Missions Director, and Miss Sarah Macleod, Missions Coordinator.

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 and overseas.

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

4. The General Assembly thank the Missions Director for his work on behalf of the denomination. They note the recommendation of the Board and declare that Act XI, Class II, 2015 anent the appointment of a Missions Director be amended to the extent that that the Missions Director shall be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth on his appointment. The revised Act is as follows:

*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. They declare that the Missions Director be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth on his appointment.*

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8. The General Assembly thank the Evangelism Support Group for the financial support they have given to congregations and groups in Scotland for outreach activities. Noting the recommendation of the Missions Board, they declare that the Evangelism Support Group will disband effective from the rising of the 2016 General Assembly and they

approve of the revised financial arrangements for evangelism support. They thank all who served on the Committee over the years.

9. The General Assembly thank Rev. Dr David Ford for his service as Editor of the Mission section of *The Record*.
10. The General Assembly thank Mrs Mairi MacDonald, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye, for producing the monthly *Missionary Prayer Notes* and commend her to the prayers of the Church.
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#### (B) GENERAL ASSEMBLY REMITS

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5. The General Assembly thank the Missions Board and the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for their partnership and consultation in appointing suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide the day-to-day management for the work of Asian Outreach. They further thank the Board for their consideration of suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4. They approve the following financial arrangements for the support of the Project: (i) the Board gives 100% funding to the Asian Outreach project for the duration of the current five-year term; and (ii) that Mr Peters will identify future funding sources for the Project in the last two years of this term of the work in order to facilitate the implementation of the Board's principles of funding to any future term of the Project.

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#### (F) FINANCE

1. The General Assembly approve of the on-going efforts of the Board to fulfil the requirements of Act XV, Class II, 2010, with regard to Centrally Supported Ministries.
- 4. Welcome** The Moderator welcomed the following representatives of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church and West Church, Inverness, after which he led the General Assembly in prayer: Rev. Alberto de Paula, Mr Bill Clark and Mr Alan Woodley, all of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Andrew MacMillan of West Church, Inverness.
- 5. Missions Board Discussion Session – Church Revitalisation** The General Assembly proceeded to a discussion session on Church Revitalisation led by Rev. David Meredith, Missions Director.
- 6. Order of the Day** There was an Order of the Day at 4.00pm for the reception of Delegates. The following Delegates were introduced to the Moderator and invited to address the Assembly:
- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Rev. Dr Iain Wright      | Orthodox Presbyterian Church                         |
| Rev. Dr Samuel Logan     | World Reformed Fellowship                            |
| Rev. Dr Arnold Huijgenr  | Christian Reformed Church Netherlands                |
| Mr Stephen Johnstone     | Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales |
| Rev. Donald C. Macaskill | Associated Presbyterian Church                       |
- The Moderator also welcomed the following to the Assembly:
- |                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rev. Peter Kania   | Presbytery Church of Eastern Africa |
| Rev. Edwin Kibatti | Presbytery Church of Eastern Africa |
| Rev. Allan Ritchie | United Free Church of Scotland      |
| Rev. Robert Thomas | Presbyterian Church of Australia    |
- 7. Adjournment** The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall at 6.30pm whereof public intimation having been given, the Sederunt was closed with prayer.



*At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church,  
the 25th day of May 2016 years at 6.30 o'clock evening*

**1. Assembly Constituted** At Edinburgh on 25th May 2016 at 6.30pm, and within Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, the General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.

**2. Report of the ETS Board** The General Assembly called for the report of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Board which, being printed and in the hands of members, was referred to by the Chairman, Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean, 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 continued growth and increasing influence of Edinburgh Theological Seminary. They commend the work of the Seminary to the prayers of the Church.
3. The General Assembly thank Principal Iver Martin for his leadership of the Seminary and encourage him to continue with his fine work.
4. The General Assembly thank Rev. John Angus Macleod, the Vice-Principal, for his management of the day-to-day running of the Seminary and in particular, its academic affairs.
5. The General Assembly thank the full-time staff of Edinburgh Theological Seminary for their commitment to and competency in teaching the Reformed Faith. They also thank the visiting lecturers for their contribution to the instruction of students.
6. The General Assembly thank Rev. Daniel Sladek for completing his three-year appointment as Old Testament Lecturer and appoint him as Lecturer in Old Testament for a further period of five years. They wish him well in his PhD studies.
7. The General Assembly thank Mrs Heather Watson for her work as Seminary Secretary and welcome Mrs Ruth Smith who has been appointed to the part-time post for Library/Administration support. They also thank Mr Colin Morrison for his cheerfulness, competence and commitment to his work as Property Officer.
8. The General Assembly are pleased with the increase in number of students participating in the various programmes of study offered by the Seminary and give thanks to God for the growth in numbers.
9. The General Assembly are grateful for the good relations between the Seminary and Glasgow University. They thank Dr David Jasper for his valued contribution to the relationship and wish him well in his retirement. They also wish to express their thankfulness for Dr Scott Spurlock who succeeds Dr Jasper, and look forward to opportunities to strengthen the relation to the mutual benefit of University and Seminary.
10. The General Assembly commends the Board and Seminary for commencing a Distance Learning Facility in the Seminary. They thank Mr Andrew Fraser for his contribution in developing the distance learning that will begin to be offered by the Seminary from 2016.
11. The General Assembly encourage the Board and the Seminary to continue the development of a Mission Centre.
12. The General Assembly thank the Seminary for inaugurating an annual lecture in Scottish Church History.
13. 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.
14. The General Assembly commends the Marketing and Fundraising Taskforce, and in particular, its Convener, Rev. Thomas Davis, for the range of its activities in making known the courses offered by the Seminary.

**3. Welcome** The Moderator welcomed Professor David Jasper, Glasgow University, and invited him to address the General Assembly. Professor Jasper brought greetings from the University's Principal, Professor Muscatelli, and spoke of his role as Dean of Divinity in Glasgow when the present validation arrangement with ETS was established. The Moderator thanked Professor Jasper for his own and the University's role in the development of the successful links between the ETS and the University.

**4. Adjournment** The General Assembly did then adjourn to meet again in this Hall on Thursday 26th May 2016 at 9.00am, whereof public intimation having been given, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

*At Edinburgh and within Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church  
the 26th day of May 2016 years at 9.00 o'clock forenoon*

**1. Assembly Constituted** At Edinburgh on 26th May 2016 at 9.00am, and within Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, the General Assembly did again convene and was constituted with devotional exercises.

**2. Minutes** The minutes of Sederunt 4 and Sederunt 5 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, Rev. Angus MacRae, who addressed the Assembly thereanent.

**Finding:** It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Board of Ministry 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. Nigel Anderson for giving over five years of service as Clerk to the Board of Ministry.

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

5. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry and declare that candidates for the ministry shall normally be required to obtain the award of a B.Th., M.Th. or L.Th., or equivalent as a necessary vocational qualification.

6. The General Assembly approve in principal the use of Apprentice in Ministry placements as a suitable means of assessing and testing the gifts and calling of some potential candidates for the ministry. The General Assembly authorise the Board of Ministry to recommend and or require such placements in cases where the Board shall see cause to require such a placement. The General Assembly authorise the Board of Ministry to liaise with the Board of Trustees and make appropriate budgetary arrangements for the support of approved apprenticeships when the financial position of the church allows.

7. The General Assembly note the steps taken by the Board of Ministry and the Panel of Pastoral Care with regard to the pastoral care of ministers and their families, particularly those affected by illness. The General Assembly continue the remit given to the Board by the 2015 General Assembly to consult and report on this matter to the next General Assembly.

8. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry that the Commission of Assembly should have the authority, as of routine, to grant admission to ministers or probationers of other denominations. The General Assembly note and approve of the principles forming a protocol for processing admission of ministers through the courts of the church as set out in section (E) of the Report of the Board of Ministry. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry that existing legislation on the Recognition of Candidates for the Ministry and on the Admission of ministers and probationers of other churches be repealed and replaced with a comprehensive Act Anent Admission to the Ministry. Accordingly, the General Assembly enact and ordain as follows an Act Anent Admission to the Ministry:

The General Assembly direct that all Applications for Recognition as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland from those not already ordained to the ministry shall be processed by the Board of Ministry observing the following directives:

1.1 The Board of Ministry shall publish and regularly update a *Candidate Application Form*. The Form shall consist of Part A for the use of the candidate and Part B to be completed by a conjunct meeting of the applicant's Kirk Session and the relevant Presbytery or Committee of Presbytery who shall oversee the initial stages of the application process. To comply with civil legislation, the form shall include information on the immigration and nationality of the applicant and shall also gather information on their previous education and experience, their understanding of the gospel and theological views, their vision for ministry including their wholehearted commitment to the authority of scripture and the doctrines of the Reformed faith. The application must be supported by suitable references and indicate that the candidate complies with PVG legislation.

1.2 Applicants must be communicant members of the Free Church of Scotland and should normally have a minimum two-year association with the Free Church or a similar sister church before being given recognition.

1.3 Where the relevant Presbytery approves an application the Board of Ministry shall interview the applicant and come to a view on recognising him as a candidate for the ministry. The Board shall have the right to require an additional appraisal of the candidate including an assessment day or conference when gifts and calling may be tested. The Board are authorised to require medical information if they regard this as necessary to ensure that a candidate is able to carry out the duties of a minister or to ensure that adequate support and provision is made. The Board may require some candidates to undertake preliminary studies (which may be a first degree) or to take part in an apprentice in ministry post or the equivalent if they shall see fit. Candidates should demonstrate an ability to benefit from the ETS course. However, candidates are not required to hold a first degree. The Board may regard candidates over the age of 30 years as a mature student and may adjust the requirements of their course accordingly. In coming to a view on the application, the Board shall properly assess the candidate's Christian character and temperament as well as his giftedness and sense of call.

1.4 Once a candidate is recognised the Board shall ensure that he receives adequate mentoring and oversight before and during his period of study. The candidates shall also receive pastoral oversight from his home Presbytery in accordance with Act XXXVIII, 2015. The Presbytery shall inform the Clerk to the Board of Ministry and the candidate's Director of Studies at ETS of any concerns they may have concerning the welfare and the life and conduct of the candidate so that appropriate support may be provided and any necessary action taken.

1.5 All candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally pursue the full programme of studies at Edinburgh Theological Seminary. The General Assembly declare that, in normal cases, candidates for the Free Church ministry should obtain a B.Th., MTh or L.Th., or their equivalent as a necessary vocational qualification. The Board of Ministry may make alternative arrangements such as agreeing to bi-vocational training with the agreement of the relevant Presbytery, part-time studies or a modified training course in special cases.

1.6 Where a candidate has already completed first degree level theological studies and the Board of Ministry is satisfied as to the quality of both teaching and achievement, the candidate shall normally be required to study under the oversight of the Board for two academic years. The Board shall determine the nature of the course to be taken and what supplementary training the candidate may require in terms of academic and practical study and shall take note of requests from the candidate for particular areas of supplementary training. In exceptional cases the Board, with the agreement of the relevant Presbytery, may agree to reduce the necessary additional training to one academic year. This would normally only be applicable to a candidate holding a theological qualification at post-graduate level and possessing extensive pastoral or practical experience. The Board shall have regard to the theological content of any previous study to ensure that each candidate for the Free Church ministry is adequately prepared for ministry having obtained an adequate training that is Confessional and Reformed as a strong basis for their future pastoral ministry. In the case of a modified course of study, the Board of Ministry will liaise with the Senate of the Seminary to facilitate the delivery of the course and any necessary supplementary training.

1.7 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to study courses in language and literature in both Old Testament (Hebrew) and New Testament (Greek) studies. The Board of Ministry, in conjunction with the Senate and teaching staff at ETS, may agree to concessions in language study particularly in the case of mature students.

1.8 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to attend the Free Church Ministry Module and any other vocational training and instruction that may be arranged and required.

1.9 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to participate in term-time and summer placements as arranged by the Board of Ministry.

1.10 Each candidate shall normally be required to submit a Dissertation as part of their studies in accordance with the regulations for the qualification they are enrolled in.

1.11 The Board of Ministry shall make appropriate financial provision for students and probationers in terms of the legislation of the church. Candidates who fail to enter the ministry may be liable for the repayment of funds received from SAAS or funds received from the Board in terms of the undertakings made between the candidate and the Church.

1.12 The General Assembly declare that the foregoing provisions contain all the legislation of the Church relating to Applications for Recognition as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland. The General Assembly repeal (in as much as they have not already been repealed) Act XX, 1985; Act XIX, 1987; Act XXIII, 1989; Act XXI, 1991; Act XVI, 1992; Act XV, 1996; Act XIX, 2001; Act XXVIII, 2004; Act XXXII, 2014 and Act XXXIII, 2014.

The General Assembly direct that all Applications from Ministers or Probationers of other churches seeking admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall be processed by the Board of Ministry observing the following directives:

2.1 The Board of Ministry shall publish and regularly update a *Minister or Probationer's Application Form*. The Form shall consist of Part A for the use of the minister or probationer and Part B to be completed by the Presbytery or committee of Presbytery through whom the applicant is making application. The Presbytery shall oversee the initial stages of the application process. To comply with civil legislation, the form shall include information on the immigration and nationality of the applicant. The form shall gather information on their previous education and experience, their previous experience or work and ministry, their understanding of the gospel and theological views, their vision for ministry including their wholehearted commitment to the authority of scripture and the doctrines of the Reformed faith, together their reasons for wishing to leave their previous church and enter the ministry of the Free Church. The application must be supported by suitable references. This will normally include certification of their credentials and good standing within their past denomination. The candidate must declare their compliance with PVG legislation.

2.2 If the Presbytery supports the application and is satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a ministerial charge in the Free Church of Scotland, and if the applicant gives an unqualified agreement to the questions put to licentiates and is willing to sign the formula, then the Board shall agree to interview the applicant and come to a decision on the application.

2.3 The Board shall have the right to require an additional appraisal of the candidate including an assessment day or conference if deemed appropriate. The Board are authorised to require medical information if they regard this as necessary to ensure that a candidate is able to carry out the duties of a minister or to ensure that adequate support and provision is made in each case. The Board may require some applicants to undertake further theological studies. In coming to a view on the application the Board shall properly assess the candidate's reputation and history of service in the church of Jesus Christ along with their gifts and character.

2.4 Where the Board is satisfied with the applicant and approve the application they shall process the application through the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in terms of the following protocol:

2.4.1 The Board of Ministry shall give sufficient prior notification to Presbyteries of all applications from ministers of other churches being reported to the General Assembly or its Commission.

2.4.2 The relevant Presbytery and the Board of Ministry are responsible to process the whole application with due diligence on behalf of the denomination. For reasons of confidentiality nothing more than the name of the applicant, the Presbytery they are applying through, and the date when their application will be disposed of, is required by way of notification to other Presbyteries.

2.4.3 To assist all parties the following deadline shall apply to all applications. Papers relating to an application must be in the hands of the Board of Ministry not less than six weeks prior to the meeting of the General Assembly or its Commission. The Board shall be responsible to give notice to Presbyteries at least one month before the application is finally disposed of. Otherwise the application will await the next available Commission or General Assembly.

2.4.4 The full application papers need not be made available to the Assembly or its Commission in instances where the responsible Presbytery and the Board of Ministry has no hesitation in recommending that the application be received. A précis setting out the main aspects of the application shall be sufficient in such cases. In cases where dissent had been

recorded, or reservations have been expressed, by either the Presbytery or the Board of Ministry, the full application shall come before the Assembly or its Commission.

2.5 In cases where it is clear that the applicant – either because of his age or particular circumstances – is neither interested in, nor able to take up a charge in the Free Church, then the decision to require a medical certificate or to interview the applicant shall be at the discretion of the Board.

2.6 The Board of Ministry shall not approve an application unless they are satisfied that the minister or probationer possesses educational qualifications and professional training comparable to those required of applicants for Licence by the Free Church of Scotland unless appropriate steps are taken to correct any deficiency. The Board shall ascertain that the minister is fully committed to maintaining the peace and unity of this Church and does not hold opinions or follow practices likely to be divisive.

2.7 The General Assembly directs the Board of Ministry that applicants for ministry in the Free Church from other denominations shall normally study the Free Church Ministry Module. The Board shall ensure that the minister or probationer has such knowledge of the *Practice of the Free Church of Scotland* as to render him a competent person to act as Moderator of a Kirk Session and to assume the responsibilities which normally fall upon Free Church ministers in the courts of the Church. The Board may also set suitable guided reading or require essays on aspects of Free Church history and theology or other relevant subjects, as they shall see cause. The Board may in certain circumstances require the completion of a placement under the supervision of an experienced minister of the Church.

2.8 The General Assembly declare that only the General Assembly or its Commission of Assembly shall admit ministers from other churches. The General Assembly authorise all future meetings of the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of all such applications as a matter of routine.

2.9 The General Assembly declare that the foregoing provisions contain all the legislation of the Church relating to Applications from Ministers or Probationers of other churches seeking admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland and accordingly repeal Act XXXV, 2005; Act XXXIV, 2013; and Act XXXIII, 2014.

9. The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry on the number of candidates and the number of projected vacancies. They instruct the Board of Ministry and the Missions Board to liaise over this matter with a view to ensuring an adequate provision of ministers and of ministry posts in the coming years.

10. The General Assembly thank congregations and supervisors for their assistance with term-time and summer placements. The General Assembly encourage congregations wishing to have a candidate on placement to contact Dr Akroyd at ETS.

11. The General Assembly note and endorse the advice of the Board of Ministry on the usefulness of distance learning technology for a minority of students for the ministry.

12. The General Assembly note that the Board of Ministry intends to consult the Missions Board and the Presbyteries of the Church on appropriate pathways into ministry and on the position of un-ordained resident supply, part-time or auxiliary ministers.

13. The General Assembly approve of the protocol for ministers applying for part-funding of further study such as an MTh or PhD degree referred to in the report of the Board of Ministry. They authorise the Board to deal with applications for funding in terms of the protocol from this General Assembly. 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.

14. 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 authorise the Board of Ministry to review and expand the membership of the Panel. The General Assembly thank the members of the panel (Rev. Angus MacRae, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Robert MacLeod, Rev. D. Iain MacDonald, Dr Marten 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 met in Private*

**4. Board of Ministry – Supplementary Report** The General Assembly then called for the Supplementary Report of the Board of Ministry and the application of Rev. Alberto de Paula for admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland.

**Finding** It was moved, seconded and agreed that:

1. The General Assembly receive the application from Rev. Alberto de Paula, 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 General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, to make arrangements for Mr de Paula to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The General Assembly declare Mr de Paula to be the minister of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church upon his signing the Formula under the direction of the Presbytery.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr de Paula to avail himself of the online course in Free Church Practice and Principles under the supervision of Professor John Angus Macleod.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

***The General Assembly met in open court.***

**5. Order of the Day** There was an Order of the Day at 12.00noon. 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.

**6. Report of the Committee on 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, Rev. Dr Malcolm M. Maclean, in the following terms:

**1. The following records were found to be correct in form and substance:**

*Presbyteries:* Inverness, Lochaber and Ross; Skye and Wester Ross.

**2. The following records were not available for examination:**

- a. The records of the Presbytery of North American.
- b. The records of the Psalmody and Praise Committee.

**3. The following records require attention:**

<b>Record</b>	<b>Attention required</b>
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***Presbyteries***

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Edinburgh & Perth | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the minutes of 22nd September 2015 a discipline case was discussed and it is not clear if the discussion was in private;</li> <li>2. In the minutes of the meeting on 24th November, item 5.D, there is a handwritten correction that is not initialled.</li> <li>3. Several pages are not initialled</li> </ol> |
|-------------------|---|

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Glasgow & Argyll                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On page 28, in stating the date of the next meeting of the Presbytery, the year is not given. The same omission occurs on page 30 with regard to the date of the next meeting.</li> <li>2. There are irregularities of size of blank spaces between paragraphs and of the leading in typefaces, as well as changes of font in the same minutes.</li> </ol> |
| Northern Presbytery                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Several pages are not initialled.</li> <li>2. Large spaces after close of minutes are not crossed through with lines.</li> <li>3. The minute of 21st April 2015 records the previous meeting of Presbytery as taking place on 17th March whereas the date on the Minute of the previous meeting of Presbytery is March 3rd.</li> </ol>                     |
| Western Isles                         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first two pages of the Minute of 26th August 2015 are missing.</li> <li>2. The ordinary meeting of 5th February 2016 announces a meeting for 23rd February, but there is not a minute for the meeting on 23rd February.</li> </ol>   |
| <b><i>Boards &amp; Committees</i></b> |  |
| Board of Ministry                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the minutes of 26th August 2015 the date of the next meeting is not announced.</li> <li>2. The minutes of the meeting of the Board Executive on March 4th are missing.</li> </ol>   |
| Board of Trustees                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Page 7 of the minutes of 18/06/15 is not initialled.</li> </ol>  |
| Mission Board                         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An unusual word on page 14 of the minutes of 2 June 2015 in the paragraph concerned with Ecumenical Relations – it is spelt lo0o0.k.</li> </ol>  |
| ETS Board                             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minutes of previous year were not stamped by the Assembly Clerks.</li> </ol>   |

***Finding***      It was moved, seconded and agreed to 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 2016.
3. The General Assembly authorise the Assembly Clerk to stamp all the records examined by the Committee.
4. The General Assembly direct that the Committee's Report be distributed to the Clerks of all Presbyteries, Boards and Committees. They instruct all Clerks to report to the Assembly Clerks' Department when all matters raised have been addressed and to do so not later than 30th August 2016.

**7. Report of the Committee on 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, Rev. John Forbes. It was moved, seconded and agreed to that the Report be adopted and engrossed as follows:

The Convener had asked each Presbytery Clerk for a list of both ministers and elders lost through death since the last meeting of the General Assembly in May 2015. There have been no reported deaths of ministers in the past year but the loss of the following elders is recorded with sadness:

**Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth**

Mr Donald Macleod, St Peters, died September 2015

**Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll**

Rev. John Silcox, Dunblane, died September 2015

Mr James MacNair, Dunoon and Strachur, died November 2015

Mr Neil Maclean, Glasgow City, died May 2016

#### **Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross**

None reported

#### **Northern Presbytery**

Kenneth Robertson, Tain and Fearn, died 12th July 2015

#### **Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross**

Donald Macrae, Poolewe and Aultbea

Roddie Mackenzie, Gairloch and Kinlochewe

Alexander Theodore Francis Urquhart (known as Dorrie), Lochbroom and Coigach

#### **Western Isles**

Mr Gordon Macleod, North Uist

Mr Alex J. Morrison, Cross

Mr Alexander M. Campbell, Stornoway

Mr Malcolm Macleod, Stornoway

Mr Murdo Maciver, Callanish

#### **North America**

None reported

**8. Appointments** The General Assembly noted that Mr Colin Mackay, Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll, had resigned from the Board of Ministry. It was moved, seconded and agreed to that Mr Clive Bailey be appointed to replace Mr Mackay for a four-year term a first term of four years, renewable for a further four-year term. The General Assembly also noted the vacancies arising on the Judicial Commission and on the Psalmody and Praise Committee due to the retirement of Rev. Alex MacDonald and the terms of Act XLVIII, Class II, 2008 regarding the membership of Boards and Committees. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Clerks arrange suitable replacements to fill the said vacancies and to report to the next General Assembly.

**9. Moderator's Visit** It was moved, seconded and agreed that the General Assembly thank the Presbyterian Church of Australia for their invitation to the Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr John Nichols, to attend their General Assembly due to commence on Monday 12th September 2016 at Surry Hills, Sydney, NSW. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Dr John Nichols to attend the said Assembly and instruct the Principal Clerk to inform the PCA accordingly.

**10. Protestations** The General Assembly called for Protestations but none were submitted.

**11. Commission of Assembly** The General Assembly proceeded to appoint the Commission of Assembly as follows:

The General Assembly (GA) hereby appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of this General Assembly along with Rev. Professor R. Akroyd named by the Moderator to be their Commission.

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 5th October 2016 and Wednesday 1st March 2017 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 connection with unresolved matters concerning the Free Church Continuing the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all necessary and appropriate steps in the interests 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 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 GA;

Furthermore the Commission is empowered to receive and dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Mission Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Mission Board; to appoint Ministers to overseas appointments and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church; to take up and dispose of a Report from the Mission Board concerning an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Portree and Bracadale Free Church; to determine any matter relating to the sale of property or release of funds which in the view of the Board of Trustees should be determined by the Commission and brought by the Board on its own initiative; and to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks in relation to the records of the Presbyteries in North America and other items specified in the report of the Committee appointed to examine records.

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

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

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

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

**12. Thanks** The thanks of the General Assembly were accorded to: The Moderator; Assembly Clerks; Rev. David. C. Meredith, Convener of the Ecumenical Relations Committee of the Missions Board; the Precentors, Mr Evan Macdonald and Dr James Boyd; Mr David Macdonald, Assembly Officer; Rev. William M. Mackay, Hospitality Coordinator; Mr Iain R. Morrison, driver of the Moderator's car; Cailean Morison and all those assisting with the sound and video address system; doorkeepers; Mrs Sharon Fraser and the Office staff; ladies who provided hospitality; the cleaners; and the Deacons' Court of Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church.

**13. Appointment of 2017 General Assembly.** The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 22nd May 2017 at 6.00pm.

**14. Minutes of 6th Sederunt** The Minutes of this Sederunt were read and approved.

**15. Closure** The General Assembly was closed with prayer, the singing of Psalm 72:16-19, and the Apostolic Benediction.