

CONTENTS

CLASS I - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Act 1 Representative Elder at Presbytery and Synod

CLASS 2 - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

Act 2 Loyal and Dutiful Address
Act 3 Examination of Presbytery Records
Act 4 Printing Acts of Assembly
Act 5 Assistant Clerks of Assembly
Act 6 Appointment of Assistant Clerks of Assembly
Act 7 Mission Board Consultation with Presbyteries
Act 8 Categories and Rolls of Ministers
Act 9 Appointing the Commission of Assembly
Act 10 Appointing the 2020 General Assembly
Act 11 Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Act 12 Principal Clerk and Membership of the Board of Trustees
Act 13 Revising Act 8, Class 2, 2017 regarding the Ecumencial Relations Committee
Act 14 Remit of ETS Mission Centre
Act 15 Membership of ETS Board
Act 16 Governance of ETS
Act 17 Ministerial Stipend
Act 18 Appointment of Assistant Minister at Glasgow City Free Church
Act 19 Appointment of Assistant Minister at St Andrews Free Church
Act 20 Appointment of Assistant Minister at Rosskeen Free Church
Act 21 Granting the Congregation of Sleat and Strath Free Church the Status of a Sanctioned Charge
Act 22 Granting the Congregation of Dunblane the Status of a Locally Subsidised Charge
Act 23 Granting the Church Plant at Stirling the Status of a Fully Sanctioned Charge
Act 24 Extending the Appointment of Rev. Norman MacKay at Govan Church Plant
Act 25 Granting Grace Church Montrose the Status of a Congregation

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act 1 Disjoining the Congregation of Lochgilphead and Tarbert
Act 2 Admitting Rev. Angus Lamont as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland
Act 3 Admitting Rev. Martin H. Paterson as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland
Act 4 Renaming the Congregation of Harris

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS

OF

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CLASS 1 ACTS – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Act 1 – Representative Elder at Presbytery and Synod

Number 1 of Class 1

Category: General Assembly

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly, with consent of a majority of Presbyteries, and noting that since the suspension of statutory meetings of Synods under the terms of Act 41, Class 2, 2009, the dates of such meetings are no longer meaningful in the Church's calendar, hereby enact and ordain that:

1. Presbyteries shall elect one of its Ministers as Moderator of Presbytery at the first ordinary meeting after the rising of the General Assembly. The appointment as Moderator shall run for twelve months and until a successor is appointed after the rising of the General Assembly subsequent to the initial appointment.
2. Kirk Sessions shall elect a Representative Elder to sit in Presbyteries and Synods at the first ordinary meeting after the rising of the General Assembly and the election shall be notified to the Clerk of Presbytery by extract of minute of the proceedings of the Kirk Session.
3. The Commissions of Elders to Presbyteries and Synods shall run for twelve months from the rising of the General Assembly in each year, and the Representative Elders shall continue to act as members of Presbytery and Synod until their successors are elected and the election duly notified to the Clerk of Presbytery.
4. Kirk Sessions shall elect a Representative Elder within two months of the rising of the General Assembly. If a Kirk Session fails to elect a Representative Elder, and to notify the election to the Presbytery Clerk prior to or at the first ordinary meeting of Presbytery after the meeting of the General Assembly at which commissions should lapse, the Clerk of Presbytery shall thereupon require such Kirk Session forthwith to make the necessary election.
5. In Presbyteries in which there are members who are granted a seat in Presbytery in virtue of their office, for example, staff at Edinburgh Theological Seminary, such Presbyteries shall, at the first ordinary meeting after the rising of the General Assembly in each year, elect an Elder not otherwise a member of Presbytery, and not a Minister, from any Kirk Session within the bounds for each additional seat in the Presbytery, and the commissions of such Elders shall be in all respects similar to those of other representative Elders. This shall not apply to retired ministers who have been granted a seat in Presbytery.
6. Those elected as a Representative Elder to Presbytery shall also be Representative Elders to the Synod in which the Presbytery is situated should it be required to meet.
7. Act 4, Class 1, 1893, be hereby repealed.

CLASS 2 ACTS – ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

Act 2 – Loyal and Dutiful Address

Number 1 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 21st May 2019

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

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly the 21st day of May 2019, 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 pray for Your Majesty's Parliament in Westminster and especially remembering the Prime Minister and her Government in the many responsibilities that devolve upon Your Majesty's servants at home and abroad. At a time of peculiar political uncertainty and a changing relationship with the European Union, we pray that Your Majesty's Parliament would be given wisdom and direction. We are thankful to God for the sense of stability that your Majesty brings to the Nation during such uncertain times.

We also pray for Your Majesty's Parliament in Holyrood and continue to pray for the First Minister and her Government. Saturday 29th June 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Parliament and representatives of the Free Church of Scotland look forward to joining Your Majesty and his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, to celebrate the occasion at Holyrood, recognising the significant impact that the Parliament has made over the past two decades upon the Scottish Nation and its people.

We recognise the ongoing responsibilities of Your Majesty as the Head of the Commonwealth. We note with gratitude the 70th anniversary service held in Westminster Abbey in March of this year attended by Your Majesty and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, along with the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex and the Duke of York. In addition to praying for your Majesty as the Head of the Commonwealth, we also pray for the Duke of Sussex as its Youth Ambassador. It is our prayer that the Commonwealth of Nations will continue to be a body, freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress.

We also join Your Majesty in recognising the contribution of the Royal Air Force to the protection and peace that we enjoy in our country, appreciating the spectacular display over Buckingham Palace that celebrated a hundred years since it was founded, and remembering the courage and the sacrifice that was made by the Royal Air Force during crucial times in our Nation's history.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of all Your Majesty's Armed Forces, serving at home and abroad, in particular as we approach the 75th Anniversary of the Second World War. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, and those who have suffered injury in mind and body. We thank Almighty God for the work of Your Majesty's chaplains to the Armed Forces, and the ministry of the Soldiers and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association.

We give thanks to God that the past year has brought many occasions for Her Majesty to celebrate. We congratulate His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on his seventieth Birthday. We share in Your Majesty's joy on the marriage of Princess Eugenie. We especially rejoice in the safe arrival of Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor, an eighth great-grandchild to Your Majesty and a first child to the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. We remain ever committed to praying for the Royal Family asking that each member of your Royal Household will know the blessing and protection of Almighty God and the great love of Christ our Saviour.

We continue to appreciate the contribution that the Duke of Cambridge and the Duke of Sussex are making to facilitating more open discussion regarding matters of mental health. We also appreciate the openness with which the Duke of Cambridge has recently spoken about dealing with grief. We believe that they have permitted many in our nation to acknowledge their own struggles in areas that have hitherto been difficult to address.

At time in our history when many are finding it increasingly difficult to freely express their Christian beliefs and values, we are grateful to Your Majesty for the clarity and the conviction with which you present your own Christian faith. We continue to appreciate the succinct manner in which your Majesty presents the Christian hope in the address to the Nation at Christmas.

We give thanks for the continued recognition Your Majesty gives to the work and ministry of the Free Church of Scotland by the welcome visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the General

Assembly of the Church of Scotland. We look forward to receiving His Grace, The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, on his return visit to our Assembly this year.

Your Majesty, as ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland, be assured that we pray regularly for Your Majesty's person, family and governments and subjects. We commit ourselves and our congregations to do so willingly and as we are encouraged to do by God's word. We are committed to praying for you as our Sovereign, but also as our sister in Christ that your Majesty may experience more and more of our Saviour's all-sufficient grace.

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

Act 3 – Examination of Presbytery Records

Number 2 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Monday 20th May 2019

The General Assembly, taking cognisance of the importance of guarding the Church from risk arising from the decisions of the Courts of the Church, and the importance of giving careful attention to the records of Presbyteries, direct that Presbytery records be submitted annually to the Assembly Business Committee for examination at its statutory meeting due in April. They authorise the Business Committee to attest such records as are correct in form and content and they instruct the Committee to report to the General Assembly on its findings with the revised arrangements taking effect from the rising of this Assembly.

1. The General Assembly amend Act 41, Class 2, 2009 regarding Synods, Paragraph 6 to read as follows: The General Assembly instruct Presbyteries to forward items routinely dealt with annually by Synods, such as the annual inspection of Presbytery records and reports of quinquennial visitation, to the General Assembly Business Committee until further notice, such reports and records to be directed in the first instance to the Principal Clerk of Assembly by the 31st of March.

2. The General Assembly also amend Act 1, Class 2, 2015 regarding the Appointment of a Business Committee with the addition of the following paragraph: The General Assembly instruct the Business Committee to carry out the annual inspection of Presbytery records at the appointed meeting in April. They also instruct the Committee to report on their findings to the General Assembly. They authorise the Committee to attest as correct all the records which are correct in form and content.

Act 4 – Printing Acts of Assembly

Number 3 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Monday 20th May 2019

The General Assembly direct that the responsibility for the printing of the Acts of the Assembly be passed to the Assembly Clerks' Office. They declare that this arrangement supersedes the requirement of *The Practice of the Free Church of Scotland*, Eighth Edition, Chapter 4, Paragraph 16.5, that this duty be undertaken by a committee appointed annually by the General Assembly. They amend Assembly Standing Orders, Section E, Paragraph 2 as follows: That the Assembly Clerks' Office shall make arrangements for the printing the Acts of Assembly and that they shall arrange that the Acts be divided into two classes: Class 1 – Acts which have passed the Barrier Act; Class 2 – Acts which are of General Interest to the Church.

Act 5 – Assistant Clerks of Assembly

Number 4 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly declare that the appointment of two Assistant Assembly Clerks of Assembly would be beneficial for the safe and effective operation of the Assembly Clerk's Office. They further declare that appointments be made to fill any vacancies with such appointments effective from the rising of this Assembly.

Act 6 – Appointment Assistant Clerks of Assembly

Number 5 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Nigel Anderson and Rev. Stephen Allison as Assistant Assembly Clerks according to the terms of Act 10, Class 2, 2015. In order that the terms of the Assistant Clerks of Assembly do not expire at the same time, the General Assembly direct that the first term of six years for Mr Allison shall begin at the 2019 Assembly and the first term of six years for Mr Anderson shall be taken as having begun from the 2018 Assembly.

Act 7 – Mission Board Consultation with Presbyteries

Number 6 of Class 2

Category: Governance

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly amend Act 24, 1989 anent Consultation with Presbyteries by the Church Extension and Sustentation Committee as amended by Act 10, Class 2, 2009 anent Consultation with Presbyteries, to read:

The General Assembly, considering that the Mission Board should be informed of proposals before Presbyteries affecting charges within their bounds, so that a good working relationship may be maintained between Presbyteries and the Board enact that:

1. The Board, their Executive, or the Mission Director on behalf of the Board, shall jointly hold discussions with each Presbytery at least once every three years in relation to the Presbytery's strategic plan and regarding proposals connected with the number and type of charges within their bounds, and particularly regarding situations which might lead to petitions for locally subsidised charges, alternative ministerial arrangements or church plant status.
2. Each Presbytery shall prepare an outline of its proposals to form the basis for such discussions;
3. Whenever a Presbytery by readjusting congregational bounds can release manpower resources presently employed, then that Presbytery may urge a prior claim to use within its bounds the resources so made available, and the Board shall take this into account when considering applications for redevelopment and church extension status etc."

Act 8 – Categories and Rolls of Ministers

Number 7 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly, seeking to revise the arrangements regarding categories and rolls of ministers, enact and ordain that the following categories and related stipulations shall apply to all ordained ministers of the Free Church of Scotland from the close of this Assembly:

1. **General.** 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 Board of Ministry. Presbytery Clerks and Clerks of Boards and Committees of the Church are responsible for informing the Principal Clerk in all instances specified below. To ensure the accuracy of the records held by the Assembly Clerks' Office, the following instructions shall be noted:

1.1 The names of all Free Church ministers inducted to a charge will be held on the appropriate *Roll of Presbytery*. The Roll of Presbytery will include the names of ministers who have been granted a seat in the Presbytery on the basis of other full-time ministerial appointments in the Church. The Roll of Presbytery will also include retired ministers who have successfully petitioned the Presbytery for a seat as outlined in Paragraph 3.6 below.

1.2 The names of all other Free Church ministers in good standing must appear on one or other of the lists specified below.

1.3 Presbytery Clerks shall submit the Roll of Presbytery to the Assembly Clerks' Office annually, immediately after the Roll has been finalised.

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

2. ***Roll of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call.*** The Roll of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call shall comprise all ordained ministers (for Probationers see 5 below) of the Free Church in good standing who are not already in a charge in the Free Church of Scotland and who are not resigned from their previous charge. Only those whose names are placed on this Roll shall be eligible for a call other than ministers already in a charge or ministers whose names appear on the Roll of Probationers. Ministers who do not wish to be considered for a Call from a vacant congregation may intimate this to the Interim-Moderator on receipt of enquiries from the Kirk Sessions of vacant congregations.

2.1 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 beyond the bounds of any Presbytery, while on this Roll, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided. Presbyteries shall inform the Assembly Clerk of any change in location regarding ministers whose names are recorded on this Roll.

2.2 Ministers on the *Roll of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call* shall be eligible to petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they reside for a seat in the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall inform the Assembly Clerk of any such changes. On being granted a seat in the Presbytery, the minister shall be eligible for membership of General Assembly Boards and Committees of the Church, and he shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery until such time as he is inducted to a charge or ceases to reside within the bounds of the Presbytery.

2.3 Ministers on the *Roll of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call* shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation of which they are communicant members, provided they have not resigned from this charge previously. However, 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 The names of ministers on the *Roll of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call* shall be retained on the Roll for an initial period of three years, before the end of which he may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides, to have his name retained on the Roll for a further three years. The same process of application shall be followed in order for names to be retained on the Roll for every subsequent three-year term.

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

3. ***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.

3.1 This list comprises the following:

(a) Ministers who resigned their charge due to a breakdown in health;

- (b) Ministers whose resignation is due to non-censurable incompatibility with a congregation;
- (c) Ministers whose resignation is required for secondment by a responsible Board or Committee of the Free Church to other pastoral or para-pastoral work.
- (d) Ministers who resigned their charge and are employed by other agencies and are financially supported by the Free Church but not seconded by a Board or Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, provided they have not become ministers of another denomination.
- (e) Ministers who resigned their charge and are employed by other agencies but are not financially supported by the Free Church, provided they have not become ministers of another denomination.
- (f) Ministers whose names by order of the General Assembly, other than for reasons in (a)-(e) above, are to be held on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.8 Ministers on the *Roll of Resigned Ministers* shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence beyond 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.

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

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

thus order his name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found. The Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly accordingly.

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

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

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

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

4.4 A Probationer's name shall remain on the *Roll of Probationers* for six years, before the end of which he may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides, to have his name retained on the Roll for a further three years. A Probationer must use the same process of application to the General Assembly, through the Presbytery, every three years, in order to have his name retained on the Roll.

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

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

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

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

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

5. ***Retired Ministers.*** A minister inducted to a charge or appointed to a full-time post in the Church after this General Assembly, shall demit such a charge or post with effect from 30th September following his attainment of the age of 70 years.

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

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 All applications for retirement from ministers in a charge must be supported by extract minutes from the relevant Kirk Session and Presbytery and these must show that the applicant has agreed to withdraw from his rights of

active participation in the courts of the congregation - his right to respond to a specific request from the Moderator or Interim Moderator of the congregation being unchanged. Retirement shall involve the surrender of the emoluments of the Charge, and the vacation of the manse unless the Deacons' Court permits continuing occupation for a period; the congregation shall be deemed to be and declared to be vacant by order of the Presbytery after the specified retirement date has been reached.

6. **Roll of Retired Ministers.** The *Roll of Retired Ministers* shall comprise all ordained ministers of the Free Church in good standing who have retired, including those who have been received from other denominations since retiring. Retirement in this sense, whether by a minister in a pastoral charge or otherwise, should be seen as distinct from a minister choosing to receive certain retirement benefits prior to actual retirement.

6.1 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. 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. Upon relocation to another Presbytery, the retired minister's right to his seat in Presbytery will terminate with immediate effect, but he may apply for a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he has relocated. In the case of ministers who take up residence in a Presbytery other than that receiving their application to retire, an extract minute from the Presbytery receiving their application to retire in support of the Petition for a seat shall be obtained.

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

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

6.4 The Principal Clerk shall maintain the *Roll of Retired Ministers* showing retired ministers who have been granted a seat in Presbytery in addition to retired ministers who have chosen not to apply for a seat in Presbytery.

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

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

6.7 Retired ministers shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation of which they are communicant members, provided this is 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.

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

7. **Repeal.** The General Assembly hereby repeal Act 15, Class 2, 2017 as amended by Act 5, Class 2, 2018.

Act 9 – Appointing the Commission of Assembly

Number 8 of Class 2

Category: **General Assembly**

Thursday 23rd May 2019

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

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 and Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7 o'clock in the evening, and at other times and places as may be required with power to choose their own Moderator.

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

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

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

Furthermore, the Commission is authorised to receive and dispose of petitions received from Presbyteries regarding the transference of the name of a minister from the Roll of Resigned Ministers to the Roll of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call;

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

Furthermore, the Commission is empowered to receive and dispose of a Report from the Board of Trustees on the following matters: (i) the appointment of a Parliamentary Officer; (ii) the appointment of the Editor of *The Record*; and (iii) 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;

Furthermore, the Commission is empowered to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks in relation to the records of the following Presbyteries, Boards and Committees: Presbyteries - Glasgow & Argyll, Northern, Skye and Wester Ross, and North America; Boards and Committees – ETS Board, Ecumenical Relations Committee, and Psalmody and Praise Committee.

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

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

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

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

The General Assembly direct that items to be included in the Note of Business of the Commission shall be submitted to the Assembly Clerks' Office at least ten days before the Commission is due to meet.

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

Act 10 – Appointing the 2020 General Assembly

Number 9 of Class 2

Category: *General Assembly*

Thursday 23rd May 2019

The General Assembly appointed the next General Assembly to meet in the Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, on Monday 18th May 2020 at 6.00pm.

Act 11 – Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Number 10 of Class 2

Category: *Governance*

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

1. The General Assembly note the provisions of Act 16, Class 2, 2016, extending the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board of Trustees to expire at the 2019 General Assembly. They thank the Board for its diligence in seeking a suitable successor to Mr Fraser and they note the Board's proposals for an appointment to be made at the 2020 General Assembly.

2. The General Assembly approve the recommendation that the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board of Trustees be extended for one year, and that his term as a member of the Board be extended for two years. They waive the specific requirement of Act 48, Class 2, 2008, which states that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall be appointed for a four-year term, renewable by the General Assembly for one further term of four years. They also waive the requirement Act 23, Class 2, 2007, which states that each Presbytery shall have at least one representative on the Board, for the duration of the two-year extension of Mr Fraser's term. They declare that Mr Fraser's appointment as Chairman of the Board shall terminate at the close of the 2020 General Assembly and that his appointment as a member of the Board shall terminate at the close of the 2021 General Assembly.

Act 12 – Principal Clerk and Membership of the Board of Trustees

Number 11 of Class 2

Category: *Governance*

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly endorse the view that it is more appropriate, for reasons of good governance, that the Assembly Clerk be appointed as an *ex officio* adviser to the Board, rather than as an *ex officio* member of the Board, as is current practice. They amend Paragraph 1.1.4 [1] of Act 6, Class 2, 2014 (as amended by Act 12, 2015 and Act 17, 2016) detailing structure of Boards and Committees to the extent that the Principal Clerk of Assembly is appointed as permanent adviser to the Board. They declare that the said paragraph be revised as follows:

Membership – Twelve members comprising at least four ministers and at least six office bearers of whom up to two might be deacons. Members shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a four-year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The General Assembly shall appoint one of the Board, who shall always be an elder, as Chairman, for a four-year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three Trustees. The Principal Clerk of Assembly *ex officio* is appointed as adviser to the Board.

Act 13 – Revising Act 8, Class 2, 2017 regarding the Ecumenical Relations Committee

Number 12 of Class 2

Category: *Governance*

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly amend Paragraph 1 of Act 8, Class 2, 2017 re-constituting the Ecumenical Relations Committee to the extent that the Mission Director is not appointed Convener of the Committee *ex officio* but that the Convener is appointed by the General Assembly annually and that the Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary is appointed to

the Committee ex officio. They declare that the membership of the Committee be increased to include an Elder appointed by the General Assembly for a four-year term. They also renumber the paragraphs in the Act. They declare the revised Act to be as follows:

The General Assembly, seeking to revise and update its legislation regarding the Church's ecumenical relations, re-constitute the Ecumenical Relations Committee and enact as follows:

1. **Remit.** The Ecumenical Relations Committee will promote, foster and develop relations with other denominations and like-minded believers in seeking the propagation of the gospel and the advancement of Christ's kingdom in Scotland and beyond. The Committee will take steps to promote and protect the position of the Free Church of Scotland with respect to her place in the wider Church. The Committee will carry out its remit as defined by this Act and as the General Assembly may appoint.

2. **Membership.** Seven members in total comprising the Mission Director, the Mission Board Chairman, the Principal Clerk, Assistant Clerk Representative, the Moderator, the Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary, and one Elder, appointed for a four-year term, with the Convener appointed by the General Assembly and the Principal Clerk appointed as Clerk to the Committee.

3. **Categories of Relationships.** The Committee's remit and activities as regards categories of relationship with other churches and organisations shall be exercised as follows:

3.1 **Mutual eligibility** - involving mutual exchange of ministers in the due process of calling ministers for the filling of ministerial and other vacancies in the respective denomination.

3.2 **Ecclesiastical Fellowship (Fraternal Relations)** – a relationship with churches which are Reformed in their Confessional standards, church order, worship and discipline but where there are such differences so as not to allow union or enable mutual eligibility at this time. This relationship involves mutual exhortation, cooperation and consultation on all matters of mutual concern and interest in promoting Christian unity and advancing the work of the Gospel. This relationship will also include exchange of delegates at major Assemblies from time to time.

3.3 **Recognition** – a relationship with churches and denominations with an unqualified subscription to the Reformed Faith. The relationship is based on confessional subscription but recognises that there needs to be a time of mutual contact and encouragement with a view to entering into ecclesiastical fellowship in the future. The relationship includes inter-communion, but not excluding suitable enquiries upon requested transfer of membership, as regulated by the Kirk Session.

3.4 **Gospel Partnership** – including partnerships with other denominations, Churches, and Christian organisations who are Reformed and evangelical but with whom we may disagree on secondary matters. There will be a particular focus on co-operation in the local context, at home and abroad, and meetings will take place, and updates received from time to time as required.

3.5 **Ecumenical Contact** – including contact with other denominations, Churches, and Christian organisations with which we have common ground regarding the Gospel and with whom regular conference or local contact is generally not possible due to distance and geographical location.

4. **Annual Review.** The Committee will seek that balance between promoting biblical unity on the one hand and protecting the interests and ethos of the Free Church on the other in its ecumenical activities. The Committee will receive updates on developments, on an annual basis, from all the denominations and organisations with which it is engaged. This will assist the Committee in carrying out an annual review of its activities on which a report will be brought to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly amend Act 15, Class 2, 2004, Clause 2.4 accordingly.

The General Assembly hereby repeal Act 4, Class 2, 2005.

Act 14 – Remit of ETS Mission Centre

Number 13 of Class 2

Category: Governance

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly declare that the remit of the ETS Centre for Mission be as follows:

1. To promote serious engagement with mission studies, and reflective participation in mission practice, among ETS staff and students by means of formal academic courses and other mission-focused events;
2. To engage in, and foster, constructive interaction with students, mission agencies, and serving missionaries (local and global) so as to ensure effective training for those preparing for, or engaged in, various forms of mission service;
3. To encourage serving missionaries (local and global) by providing opportunities for theological development and biblical research in topics of relevant interest;
4. To provide education in mission studies to the wider church;
5. To respond to specific requests for theological and practical training of leaders and key workers by the wider church, mission agencies, and, in particular, by the Mission Board and the Board of Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland.

Act 15 – Membership ETS Board

Number 14 of Class 2

Category: Governance

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly amend paragraph 1.5.1 of Act 6, Class 2, 2014 anent Modification of the Structure of Boards and Committees as amended by Act 12, 2015 and Act 17, 2016 by inserting after the words “The Chairman shall not be a member of the College Senate” the words “nor a member of the Seminary staff. The Board may appoint advisers from time to time as deemed expedient subject to at least two advisers being appointed for a four-year term, renewable once only.”

They declare that the revised paragraph 1.5.1 shall read as follows:

Membership: Nine members including the College Principal, one member of the College Senate, the Chairman of the Board of Ministry and the President of the Students’ Representative Council, all ex officio. The remaining membership shall comprise two elders and three ministers appointed by the General Assembly for a four-year term renewable for one further term of four years. Elders appointed to the College Board shall have suitable qualifications or experience in education, preferably tertiary education, or in the administration or promotion of education. 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 Chairman shall not be a member of the College Senate nor a member of the Seminary staff. The Board may appoint advisers from time to time as deemed expedient subject to at least two advisers being appointed for a four-year term, renewable once only. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

Act 16 – Governance of ETS

Number 15 of Class 2

Category: Governance

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly, seeking to revise the Governance Arrangements of Edinburgh Theological Seminary in respect of the Roles and Remits of the Senate, the ETS Principal and the ETS Board, enact and ordain the following:

1. **The Senate.** The Senate is the Seminary’s senior academic authority and is authorised to oversee the academic governance of the Seminary through its remit, membership and terms of reference as set out below:

1.1 *Remit of the Senate.* The remit of the Senate is to oversee the academic activity of ETS; to uphold its academic standards, quality and programmes; to approve its academic policies; and to advise the Seminary Board on the academic and strategic direction of the institution.

1.2 *Membership.* The membership of the Senate shall comprise the Principal (Chairman), Vice-Principal, and the full-time academic staff, two external members appointed by the joint agreement of the Senate and of the Seminary Board, the President or a nominee of the President of the Students' Representative Council, the Chair of the ETS Board or his nominee, two external advisers from the Church community as determined by the joint agreement of the Senate and Seminary Board. The External Members and Advisers will be appointed for three years in the first instance and may be appointed for a further three years period. Beyond this they shall not be appointed for a further period without a break of at least one year. The External Members should subscribe to the whole doctrine of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

1.3 *Powers.* The powers of the Senate shall be as follows:

1.3.1 Senate may formulate standing orders for the transaction of its business with a view to ensuring collegiality and equality on the principle that all members have one vote. Advisers to Senate have no vote.

1.3.2 Senate may appoint groups and sub-committees as it determines necessary for the fulfilment of its remit. It may access such papers and documents within ETS as it deems expedient for the transaction of its business. These can include reports from the Principal and Vice-Principal, other staff and staff groups.

1.3.3 The Senate shall appoint the ETS Secretary to procure agenda, papers and reports and ensure that actions arising from meetings are communicated as necessary.

1.3.4 Senate shall regulate student discipline and execute an appellate function in the case of disharmony between members of teaching staff and one or more of their students

1.3.5 The Senate shall meet at least three times a year and may determine such number of meetings as it deems expedient.

1.4 *Terms of Reference.* Subject to the requirements of the Board of Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, of validation and accrediting bodies, the Senate's Terms of References shall include:

1.4.1 Approving and directing the Academic Strategy of ETS;

1.4.2 Advising and participating in the production of ETS's Vision, Mission Values and Strategic Plan;

1.4.3 Securing appropriate arrangements for assuring quality and standards of provision;

1.4.4 Ensuring that student experience enables successful outcomes;

1.4.5 Approving and regulating schemes of study and schemes of assessment leading to all awards;

1.4.6 Appointing external examiners and determining their conditions of service;

1.4.7 Approving and regulating a pedagogic framework for teaching and learning and setting up a coherent assessment framework across all departments;

1.4.8 Ensuring coherent student experience across all departments encompassing both pedagogy, assessments and pastoral issues;

1.4.9 Prescribing conditions under which persons may be admitted to the ETS and the regulations under which students shall be permitted to continue their studies in the ETS;

1.4.10 Regulating the discipline of students and producing such codes of conduct and appropriate structures for this purpose;

1.4.11 Ensuring and maintaining an appropriate academic support service for libraries and IT;

1.4.12 Ensuring that appropriate counselling and pastoral arrangements are in place for students and promoting a Christian culture amongst students and staff;

1.4.13 Advising on student feedback, reviewing feedback data and taking such actions as are deemed necessary;

1.4.14 Advising the Principal and the ETS Board on reputational and other risks arising out of the academic activities

1.4.15 Maintenance and control of Senate finances;

1.4.16 Advising the Principal and the ETS Board on the effectiveness of the academic programmes and in particular their fitness in respect of candidates for Free Church ministry.

1.4.17 Advising on external partnerships, linkages and memoranda of understanding.

1.4.18 Advising on such other matters as the ETS Board and/or the Principal may refer to the Senate.

1.5 Accountability: The Senate is accountable for the fulfilment of its remit to, and reports, to the ETS Board. Accountability will normally be exercised through the Chairman who is, ex officio, the Principal of ETS.”

2. *The ETS Principal*

2.1 *The Remit and Role of the Principal.* The Principal is the Chief Executive of ETS. He is accountable to the General Assembly through the ETS Board and is expected to carry out the role set out below:

2.1.1. To provide leadership for the strategic development of ETS with a view to managing its affairs and ensuring that it delivers the outputs set out in its strategic plan, agreed by the ETS Board and by the General Assembly.

2.1.2. To chair the Senate and ensure that the Senate fulfils its remit.

2.1.3. To assist the Seminary Board in recruiting staff of appropriate talent, competence and Christian standing who best meet ETS objectives.

2.1.4. To organise ETS staff, departments and structures for the optimal delivery of ETS objectives.

2.1.5. To manage the academic and non-academic staff and ensure the satisfactory performance of their duties.

2.1.6. To participate in the teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

2.1.7. To deal with all human resources issues including disputes, complaints and grievances within the prescribed legislation.

2.1.8. To ensure that all management and supporting functions meet the ETS’s needs in an effective and efficient manner;

2.1.9. To establish and maintain good internal communications, both formal and informal, with the General Assembly, its Boards and Committees, Presbyteries and Congregations.

2.1.10. To establish and maintain relations with external individuals and institutions.

2.1.11. To liaise as required with the Seminary Board and Senate and secure for both bodies the reports and information, which they require to fulfil their remits.

2.1.12. To establish and maintain good external communication and relations with accreditation bodies and users of the services of ETS;

2.1.13. To represent ETS effectively to all relevant external constituencies.

2.1.14. To ensure the financial viability of the institution and support the Seminary Board in this task.

2.1.15. To oversee and directly support efforts to raise funding and major gifts for the ETS from private donors, charitable organisations and other sympathetic individuals and institutions.

2.1.16. To produce a draft strategic plan and to procure the reports required to sustain the functions of Senate and the Seminary Board.

2.1.17. To implement ETS policies as these are approved by the Seminary Board and Senate.

2.2. The Authority of the Principal

2.2.1. The Principal qua Chief Executive carries the prime burden of ensuring the success of the institution as a whole and must have authority commensurate with the accountability described above.

2.2.2. Any uncertainty or dispute over the extent of the Principal's authority shall be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the ETS Board, who will resolve the matter in conjunction with the Assembly Clerk.

3. The ETS Board

3.1 *The Remit of the ETS Board*: The General Assembly declare that the remit of the ETS Board be as follows:

3.1.1 Finance

3.1.1.1. To be responsible for the financial function of ETS including fund-raising, financial control and liaison with the Board of Trustees.

3.1.1.2. To administer the finances of ETS (always excepting income from donations or bequests placed by donors or legatees at the disposal of the Senate);

3.1.1.3. To prepare the ETS Budget and submit it to the Board of Trustees during the annual budgeting cycle.

3.1.2. Planning

3.1.2.1. To produce and approve a Strategic Plan for ETS, to revise the plan as required and to maintain 3 to 5 years planning horizon.

3.1.2.2. To discuss with the Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Principal, the funding implications of ETS plans.

3.1.3. Promotion

3.1.3.1. To promote the interests of ETS within and outwith the Free Church and to implement a strategy designed to heighten awareness of ETS as a study destination.

3.1.3.2. To maintain ETS as a centre of Biblical and Reformed teaching.

3.1.4. Property, Facilities and Administration

3.1.4.1. To maintain and improve the fabric and furnishings of ETS.

3.1.4.2. To maintain and oversee the provision of a library function and such other academic and student support services including IT, pastoral support, as are required for the effectiveness of ETS.

3.1.4.3. To ensure an adequate administration function.

3.1.4.4. To set the starting and closing dates of College sessions, giving due notice of any change in the pattern thereof.

3.1.5. Relations with the Senate

3.1.5.1. To ensure that the Senate fulfils and is enabled to fulfil its remit;

3.1.5.2. To examine all measures of output in respect of standards, quality, assessment, pedagogy and student experience in respect of feedback, student satisfaction and reports from the Principal and from Senate including student attrition statistics.

3.1.5.3. To take steps as are necessary for the maintenance of institutional excellence.

3.1.5.4. To adjudicate in staffing disputes and staffing difficulties which Senate may refer to it.

3.1.5.5. To support and maintain such relations with other institutions and accrediting bodies as are proposed and approved by the General Assembly and the Senate.

3.1.6. Staffing

3.1.6.1. To adjudicate with regard to disciplinary or disputed matters affecting College non-Senate staff, both full-time and part-time

3.1.6.2. To recruit and appoint all staff and to determine the terms and conditions of employment of all, other than as determined by Act of Assembly;

3.1.6.3. To keep the salaries of the Principal and of all full-time academic staff under regular review and, if necessary, to bring proposals there anent to the attention of the Assembly. To this end, they direct the Board to fulfil the role previously carried out by the Training Committee, in terms of Act 21, Class 2, 1967, Act 22, Class 2, 1971 and Act 21, Class 2, 1988.

3.1.6.4. To transmit to the General Assembly any proposed retiral or resignation of a member of the full-time academic staff and, thereafter, be responsible for submitting to the General Assembly (following consultation with Presbyteries and Synods) a report which will include nominations for appointment.

3.1.6.5. To formulate staffing contracts and conditions of service.

3.1.6.6. To review the performance of the Principal on an annual basis.

3.1.6.7. To receive a report of the operation by the Principal of a review system for academic and non-academic staff.

4. **Amendments.** The General Assembly, to this end, amend the following Acts:

4.1 Act 4, Class 2, 1979 Act anent Constitution for the Free Church College, as amended by Act 19, Class 2, 1986 and Act 43, Class 2, 2006:

4.1.1 Delete all of Section IV and renumber the following sections accordingly.

4.1.2. Amend Paragraph 1 of current Section V to the extent that they delete the full stop after the word “Professors” and insert the words “and has as its membership those categories of person set out in paragraph 1.2 above”.

4.1.3 Amend paragraph 3 of current Section V to the extent that they insert after the words “Training of the Ministry Committee” the words “and its successors.”.

4.2. Act 32, Class 2, 2015 anent Regulations for the appointment of a Principal of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary:

4.2.1 Delete Paragraph 2 and renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

4.2.2 Delete current Paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 and renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

4.3. Act 16, Class 2, 1995 anent Institution of College Board as amended by Act 24, Class 2, 2002:

4.3.1 Delete paragraph 3.

5. The General Assembly declare that where the provisions of any other previous legislation are inconsistent with this Act the provisions are repealed and replaced with the provisions of this Act.

Act 17 – Ministerial Stipend

Number 16 of Class 2

Category: *Governance*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £24,000 effective from 1st January 2019. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

Act 18 – Appointment of Assistant Minister at Glasgow City

Number 17 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Glasgow City and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Glasgow City to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2021.

Act 19 – Appointment of Assistant Minister at St Andrews

Number 18 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth regarding an Assistant Minister for the congregation of St Andrews and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of St Andrews to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2021.

Act 20 – Appointment of Assistant Minister at Rosskeen

Number 19 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Northern Presbytery regarding an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Rosskeen and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Rosskeen to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act 18, Class 2, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2021.

Act 21 – Granting the Congregation of Sleat and Strath the Status of a Sanctioned Charge

Number 20 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross regarding the appointment of a five-year terminable/renewable appointment for the congregation of Sleat and Strath and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Sleat and Strath to appoint a Minister on a five-year terminable/renewable appointment in accordance with the terms of Act 1, Class 1, 2018 anent The Sustentation Fund, paragraph 3.4. They appoint Rev. Gordon Matheson to the congregation of Sleat and Strath in accordance with Act 1, Class 1, 2018, anent the Sustentation Fund and they declare that his appointment be continuous with his original induction to the charge.

Act 22 – Granting the Congregation of Dunblane the Status of a Locally Subsidised Charge

Number 21 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding the appointment of a Locally Subsidised Charge for the congregation of Dunblane and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. The General Assembly grant the congregation of Dunblane permission to call a Minister on locally subsidised arrangements for a period of three years from the date of induction of a new Minister in terms of Act 14, Class 2, 2013 anent Establishment of Locally Subsidised Charges.

Act 23 – Granting the Church Plant at Stirling the Status of a Fully-sanctioned Charge

Number 22 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding the application of Stirling Church Plant to become a fully sanctioned charge and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, they grant its crave. They terminate the Church Plant status of the congregation of Stirling and place the congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform as a fully sanctioned charge under the ongoing ministry of Rev. Iain Macaskill. They declare that his appointment be continuous with his original induction to the charge and without restriction according to the terms of Act 1, Class 1, 2018, paragraph 3.3.

Act 24 – Extending the Appointment of Rev. Norman MacKay at Govan Church Plant

Number 23 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Tuesday 21st May 2019

The General Assembly receives the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding the review of ministry plans for G51 Govan Church Plant and, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, grant its crave. They declare that Rev. Norman MacKay's appointment to Govan Church Plant is extended for one final year to allow the Presbytery time to review his work and make recommendations regarding arrangements for future ministry G51 Govan Church Plant. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to report to the 2020 General Assembly with proposals and recommendations.

Act 25 – Granting Grace Church Montrose the Status of a Congregation

Number 24 of Class 2

Category: *Mission & Ministry*

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

The General Assembly grant Grace Church Montrose the status of a congregation for governance and administration purposes only and with no right to a full-time ministry under the provisions of Act 1, Class 1, 2018 regarding Sustentation Fund. They declare that the granting of the status of a congregation for the purposes set out above is subject to the following: (1) the submission to the Board of Trustees of evidence of good financial governance and management to the satisfaction of the Board; (2) the submission of a five-year financial plan to the Board of Trustees to the satisfaction of the Board; and (3) the submission of a five-year ministry development plan to the Mission Board to its satisfaction. The General Assembly further declare that Grace Church Montrose be granted permission to apply to OSCR for separate charitable status, according to the process outlined in Act 5, Commission of Assembly January 2007 as amended by Act 13, 2007, Act 31, 2009 and Act 14, Class 2, 2018, using the approved Congregational Constitution for a congregation with a Deacons' Court or Finance Committee, whichever is appropriate, subject to the above conditions being met.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act 1 – Disjoining the Congregations of Lochgilphead and Tarbert

Number 1 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll regarding Lochgilphead and Tarbert and grant its crave. They disjoin the congregations of Lochgilphead and Tarbert, re-establishing the separate congregations of Lochgilphead and Tarbert with their own Kirk Session and Deacons Courts or Finance Committee according to local circumstances. They declare that the congregation of Lochgilphead be granted permission to call a minister on locally subsidised arrangements for three years under the provisions of Act 14, Class 2, 2013 anent Establishment of Locally Subsidised Charges with the shortfall in the ministry level being covered from local investments. They declare that the congregation of Tarbert be granted permission to call a minister under alternative ministerial arrangements according to Act 13, Class 2, 2014 anent Alternative Ministerial Arrangements with the financial arrangements agreed in consultation with the Finance Office. They ordain that all ministerial arrangements be subject to the satisfactory conclusion of discussion between the Presbytery and Mission Board on strategy for future ministry in both congregations. They instruct the Presbytery to make the necessary arrangements for the appointment of Interim-Moderators and Assessor Elders as soon as possible. They instruct that the present Manse be sold in consultation with the Board of Trustees with equitable distribution of funds to both congregations. They declare that the current arrangements regarding the ministry of Rev. Robert Macleod continue until the 31st October 2018 or until the date of his retirement whichever is the sooner.

Act 2 – Admitting Rev. Angus Lamont as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland

Number 2 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Angus Lamont, 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 & Ross, to make arrangements for Mr. Lamont to answer the Questions and sign the Formula under their supervision and after that by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr. Lamont has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers without Charge available for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly note the irregularity that Mr Lamont continues to serve in the Union Church, Lima, until May 2019 or until he is called to a Free Church congregation.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 3 – Admitting Rev. Martin H. Paterson as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland

Number 3 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 6th March 2019

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Martin H. Paterson, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow & Argyll, to make arrangements for Mr. Paterson to answer the Questions and sign the Formula under their supervision and after that by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly.

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 Roll of Ministers without Charge Available for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr. Paterson to avail himself of the Presbyterian Church Ministry Module by Distance Learning available through Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 4 – Renaming the Congregation of Harris

Number 4 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Wednesday 6th March 2019

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles and grant its crave. They declare that the congregation of Harris Free Church shall be called the congregation of South Harris Free Church from the rising of the Commission.
