

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Free Church of Scotland
1970 – 1979

EDINBURGH

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE MOUND

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

MAY MCMLXX (1970)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

I. - Act Adjusting Bounds of Presbyteries and Synods.

(No 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 19th May 1970.

The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Committee that:-

The bounds of the Presbytery of Inveraray remain as at present; The Charge of Glenurquhart be transferred from the Presbytery of Abertarff to the Presbytery of Inverness;

The remainder of the Presbytery of Abertarff be joined with the Presbytery of Lorn to form the Presbytery of Lochaber and Lorn, with the seat of the Presbytery at Fort William.

The General Assembly appoint the first meeting of the Presbytery of Lochaber and Lorn to be held on Tuesday, 9th June 1970, at 7 p.m. in the Free Church Hall, Fort William, with the Rev. I. Fraser, Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, as first Moderator.

The General Assembly approve that Synod Boundaries be adjusted as follows:

1. That the Northern Synod continue as at present.
2. That the Synod of Moray and Ross be composed of:

(1) The Presbytery of Dingwall and Chanonry, i.e.:

Fortrose
Killernan
Knockbain
Resolis
Dingwall
Kilmorack
Strathglass
Kiltearn
Maryburgh
Strathconon
Strathpeffer
Contin
Garve, Achnasheen and Achanalt
Urquhart
Urray

(2) The Presbytery of Inverness, i.e.:

Ardersier
Bona
Burghead
Cawdor and Croy

Duthil
Moy
Elgin
Forres
Inverness Free North
Inverness Greyfriars
Kiltarlity
Kirkhill
Kingussie
Alvie
Nairn
Stratherrick
Dores
Daviot
Glenurquhart

(3) The Presbytery of Lochaber and Lorn, i.e.:

Acharacle
Ardnamurchan
Tobermory
Coll
Craignure
Kilbrandon and Kilchattan
Kilninver
Oban
Ross and Brolas
Strontian
Torloisk
Fort Augustus
Fort William and Kilmonivaig
Glenmoriston
Kilmallie and Arisaig
South Laggan

3. The Synod of Glenelg continue as at present.

4. The Argyll and Southern Synod be comprised of the Presbyteries of Inveraray, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Perth.

The General Assembly ordain that the first meeting of the Synod as now constituted be held in Knox Free Church, Perth, on Tuesday, 6th April 1971, at 3 p.m., with Mr J. Douglas Macmillan, Minister at Aberdeen, as Moderator.

II. - Act anent Assembly Hall and Assembly Officer
(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1970.

The General Assembly amend the regulations re caretaking of the Assembly Hall approved by Act VII, 1936, to read as follows:

(1) That St Columba Deacons' Court assume responsibility for the Caretaking of the building and that the Church Officer engaged and paid by them shall reside in the dwellinghouse on the premises, and shall be responsible for adjusting the heating system during the sittings of the General Assembly.

(2) That the duty of cleaning the Assembly Hall and Rooms during the entire sittings of the Assembly be part of the responsibility of the Deacons' Court of St Columba Congregation as Caretakers.

(3) That the Assembly Arrangements Committee shall pay to the Deacons' Court such a sum per annum as may be agreed upon from time to time in respect of under-taking the duties of caretaking.

(4) That the whole cost of heating and lighting shall be borne by the Deacons' Court.

(5) That the Collections taken at the Assembly Meetings be retained by the Assembly Arrangements Committee.

(6) That the Assembly Arrangements Committee appoint and pay an Assembly Officer and any Door Attendants and Assistants required by him.

(7) That the ground burdens, rates, insurance and repairs (the expression "repairs" to include cleaning materials, electric lamps and window cleaning) shall be borne equally by the Assembly Arrangements Committee and the Deacons' Court.

(8) That in the event of circumstances of emergency arising in connection with the building at any time the Chairman of the Deacons' Court and the Principal Clerk of Assembly be empowered to take the steps required to meet the emergency, their action therein to be reported to the next meeting of the Assembly Arrangements Committee and the Deacons' Court.

III. - Act anent Sale of Manse at Glenshiel.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1970.

The General Assembly authorise the sale of the Manse at Glenshiel, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of use, and make available to the congregation such part of the proceeds, not exceeding £300, as will enable them to complete repairs to the Church as Glenshiel, the remainder to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation.

IV. - Act anent Sale of Mission House at Elphin.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1970.

The General Assembly authorise the sale of the Mission House at Elphin, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of use, the proceeds to be applied to the cost of repairing the Church at Elphin.

V. - Act anent Sale of Church Building at Bower

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1970

The General Assembly authorise the sale of the Church building at Bower, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of use, the proceeds to be utilised for congregational purposes.

VI. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to the Queen

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

May it please Your Majesty

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, convened in General Assembly at Edinburgh respectfully offer to Your Majesty this renewed expression of our faithful allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We recall with undiminished pleasure and gratitude the visit of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to our last General Assembly, and the gracious words addressed to us by Your Majesty on that occasion.

We rejoiced at the enthusiastic welcome accorded to His Royal Highness Prince Charles at his investiture as Prince of Wales, and share the pleasure of Your Majesty's subjects everywhere at the increasing part which he, and Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, are taking in the public life of the nation and Commonwealth. The recent visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret to the West Highlands of Scotland gave great pleasure to Your Majesty's subjects in those parts, and has left with them a happy memory.

We have followed with prayerful interest the recent visits of Your Majesty and members of Your Royal Household to New Zealand, Australia and other parts of the Commonwealth, and give thanks to Almighty God for His preserving care of You in all Your journeys.

In days of widespread turbulence and unrest, we praise God for the stability of Your Majesty's Throne, and for the many qualities by which Your Majesty commands the

affectionate loyalty of Your subjects.

We anew commend Your Majesty and the nation to the Word of God's grace, praying that those Christian values which have given stability to the nation and Throne in the past may continue among us with strength renewed, to the glory of God and the good of the Realm.

We ask leave, through Your Majesty, to pay our respects to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and the Princes and Princess of the Royal Household.

We pledge ourselves anew to remember Your Majesty and Your Household in our prayers.

Your Majesty's most obedient and humble subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland.

M.K. MURRAY, Moderator.

VII. - Act anent Salary of Professors.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly authorise that the salary paid to Professors be £1,700 per annum, payable as from 1st January 1970. Further, that the terms of Act XIX (No. 19 of Class II.) 1965 shall not apply to the year 1970.

VIII. - Act anent Amalgamation of Committees on Sustentation and Supply.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly authorise that the Committee on Sustentation and the Committee on Supply be amalgamated and that Professor W. J. Cameron be appointed Clerk to the new Committee and his salary increased by £40 per annum.

IX. - Act amending Standing Orders re times of Standing Committees

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970

The General Assembly amend Standing Order VI. to read:-

1. That the business of the Church between one Assembly and the next ensuing shall be carried on by Standing Committees and the Foreign Board to meet as may be required, provided that the May meeting of Standing Committees be held from year to year on the afternoon of the last day of General Assembly (the business transacted to be limited to the setting up of executives and urgent matters), and to be arranged in groups, meeting simultaneously, as follows: -

First Group.

Committee on Sustentation and Supply

9.30 a.m. To rise not later than 1.00 p.m.

Committee on Extension and Maintenance

2.00 p.m. To rise not later than 4.00 p.m.

Second Group.

Psalmody Committee 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

Public Questions. Religion and Morals Committee 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 am.

Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Training of Ministry and Admissions Committee 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Finance, Law and Advisory Committee 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

X. - Act anent Collections

(No. 10 of Class II).

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly appoint Collections to be made during the ensuing year in all Congregations of the Church on behalf of the Schemes listed below:-

1. Retired Lay Agents 3rd Sabbath of June 1970
2. Rural Areas ,, July ,,
3. Aged and Infirm Ministers and ,, August ,,
Retired Professors
4. Foreign and Overseas Missions ,, September ,,
5. Supply ,, October ,,
6. Jewish Missions ,, November ,,
7. Welfare of Youth and Publications ,, January 1971
8. Training of the Ministry ,, February ,,
9. Buildings ,, March ,,
10. Church Extension ,, April ,,
11. College ,, May ,,

For all these Schemes, in common with other Collections, the General Assembly commend the use of the Weekly Offering system and advocate its introduction for those contributors who prefer a single consolidated contribution to multiple methods of collection.

The General Assembly commend afresh the Church Extension Special Contributory Offering of six pence per week towards the provision of new Church Buildings. Envelopes for this will be provided on application to the General Treasurer.

The General Assembly instruct Conveners of Committees to ensure that timely notice of each Collection is sent to every Congregation and they enjoin that these notices be read from the pulpit.

The General Assembly approve the issue of a notification to each congregation of the amount of contribution (calculated at 8 per cent. of their 1968 Sustentation Fund Contribution) which is required to provide a minimum working income for the College Fund; and they impress upon congregations the need to attain this figure if ministerial training is to continue to be maintained at an adequate level.

In view of the increasing demands upon the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund and the compelling need to maintain unimpaired the rates of retiring allowance, the General Assembly renew the finding of last General Assembly requiring an annual contribution of 3 per cent. of the current flat rate of equal dividend in respect of each minister, professor and ordained missionary, from settled Charges, Committee on Extension and Maintenance (for Evangelist), College Fund (for Professors), and Foreign and Overseas Board respectively, the above contribution to be increased to a figure of 5s. per head in Charges where the number of members and adherents combined exceeds 200.

XI. - Act anent Equal Dividend

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £875 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1969, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The General Assembly approve of the proposal of the Committee to pay all Ministers on the Equal Dividend Platform at the rate of £950 per annum as from January 1970.

The General Assembly approve that the minimum contribution required by congregations to be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform be not less than half the current Equal Dividend.

XII. - Act anent Salary of Lay Agents

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly approve of the proposal of the Committee that an increase of £50 be made in the salary of each Resident Lay Agent, making it £570 per annum as from January 1970.

XIII. - Act anent Differential to be Paid to Minister of London Congregation.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly affirms that the arrangement made in 1966 whereby the Minister of the London Congregation was to be paid at the rate of £400 in excess of the Equal Dividend in each year, charged in equal proportions to the Supply and Church Extension funds is to

apply to any future minister of the said congregation.

XIV.-Act anent Appointment of Assistant Minister to Stornoway Congregation.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Kirk Session of Stornoway Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the appointment of an ordained assistant to the Minister of Stornoway on the following conditions:-

1. The assistantship shall exist for twelve years from the time of the first appointment, or from the rising of the 1971 General Assembly, whichever is first.
2. The appointment shall be made by the Presbytery at the request of the Kirk Session with the concurrence of the Minister, and the Presbytery shall take the regular steps to implement it by way of ordination and/or induction as may be necessary.
3. The appointment shall be for a period of four years.
4. During the period of the assistantship the congregation shall pay not less than two and a half times the amount of the Equal Dividend in each year to the Sustentation Fund. They shall also provide the assistant with a free house, car expenses, National Insurance, not less than 50 per cent. of the Group Endowment Assurance Premium, plus an additional sum of £100.
5. The assistant shall be under the direction of the minister of the congregation, in consultation with the Kirk Session, and shall have a seat in the Presbytery.
6. He shall be free to accept a Call at any time, and shall be regarded in respect of a Call addressed to him, as a Minister without a Charge.

The General Assembly resolve that, in the special circumstances of the case, Act III. 1851, shall not apply, and the Assistant shall be paid from the Sustentation Fund at the rate of the Equal Dividend in each year.

The General Assembly declare the ordained assistantship at Stornoway equivalent to a charge for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Amending Order, 1967.

XV. - Act anent Army Chaplaincy Services Representation.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly appoint Professor James MacKintosh, M.B.E., to the Interdenominational Advisory Committee on Army Chaplaincy Services, in place of the late Rev. William MacLeod.

XVI. - Act anent Appointing Trustee to Widows and Orphans' Fund

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

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

XVII. - Act constituting Thurso a Development Charge

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly raise the Mission at Thurso to the status of a Development Charge under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session of Olig. They instruct the Committee to obtain the services of a suitable person (preferably a probationer) and the Presbytery of Caithness to ordain and/or induct him as Assistant Minister at Olig for the purpose of work to be undertaken at Thurso; and the Assembly grant him a seat in the Presbytery. The financial arrangements shall be as set forth in the Appendix of Act XXIX, 1966, anent Development Charges, as amended by Act XIII, 1968. The General Assembly declare Thurso Congregation to be equivalent to a Charge for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Amending Order, 1967.

XVIII. - Act defining Development Charge

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1970.

The General Assembly recognise the need for a clear definition of a Development Charge and authorise that the terms as set forth in the Appendix to the Report be accepted as such.

APPENDIX.

DEFINITION OF A DEVELOPMENT CHARGE.

A Church Extension mission may be designated a Development Charge by the General Assembly when the following conditions shall have been met.

1. The mission shall have been sponsored by a Kirk Session of the Free Church of Scotland and approved by the Presbytery having its jurisdiction.
2. The mission shall have made such progress and give evidence of such promise as shall warrant the appointment of a minister for a period of not less than three years during which period there shall be no stipulated minimum contribution to the Sustentation Fund.

The General Assembly, on being informed that these conditions obtain, may empower the Church Extension Committee to appoint a minister as assistant to the Moderator of the relevant Kirk Session with special responsibility for the Development Charge. The conditions of this appointment are detailed in Act XXIX, Class II, 1966.

XIX. - Act anent Statutory Meeting of Eventide Home Committee.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1970

The General Assembly amend the regulations to allow the statutory meeting of the Eventide Home Committee to be held at any time in the early part of the year, not later than 15th February.

XX. - Act constituting Cumbernauld a Church Extension Charge

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1970.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Coatbridge Kirk Session and grant its crave. They constitute Cumbernauld a Church Extension Charge with effect from 26th March 1971.

XXI. - Act anent Courses of Study for the Ministry.

(No. 21 of Class II.),

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1970.

The General Assembly approve the following regulations with regard to students' courses of study.

(1) All applicants for recognition as students for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland will be required to pass a preliminary examination in Scripture and Doctrine (Shorter Catechism), preferably written, administered by the Presbytery recommending the application.

(2) It will be a normal requirement that, before recognition as a student for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland is given, a candidate will be qualified to enter upon a University Degree Course. Provisional recognition may be given during the time that a candidate is acquiring University entrance qualifications, but this will be reviewed within at least two years in the light of the progress being made.

(3) Students recognised in terms of the foregoing will be expected to secure a University Degree before entry to the Free Church College.

(4) In special circumstances the Training of the Ministry Committee may waive the conditions of sub-sections (2) and (3) foregoing but it shall be the duty of the Committee to secure that the candidates for whom such a waiver is granted shall approximate as closely as possible to the conditions of section (2). This waiver will be granted to candidates under 30 years of age only in very exceptional circumstances and in the case of those in whose interest it is exercised the following shall be regarded as minimal requirements:

(a) Each candidate shall be required to pass a suitability test prepared by the Committee and

administered by the appropriate Presbytery.

(b) Each candidate shall secure two passes in the S.C.E. (or its equivalent) at Higher Grade, one of which must be English and one pass at “O” Grade. Until these conditions are satisfied only a provisional recognition as a student can be granted.

(c) Candidates not at this stage directed by the Committee to continue preliminary studies with a view to securing qualifications for entry to a University Degree Course shall seek admission to a University non-graduating course or to a pre-Divinity College recognised by the Committee. This course shall extend over a minimum of two sessions and during this period the candidate will be required to secure a further pass at “H” Grade in the S.C.E. (or equivalent) or the upgrading to “H” standard of the “O” pass already held.

The General Assembly, in giving effect to these Regulations, rescind Act VIII, 1961, paragraphs 2-4; delete the last part of the paragraph in Act V, 1962 from the words “and enact”; delete paragraph 2 in Act XI, 1964; rescind Act XX. 1965.

The General Assembly instruct the Committee, in the application of the foregoing Regulations, to secure that the recognition of students accepted under previous Regulations is not thereby prejudiced.

XXII. - Act anent Grants for Post-Graduate Study

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1970.

The General Assembly empower the Training of the Ministry Committee, subject to the conditions following, to make grants towards the cost of post-graduate study undertaken by Professors and Ministers in pastoral charges:

(1) The Committee are charged to give priority in the use of their funds to their normal necessary outlays, student grants and, when necessary, support of the College Fund.

(2) When funds for post-graduate grants are available they shall be made only when the proposed course of study has been submitted to and approved by the Committee.

XXIII. - Act anent Regulations for College Library.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1970.

The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the control of the College Library:

(1) The Library is under the control of the Senate, and is open during the College hours from Monday to Friday. During vacation periods attendance for the borrowing of books will be arranged on application to the Librarian.

(2) Books must be entered on the slips provided before being removed from the Library. These slips, signed by the borrowers, must be handed to the Librarian or deposited in the boxes provided for this purpose.

(3) Any expenses connected with the postal transmission of books shall be paid by the borrowers concerned.

(4) Removal of books from the Reference section of Room 36 shall not be allowed except by special permission of the Librarian, and for such times as he shall specify.

(5) Books shall not be borrowed from Class Room libraries without prior sanction of the Professors from whose department it is desired to borrow. In the absence of any of the Professors concerned, the Librarian should be consulted.

(6) In the event of any book being lost, the borrower shall be held liable for replacement or payment of the full value of the book.

(7) If any borrower shall deface, or otherwise damage a Library book, he shall be held liable for the cost of replacement or repair.

(8) Under these Regulations the Library facilities shall be available to Professors, Ministers and Students of the Church, and to such other persons as the Librarian may approve.

XXIV. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1970.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. W. D. Graham, named by the Moderator:- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is hereby declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the third Tuesday of November and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause, in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and do everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of

applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and to any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXV. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1970.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 18th day of May 1971, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACT OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY OF MARCH

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from London Congregation and grant its crave to the extent that they authorise the sale of the manse, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Treasurer pending the purchase of another manse.

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

MAY MCMLXXI (1971)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to the Queen.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly on the 18th day of May 1971, take this opportunity anew to express to Your Majesty our deep and abiding loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

Conscious of the strain imposed upon Your Majesty by the manifold duties of Your high office, and especially by Your Majesty's frequent journeys throughout the Commonwealth, we give thanks to Almighty God for His continued care of you, and pray that Your tireless exertions in the service of the Commonwealth may have the result of a still closer drawing together of its varied peoples and races in the bonds of brotherly friendship and mutual helpfulness and understanding.

We pray that the blessing of the Prince of Peace may be upon all Your Majesty's advisers in these days of industrial and social re-adjustment and unrest, and that masters and servants may rightfully discharge their duties to each other according to the decree of Him Who is the Master of us all.

The General Assembly congratulate the younger members of the Royal Family on the larger part that they are so successfully taking in the life of the Nation and wish His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales all happiness in his training with the Royal Air Force.

In times when Christian values are being lowered by so many throughout the country, we are grateful to Your Majesty for the example You set in attending the House of Prayer, and for the high tone of the messages which Your Majesty, from time to time, broadcasts to Your people. We pray that the Grace of God which bringeth salvation may indwell the hearts of all the Members of Your Royal House, and that our beloved land may long continue in possession of the spiritual heritage which reveals itself in respect and honour for national religion, for God, His Word, and His Day.

We pray that God's richest blessing may ever rest upon Your Majesty, on His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, upon Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward; upon Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and upon all other Members of Your Royal Household.

Your Majesty's most obedient and faithful servants, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland.

II. - Act anent Institution of Central Fund.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly approve and authorise the institution of a Central Fund in the first instance for a trial period of three years, during which time the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee are empowered to make minor adjustments. The Central Fund shall be a holding fund for the total income of the Church.

From this Fund there shall be allocated to the various administrative committees in terms of a budget of expenditure previously approved by the Finance Committee, all monies specifically contributed for their work or accruing to them from Capital or Legacies. Should the total of designated funds exceed the needs of the Committee concerned, the surplus in the Central Fund will be held to their credit against future need.

Congregations and other Contributors will be invited to designate monies "as in the first instance" for specified objects, but the wishes of those declaring an exclusive interest will be respected. The Finance Committee, after examining schedules of statistics, will indicate to each congregation a sum which they should aim to exceed in their total contribution to Church Funds. It will be suggested that a small percentage of this total be unallocated unless the formula "in the first instance for" has been accepted. This will ensure that the Central Fund will be able to come to the aid of Committees whose income has fallen short of approved expenditure. All Committees will be required in October of each year to draw up a realistic budget of expenditure for the following year. This will be the subject of scrutiny and approval by the Finance Committee as at present, and Committees will be required to keep their outlays within the approved limits. The Central Fund shall be effective as from 1st January 1972.

III. - Act anent Allowances to Aged and Infirm Ministers and Retired Professors.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly approve the undernoted scale of allowances payable to retired ministers from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund, subject to the proviso that it will not prevent the present beneficiaries on the Register with less than twenty-five years service from receiving the full increase of £110 recommended by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply. They declare that ministers will be eligible for retirement allowances provided that (i) at least ten years service has been given in the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, and (ii) that the age of 65 years has been reached at the time of retirement. The foregoing conditions will not prejudice the position of those whose withdrawal from the active Ministry is for certified medical reasons and who qualify, as infirm, for a grant.

Scale.

Under 10 years of servicenot eligible

10 years of service £160

11 years of service £176

12 years of service £192

13 years of service	£208
14 years of service	£224
15 years of service	£240
16 years of service	£256
17 years of service	£272
18 years of service	£288
19 years of service	£304
20 years of service	£320
21 years of service	£336
22 years of service	£352
23 years of service	£368
24 years of service	£384
25 years service and over ...	£400

The General Assembly direct the Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to prepare a scheme which will ensure that, within five years, the maximum retirement allowance will not be less than 65 % of the equal dividend current at the time of retirement; this proportion to be maintained as the equal dividend fluctuates.

The General Assembly approve the Sustentation and Supply Committee's proposal to increase by £110 each annuitant on the Register of the Aged and Infirm and Retired Professors' Fund, with effect from 1st January 1971.

IV. - Act anent Collections.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly instruct the Conveners of Committees to ensure that every congregation in the Church is kept fully informed as to the particular claims and needs of each aspect of their department. In view of the institution of the Central Fund, the monthly notices of Collections will indicate that the appeal is in "the first instance" for the projects which the Committee represent. The rotation of Collections taken in this way will be as in former years.

(N.B. The rotation of former years is as follows:

1. Retired Lay Agents 3rd Sabbath of June 1971
2. Rural Areas ,, July ,,
3. Aged and Infirm Ministers
and Retired Professors ,, August ,,
4. Foreign and Overseas Missions ,, September ,,
5. Supply ,, October ,,
6. Jewish Missions ,, November ,,
7. Welfare of Youth and Publications ,, January 1972
8. Training of the Ministry ,, February ,,
9. Buildings ,, March ,,
10. Church Extension ,, April ,,

11. College , May) ,,

The General Assembly commend the use of the weekly Offering System and stress the advantage of the system to all contributors who prefer a single consolidated contribution.

The General Assembly commend to congregations the claims of the Eventide Home and pray that much blessing shall attend the services of the Matron and Staff as they bring cheer and comfort to the residents.

The General Assembly commend again the Church Extension Special Contributory Offering of at least five new pence per week towards the provision of new Church Buildings. Envelopes for this will be provided on application to the General Treasurer.

V. - Act anent Institution of Disaster Fund.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly authorise the institution of a Disaster Fund to meet the urgent national and international humanitarian need, thus enabling the Church to express her compassion without delay. The claims of such a Fund are recommended to the Church, the Finance Committee to have discretionary powers as to arrange when, where and to what amount donations should be made.

VI. - Act anent Equal Dividend.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £950, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans Fund, to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1970. They approve of the Committee's decision that all such ministers be paid at the rate of £1,000 per annum from 1st January to 31st May 1971, and at the rate of £1,100 per annum as from 1st June 1971.

The General Assembly approve that the minimum contribution required by congregations to be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform be not less than half the current Equal Dividend.

VII. - Act anent Salaries of Resident Lay Agents.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly approve the proposal of the Committee to increase the salary to £650 per annum of each Resident Lay Agent as from 1st June 1971. Further, that in future the Resident Lay Agents be remunerated on the principle that their salary per annum shall not be less than three-fifths the amount of the current Equal Dividend.

VIII. - Act anent Payment of Retired Lay Agents.
(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly agree to depart from the 66 2/3 per cent. bonus system presently applicable to Retired Lay Agents, and substitute payment at the rate of £6 for each year of service, applicable to those with ten or more years.

IX. - Act anent Transfer of Home Mission Funds.
(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly authorise the transfer of a sum not exceeding £450 from interest on Home Mission Capital in terms of Act VIII. 1966 (No. 8 of Class II.) instead of £300 allowable at present.

X. - Act anent Resident Supply (notification thereof).
(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly, in order to facilitate arrangements for Resident Supply, instruct that no offer by a person on the Supply Panel for Resident Supply be accepted until the Interim-Moderator concerned has approved of the arrangements proposed; and that, should an Interim-Moderator make a direct arrangement with any person on the Supply Panel with a view to Resident Supply, the Interim-Moderator shall immediately inform the Supply Department as to the details of the arrangement.

XI. - Act anent Travelling Expenses. (Amending Act XII, Class II., 1967.)
(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly amend Act XII, 1967 anent travelling expenses of preachers by the deletion of paragraph 2 and the substitution of the following: Where public transport is not available or suitable, a refund at the rate of four new pence per mile will be allowed up to a maximum of sixty miles each way.

XII. - Act anent Allowance to London Congregation.
(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly approve that the London Congregation, on account of their special and geographical position, be paid a special allowance of £40 per month for a period of six months retrospective to 4th August 1970 in respect of travelling and resident supply

expenses, and they authorise that, in the event of a continuing vacancy, the same allowance per month be granted until 1972 General Assembly when the position will be reviewed.

XIII. - Act anent Disjunction of Callanish Section of Carloway Congregation and Erection into Separate Charge.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They disjoin the Callanish section from the Carloway Congregation and establish them as a separate congregation having the status of a sanctioned pastoral charge with effect from 1st June 1971. The new congregation shall be known as the Callanish Free Church and shall be within the Presbytery of Lewis.

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

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly reappoint the Rev. Professor W.J. Cameron, M.A., B.D., as a Trustee to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XV. - Act anent Appointments to Eventide Home Committee.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly reappoint Rev. M. Macauley, Rev. J.R. Aitken and Rev. D. Leitch to represent their respective Synods on the Eventide Home Committee for a further period of three years.

XVI. - Act anent Sale of Free Church Manse, Lochinver.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of the congregation of Lochinver and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of the present Free Church Manse at Lochinver, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of purpose; the proceeds to be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation pending the purchase or erection of a more suitable Manse, and the interest to be meanwhile made available to the congregation to provide accommodation for summer Supply; the transaction to be negotiated by Messrs Simpson & Marwick.

XVII. - Act anent Sale of Church Land at Farr.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of the Congregation of Farr and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of around one-fifth of an acre of Church land desired by the County Council of Sutherland for the purposes of a housing development scheme on terms to be arranged between the Committee and the County Council; the proceeds to be deposited with the local treasurer for behoof of the congregation; the transaction to be negotiated by Messrs Simpson & Marwick.

XVIII. - Act anent Sale of Church Ground at Dumfries.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1971.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Dumfries Free Church Congregation and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of the portion of Church ground approximately ten feet wide, bordering on Mews Lane, which the Town Council of Dumfries desire to obtain in connection with development plans; the proceeds of the sale to be applied to congregational funds and the transaction to be negotiated by Messrs Simpson & Marwick.

XIX. - Act anent Consolidation of Congregations of Tongue and Farr into One Charge.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1971.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Dornoch and grant its crave.

The General Assembly ordain that the congregations of Tongue and Farr be consolidated into a single charge within the bounds of the Presbytery of Dornoch, the joint congregation to be served by two Kirk Sessions. The General Assembly also ordain that, should the Minister and Kirk Sessions of the consolidated charge deem their interests would be best served by the appointment of Special Supply during the months from April to September (inclusive), the expenses of the same shall be subject to the provisions of the regulations governing the payment of expenses for supply to vacant congregations.

The General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Dornoch to take the appropriate steps with a view to arranging for the induction of Rev. Roderick Murray to the Farr section of the consolidated charge.

XX. - Act Authorising Transfer of Mission Property in Peru.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1971.

The General Assembly authorise the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board to arrange about future transfer of mission properties to the Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana del Peru when considered practicable.

XXI. - Act Amending Act XXI, Class II, 1970.

(Act anent Courses of Study for the Ministry.)

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1971.

The General Assembly direct that there be added to Act XXI, Class II 1970 (Anent Courses of Study for the Ministry) the following statement:-

“In the case of mature students with technical qualifications the value of these qualifications in each case will be carefully and fairly assessed in terms of current regulations.”

XXII. - Act anent Professors' Salaries.

(Repealing Act XIX, Class II., 1965 and Act XVII, Class II., 1968.)

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1971.

The General Assembly repeal Act XIX, Class II 1965 and Act XVII Class II 1968 and replace them by the following:-

“The General Assembly direct the Training of the Ministry Committee, in the annual review of Professors' salaries, to ensure that the rate of payment be not less than the amount of the equal dividend plus 75 per cent thereof. They charge the Committee to review this percentage at least tri-ennially.”

XXIII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1971.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. D. Lamont named by the Moderator: To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them, by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the

Assembly, and do everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXIV. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly.
(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1971.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday 23rd day of May 1972, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

APPENDIX.

PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

1970-1971.

I. - Act anent Consolidating Whiting Bay and Kilbride (Brodict and Corrie) into one Charge.

Edinburgh 17th November 1970.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Glasgow and grant its crave, namely, that the Congregations of Whiting Bay and Kilbride be consolidated as one Pastoral Charge under special arrangements.

II. - Act anent Consolidating Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie with Kennoway.

Edinburgh, 17th November 1970.

The Commission receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie and the Congregation of Kennoway and grant its crave.

The Commission of Assembly consolidate these congregations into a single charge to be known as the charge of Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Kennoway, each congregation to retain its own Deacons' Court or Finance Committee and its own Kirk Session, with the proviso that a minister, on being settled over the charge, will have the assistance of a Student or lay preacher, to be directed by him each Lord's Day so as to ensure that not less than five services will be held within the charge each Sabbath, the expenses and fee of the Student or layman to be met by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply. This arrangement shall be reviewed by the Presbytery and the Committee on Sustentation and Supply at the end of five years following the date of a settlement and, if sufficient cause be shown, such as an increase of numerical strength on the part of one or other of the congregations, the Presbytery and the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly or its Commission that they be disjoined.

III. - Act anent Sale of Fearn Manse.

Edinburgh 17th November 1970.

The Commission of Assembly received the Petition from the Free Church Congregation of Fearn and grant its crave.

The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the present Manse belonging to the congregation, the proceeds to be applied to the erection or purchase of a more suitable manse.

IV. - Act anent Sale of Ardersier Manse.

Edinburgh, 2nd March 1971.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Church Congregation of Ardersier and grant its crave.

The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the present Free Church Manse at Ardersier, the proceeds to be held by the General Trustees for and on behalf of the congregation to provide alternative accommodation.

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

SCOTLAND.

MAY MCMLXXII (1972)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1972.

The General Assembly enact:

(1) That a Register of Ministers without Charge and a Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be kept by the Principal Clerk of Assembly.

(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 Foreign or Overseas Charge, the Secretary of the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board) shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by Extract Minute. This Extract shall include the resolution of the Presbytery that the minister's name be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge. Should a Presbytery resolve that the name be not included in the Register, the minister shall be entitled to be informed of the reason(s) and may bring the matter before the Higher Courts of the Church in due form.

(3) A minister whose name is placed on the said Register shall be eligible for a Call.

(4) In no case shall the name of a resigned minister remain on the Register of Ministers without Charge for more than three years from the date of his resignation of his Charge 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 resigned 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.

(5) If the Presbytery accepting the resignation does not recommend that the resigned minister's name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, the Principal Clerk shall, on receipt of the Presbytery's Extract Minute, add the name to the Roll of Resigned Ministers where it shall remain without a time limit, subject to the provision of paragraph 7. No Minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be eligible for a Call unless his name is transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge.

(6) A Minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers desiring to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the General Assembly or its Commission through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time.

(7) Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers (other than Ministers who have been granted a Colleague and Successor) shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident, unless they are admitted to the ministry of another Church, in which case their names shall be removed from the Register/Roll.

(8) The General Assembly direct that this Act shall apply to all ministers of the Free Church of Scotland who have already resigned their charges and have not been given seats in Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland, or been admitted to other Churches: That is to say:-

1. In the case of those whose resignation has been accepted by a Presbytery of this Church within the three years preceding the passing of this Act the provisions of section (4) above will apply.

2. In the case of those whose resignation was accepted by a Presbytery of this Church more than three years prior to the passing of this Act the provisions of section (6) above will apply.

(9) The General Assembly specifically direct that this Act does not apply to ministers who, subsequent to resignation of their charges, have been granted seats in Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland.

(10) The General Assembly repeal Act IV. 1896, and Act II. 1960.

II. - Act appointing Special Committee on Working of General Assembly.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1972.

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee to investigate the whole arrangement and working of the General Assembly, to invite the views of Presbyteries and to report with recommendations to next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The following comprise the Committee:-

Rev. R. C. Christie, Rev. Professor W. J. Cameron, Revs. Hector Cameron, K. W. R. Cameron, H. G. Mackay, D. MacDonald (Greyfriars), C. Graham, John Macleod (Gairloch), Donald Gillies, Norman MacLeod (Portree), A. P. W. Fraser, J. W. Fraser, F. A. J. MacDonald, W. D. Graham, Professor A. M. Harman, John Fraser, with John Munro, John MacIver, Ian R. MacDonald, Donald Jack, and Donald A. Cameron, Elders; Rev. R. C. Christie to be Convener.

III. - Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to the Queen.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly at Edinburgh on this 23rd day of May 1972, respectfully tender anew our assurance of continued loyalty and devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

This loyalty and allegiance find expression in our prayers that Your Majesty may long be spared to reign over this realm, blessed by our Sovereign Lord, "by Whom kings reign and princes decree justice", and "stengthened with all might according to His glorious power" for the responsible duties which daily devolve upon Your Majesty in the exercise of Your Royal Prerogative.

We have followed with profound admiration and thanksgiving the extensive journeys in recent months of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and have been gratified by the warmth of the welcome extended to you in all the countries visited. While these visits bear fruit in the strengthening of goodwill among the nations, we are well aware of the great strain which they impose upon Your Majesty, and we give thanks to God for His protecting and upholding care of You in journeyings oft, and for the example in self-forgetting service which Your Majesty has always set before Your subjects.

We pray that Divine blessing may be abundantly outpoured upon the entire family of Your Commonwealth of nations; especially that by living in righteousness and peace they may set a moral and spiritual example to the peoples of the world that are only now beginning to assume the responsibilities of nationhood.

With Christian people everywhere, we sorrow over the distressing and prolonged strife in Ulster and entreat Divine favour for the stricken province. May the restoration of peace and order there be speedily realised, and may Your Majesty's Throne ever be established in righteousness.

We pray that the manifest favour of God may rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Rule, and upon all the members of Your Royal House.

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

D.MACDONALD, Moderator.

IV. - Act anent Retired and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund.
(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee with regard to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund which are:-

(a) That an increase of £80 per annum be awarded to each annuitant from 1st June 1972. This increase to be maintained for a period of three years, provided and so long as funds are available.

(b) That the remit be continued until a final report be submitted at the end of three years by which time the results of the Central Fund will be seen.

(c) That the pension be based on the Equal Dividend for the last year of a five-year period and that the present instruction contained in the remit be modified to bring it into line with the recommendations of the Committee.

(d) That a block grant of £2,000 (equivalent to £20 per minister) be made annually from Sustentation Fund, Foreign Missions Fund and College Fund proportionately to an Aged and Infirm Supplementary Fund; in due course this transfer to be charged on the Central Fund. The Aged and Infirm Supplementary Fund to be accumulated for a period of three years, along with interest accrued.

The General Assembly confirm that the Title of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund be amended, to be known as "Retired and Infirm Ministers' and Professors' Fund".

V. - Act anent Notification of Collections.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly instruct the Conveners of Committees to ensure that every congregation in the Church is kept fully informed as to the particular claims and needs of each aspect of their department. In view of the institution of the Central Fund, the monthly notices of Collections will indicate that the appeal is in "the first instance" for the projects which the Committee represent. The rotation of collections taken in this way will be as in former years.

VI. - Act anent Equal Dividend.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £1,000 per annum from 1st January 1971 to 31st May 1971, and £1,100 per annum from 1st June to 31st December 1971 to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1971, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The General Assembly approve of the proposal of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend in 1972 by £100, making it £1,200 per annum retrospective to 1st January 1972.

VII. - Act anent Minimum Contribution for Equal Dividend Platform.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve that the minimum contribution required by congregations on the Equal Dividend Platform be not less than half the current Equal Dividend.

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

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve the Committee's proposal to increase the salary of each Resident Lay Agent to £720, with effect from 1st January 1972.

IX. - Act anent Aged and Infirm Supplementary Fund.
(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve that a block grant of £2,000 (equivalent to £20 per minister) be made annually from the Sustentation Fund, Foreign Missions Fund and College Fund proportionately to an Aged and Infirm Supplementary Fund; in due course this transfer to be a charge on the Central Fund.

X. - Act anent Transfer to Supply and General Purposes.
(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve that the sum to be transferred from earmarked Sustentation held in the Central Fund for the purposes of Supply will not exceed £8,500 and the sum for General Purposes will not exceed £4,000.

XI. - Act anent Scale of Preaching Fees.
(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve of the Revised Scale of Fees as undernoted:-

Free Church Minister without charge £4.50
Free Church Retired Minister in receipt of Government Pension £4.00
Probationer £4.50
Probationer (Resident) £7.00
Student £3.00
Student (Resident) £6.00
Minister from another Church £4.50
Minister from another Church (if Retired) £4.50
Week-end Lay Preacher £3.00

Resident Lay Preacher (over 65) £3.00
Free Church Minister without charge in other employment £3.50
Free Church Retired Minister (Resident) £7.00
Minister from another Church (Resident) £7.00

XII. - Act anent Linkage of Congregations.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly ordain that when a vacancy occurs in congregation that is not self-supporting and is in proximity to another vacant or settled Charge, the Clerk to the Committee shall, on receiving an application for a Sustentation Fund Schedule, draw attention to the General Assembly's instruction that the congregation carefully consider the advisability of linkage and if the congregation subsequently submits a Schedule with a view to being placed on the Equal Dividend Platform, the Committee shall not pass the Schedule unless it is accompanied by an adequate explanation of the congregation's decision not to proceed with steps towards linkage.

XIII. - Act anent Payment of Minister in Church Extension Charge.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve that the Minister in a Church Extension Charge be paid at the same rate as a Minister in a Development Charge, namely, at the rate of the current Equal Dividend plus £100.

XIV. - Act Revising Regulations on Resident Lay Preachers and Repealing Certain Acts.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve of the revised Regulations governing Resident Lay Preachers as set out in Appendix I. The General Assembly repeal the Regulations referred to in Act VII. 1928, section B of Regulations mentioned in Act IV. 1930, and Act IX. 1962, amended by Assembly's Deliverance on the Highlands and Islands, etc. Report 1963.

APPENDIX I.

DRAFT REGULATIONS GOVERNING APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF
RESIDENT LAY PREACHERS.

A.

Memorandum. - For the purposes of the following Regulations the term "Committee" shall be taken throughout to mean the Committee on Sustentation and Supply.

1. A Resident Lay Preacher is appointed by the Committee to preach and exercise pastoral care under the direction of the Kirk Session and oversight of the Presbytery.
2. Application for recognition as a Lay Preacher shall be made on a prescribed form through the Kirk Session and Presbytery to the Committee, who shall interview each applicant, before authorising that his name be added to the Roll of recognised Lay Preachers.
3. All appointments to congregations shall be made in consultation with the Kirk Sessions.
4. The Congregation shall provide the Lay Preacher with a house free of charge which shall be always included in the triennial certified Report on the condition of Congregational property; and before a new appointment is made a report on the house certifying that all needed repairs or replacements have been carried out or arranged for, shall be transmitted to the Committee through the Presbytery of the bounds.
5. When a Lay Preacher's duties necessitate travel over considerable distances and he uses his own car, the congregation shall make such contributions towards his expenses as may seem reasonable and possible.
6. The Congregation shall pay such assessment in respect of the Lay Preacher's salary as may be approved by the General Assembly.
7. A Lay Preacher appointed to a vacant congregation, or settled charge, shall only be permitted to engage in other employment provided, and as long as, the Presbytery and Kirk Session are satisfied that such employment will in no way hinder or conflict with the discharge of the duties he is expected to undertake in his capacity as a Lay Preacher.
8. A Lay Preacher may be transferred from one sphere of work to another at the Committee's discretion, after due intimation to the Kirk Session and Presbyteries concerned. It is desirable that he take his Disjunction Certificate with him and that he be put on the roll of the Congregation, as in the case of Ordained Ministers.
9. Removal expenses from one sphere to another shall be met by the Committee.
10. A Resident Lay Preacher shall receive a salary of not less than three-fifths of the Equal Dividend in any one year.
11. Congregations having the services of a Resident Lay Preacher shall meet the expenses incurred for Supply when he is on holiday, up to a maximum of four weeks.
12. If a Lay Preacher be unfit for duty through illness, he shall forthwith:
 - (a) Take action as prescribed by Law for securing (i) benefit in respect of National Health Insurance, and (ii) any pension or other benefit provided by Law.
 - (b) Give intimation of his illness to the Committee and the Clerk of Presbytery.
13. If a Lay Preacher's absence from duty shall extend beyond four successive Sabbath Days,

the Committee may require him to submit himself to examination by a Medical Officer selected and paid by the Committee, in order to a report being furnished to the Committee as to the prospect of the Preacher's return to duty.

14. If a Lay Preacher shall continue unfit for duty by reason of illness for more than twelve months, it shall be competent in their discretion for the Committee to allocate such grant to the Preacher, on compassionate grounds, as the Committee may think fit.

15. The Committee shall be responsible for the payment of the Lay Preacher's salary and National Health Insurance Contributions as appropriate.

16. A Preacher who retires after ten years' service shall be granted a pension at such rate per year of service as may be approved by the General Assembly.

17. The above Regulations shall take effect from the close of the 1972 Assembly with respect to all Resident Lay Preachers at present on the Roll of Lay Preachers, as well as those who may be placed upon it in future.

APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENT LAY PREACHERS.

B.

1. An application by a Kirk Session for a Resident Lay Preacher will be considered, provided a suitable house free of charge is available, and the congregation is prepared to meet the assessment in respect of the Preacher's salary approved by the General Assembly, in the case of (a) a vacant congregation unable to have a settled minister, or to link with a neighbouring charge, and (b) a settled charge where simultaneous services are held in widely separated districts within the congregational bounds. Each application shall be made on a prescribed schedule obtainable from the Free Church Offices.

2. In the event of a Lay Preacher being transferred from one congregation to another, the Kirk Session of the congregation from which he is transferred shall make fresh application, if a replacement is desired.

3. Exceptional cases may be considered on their merits with regard to the interests of the Church and the state of the Funds at the disposal of the Committee.

4. Every application must be made by the Kirk Session and transmitted to the Committee through the Presbytery.

XV. - Act Revising Regulations on Week-End and Temporary Supply and Repealing certain Acts.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve of the revised Regulations governing week-end and

temporarily Resident Supply as set out in Appendix II. The General Assembly repeal the Regulations under section C referred to in Act IV. 1930, also Act XII. 1967, and Acts X and XI, 1971.

APPENDIX II.

A.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING WEEK-END AND TEMPORARILY RESIDENT SUPPLY.

1. The Supply Department may employ for week-end, or Temporarily Resident Supply, only persons in the following categories :- (a) Free Church Ministers without Charge whose names are on the Register of such Ministers, Retired Ministers of the Free Church, Probationers and recognised students of the Free Church. (b) Such other Ministers, students or laymen as may be placed on the Panel of Supply by the authority of a Presbytery of the Church.
2. In all vacant congregations preaching fees shall be a charge on the Committee in accordance with the Scale of Fees and Regulations approved by the General Assembly.
3. In special circumstances, persons not falling within the above categories may be employed by the authority of an Interim Moderator or a local Presbytery and shall be eligible for the appropriate fee and expenses, payable in terms of the regulations, provided previous notice is given to the Supply Department by the Interim Moderator or local Presbytery concerned, of the intention to employ such supply.
4. No offer of a person on the Supply Panel for Temporarily Resident Supply shall be accepted until the Interim Moderator concerned has approved of the arrangement proposed; and if an Interim Moderator shall make a direct arrangement with any person on the Supply Panel, with a view to Temporarily Resident Supply, the Interim Moderator shall immediately inform the Supply Department as to the details of the arrangement.
5. Congregations shall be responsible for providing accommodation and board for week-end supply; and accommodation for Temporarily Resident Supply.

B.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF PREACHERS.

1. (a) Congregations shall be responsible for meeting travelling expenses of Supply where these do not exceed £2.
(b) Where travelling expenses exceed £2, the Committee shall bear 50 per cent. of the additional expenditure up to a maximum outlay of £3 by the Committee.
(c) Exceptional cases shall be considered on their merits.
2. (a) Preachers shall make use of public transport where available and suitable.
(b) Where such transport is not available and suitable, a refund shall be allowed at the rate of

four pence per mile up to a maximum of one hundred miles each way.

XVI. - Act Empowering Commission to Deal with Applications for Colleagues and Successors.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly authorise that in future it shall be permissible for the Commission of Assembly to dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted to the Commission by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply.

XVII. - Act anent Employment of Student Missioner in Aberdeen.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They authorise the Aberdeen Kirk Session, in consultation with the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, to appoint a student missioner. The missioner will work among Free Church students in Aberdeen under the supervision of the Kirk Session and will be paid by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply for the academic year an amount equal to the annual remuneration of a Lay Agent. This arrangement will continue for a three-year period; the congregation of Aberdeen to pay £25 per year to the Committee in respect of this appointment.

XVIII. - Act Appointing Committee to Prepare Alternative Psalm Versions.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly continue their interest in the revision of the metrical psalms. They express their sincere sorrow at the passing of Mr W. M. Mackay who had this matter so near his heart. They appoint a Committee, consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee and any others whom that Committee may appoint from their number, together with Rev. Principal-Emeritus P. W. Miller, D.D., Rev. Professor-Emeritus R. A. Finlayson, Rev. Professor G. N. M. Collins, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. J. W. Fraser, Rev. Professor A. M. Harman and Mr D. G. Mackay, to prepare, in conference with representatives who may be appointed by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Ireland, a selection of alternative psalm versions which shall be submitted to a future General Assembly. This Committee shall report to the General Assembly through the Psalmody Committee. Rev. H. G. Mackay is hereby appointed Convener.

XIX. - Act Appointing Committee to Revise Psalm Tunes.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972.

The General Assembly approve the projected revision of the tunes in the Psalter and they

appoint for this purpose a Committee under the Convenership of the Convener of the Psalmody Committee; the Committee to consist of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee and Rev. H. G. Mackay and Mr D. G. Mackay, with any others whom the Psalmody Committee may appoint from their own number. The Committee are authorised to confer with representatives who may be appointed by other psalm singing churches, and to take expert advice if available. The Committee shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Psalmody Committee.

XX. - Act anent Church and Manse Buildings in New Charges.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1972

The General Assembly direct that the Church Extension Committee shall not undertake to provide church or manse buildings in any new Charge until they are satisfied that that Charge has the numerical and financial resources necessary to an independent existence.

The General Assembly exhort Presbyteries to exercise due deliberation and caution before recommending any application for a grant or loan from the Church Extension Fund.

The General Assembly direct that, when the Church Extension Committee undertakes to provide Church and manse buildings in a new Charge, one-third of the cost must be met out of funds raised by the local congregation and the remaining two-thirds out of the Church Extension Fund, by means of a grant equal to one-third of the cost and an interest-free loan equal to the remaining one-third of the cost.

The General Assembly direct that the Church Extension Committee shall not provide church or manse buildings in Development Charges.

XXI. - Act granting Presbytery Seat to Rev. A. MacDonald.

(No. 21 of Class I.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1972.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Rev. A. MacDonald, former minister at Bishopbriggs and now resident at 62 Blairbeth Road, Rutherglen, and grant its crave. They appoint Rev. D. MacDonald a member of the Presbytery of Glasgow.

XXII. - Act Consolidating Charges of Daviot, Stratherrick and Dores with Duthil and Moy.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1972.

The General Assembly ordain that the Congregations of Daviot, Stratherrick and Dores and Duthil and Moy be consolidated into one Charge with two Kirk Sessions; that, in the meantime, each section of the congregation shall continue to administer its own finances, and that, in view of the wide territory to be covered and the number of preaching stations

involved, the General Assembly authorise that any minister settled over the consolidated Charge shall have the assistance of a preacher each Sabbath: all expenses including any fees involved to be paid by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply.

**XXIII. - Act anent Overture to Presbyteries.
(Representation in General Assembly)
(No. 23 of Class II.)**

Edinburgh, 25th May 1972

The General Assembly resolve to send an Overture down to Presbyteries that all Presbyteries having any number of congregations exactly divisible by two should return exactly one-half of that number of their ministers and the same number of elders to represent them in the General Assembly; that any Presbytery having three congregations shall return two ministers and two elders in the first year and one minister and one elder in the next year; that any congregation having five congregations shall, in the first year, return two ministers and two elders and, in the next year, three ministers and three elders and the same principle of alternation be acted on in the returns from Presbyteries having a higher number of congregations not being a multiple of two.

**XXIV. - Act anent Transfer of Property in Peru.
(No. 24 of Class II.)**

Edinburgh 25th May 1972.

The General Assembly are glad to observe that the development of the Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana del Peru is such that it is now possible to envisage that Church assuming responsibility for many of the properties in Peru presently held by the Trustees' Nominees of the Free Church of Scotland. They direct the Board to give careful attention to the circumstances and timing of each transfer and grant them authority to proceed at their discretion and to arrange for such payments as may, in their view, be proper and helpful to good relations between the two Churches and the progress of evangelical witness in Peru.

In terms of the foregoing authorisation, the General Assembly approve that the following properties will be transferred wholly to the Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana del Peru:-

A. Cajamarca:

Jesus - Church and land
Hualqui - Church and land
Chuquita - Church and land
San Marcos - Church and land
Ichocan - Church and land
Poroporo - Church and land
Magdalena - Land

B. Amazonas:

Leimebamba - Church and house
Huancas - Church and land

C. San Martin:
Calzada - Church and land
Jepelacio - Church
Marona - Land
Soritor - Land
Yantalo - Land
Sulliquiro - Land
Rioja - Church and house

Also, in terms of the foregoing authorisation, the General Assembly approve the transfer of part of the following properties : -

A. Cajamarca:
Cajamarca - Church
Celendin - Church and house

B. Amazonas:
Chachapoyas - Church and house

C. San Martin;
Moyobamba - Doctor's house
Vacant lot
Church

XXV. - Act Amending Foreign Missionary Regulations.

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1972.

The General Assembly amend section 8 of the Board's Regulations as follows:-

The last two sentences of the first paragraph shall be deleted and the following substituted:

“The authority of the Board shall be received by the Local Authority in cases where it is deemed necessary to extend sick-leave beyond a month or to have the sick person brought home. When the Local Authority is convinced that an emergency has arisen which requires a missionary's return home, the authority of the Board shall be sought before this action is taken. But should there be great urgency, passage home may be arranged forthwith and the Board notified immediately of the action taken”.

XXVI. - Act anent Transfer from Training of the Ministry Account to College Account.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1972.

The General Assembly authorise the transference of the sum of £1,160 from the Training of the Ministry Account to the College Account so as to cancel the debit balance on that Fund.

XXVII. - Act Admitting Mr Iain H. Murray.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1972.

The General Assembly receive the Application from Mr Iain H. Murray and admit him to the Free Church of Scotland with the status of ordained minister without charge.

XXVIII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1972.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Principal D. McKenzie named by the Moderator : - To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for the next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited

and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXIX. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1972.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 22nd day of May 1973, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Commission 5th October 1971.

Act anent Linkage of Lybster and Bruan with Latheron and Berridale.

Edinburgh, 5th October 1971

The Commission receive the Petition from the congregations of Lybster and Bruan, Latheron and Berridale and grant its crave.

They consolidate the congregations of Lybster and Bruan, Latheron and Berridale into a single charge, to be known as Lybster, Bruan, Latheron and Berridale, each congregation to retain its own Kirk Session and Finance Committee.

Commission 7th March 1972.

Act anent Sale of Manse at Errogie.

Edinburgh, 7th March 1972

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Church Congregation of Daviot and Stratherrick and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of the Free Church Manse at Errogie, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of purpose, and direct that the proceeds of the sale be invested with the General Trustees pending their application to the provision of alternative accommodation.

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

MAY MCMLXXIII (1973)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Representation in the General Assembly Of Ministers without Pastoral Charges.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1973.

The General Assembly approve the recommendation that meantime only Hospital Chaplains, Evangelists and the Director of the International Society for the Evangelization of the Jews be reckoned as having charges for the purpose of a Presbytery's representation in the General Assembly; and that any future finding of Assembly granting a Minister a seat in a Presbytery shall specify whether such a seat is to be reckoned equivalent to a Charge for the purpose of the Presbytery's representation in the Assembly.

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

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1973.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly on the 22nd day of May 1973 express our renewed and unquestioning loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

Conscious, as far as subjects can be, of the constant strain of the duties of Your Majesty's exalted station, necessitating frequent journeys within Your realm and abroad journeys involving stress and discomfort and even potential danger we are thankful for the Lord's Protecting care over Your Majesty and continue to pray that that Almighty protection may still be granted.

We continue to be grieved over the unrest and violence in Northern Ireland and to be exercised in prayer that by the gracious intervention of God, strife and bloodshed there may speedily cease and calm be restored to that part of Your Majesty's kingdom.

In common with all Your Majesty's loyal subjects we received with the deepest regret the news of the accidental death of His Highness, Prince William of Gloucester

We thankfully acknowledge Your Majesty's example to the nation with its high sense of duty and service, especially in these days when a wholesome discipline is noticeably lacking and moral and spiritual values continue to decline.

We sincerely pray that the blessing of the Lord "which maketh rich" may continue to rest upon Your Majesty's Person and upon all the members of Your Royal House.

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

III. - Act anent Procedure in Cases of Complaint and Appeal.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly amend the finding of 1952 General Assembly on Procedure (Acts 1952 page 436 and page 550) to read:-

- (a) that the practice regarding Complainants and Appellants which obtained prior to 1900 be resumed by Synods and Supreme Court, namely that parties at the bar be not permitted to vote on the matters at issue, and
- (b) that paragraph 4 Acts 1952, page 550, be repealed.

IV. - Act anent Monthly Notices of Collections.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly instruct the Conveners of Committees to ensure that every congregation in the Church is kept fully informed as to the particular claims and needs of each aspect of their department. In view of the institution of the Central Fund, the monthly Notices of Collections will indicate that the appeal is in "the first instance" for the projects which the Committee represent. The rotation of collections taken in this way will be as in former years.

V. - Act anent Psalmody Revision Committee.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly re-appoint the Special Committee on the Revision of the Psalmody, consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, with Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, and Mr D. G. Mackay, continuing the remit of 1972 General Assembly.

VI. - Act anent Committee on Revision of Metrical Psalms.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly continue their interest in the revision of the metrical psalms. They re-appoint the Special Committee for this purpose consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, Rev. Principal-Emeritus P. W. Miller, Rev. Professor-Emeritus R. A. Finlayson, Rev. Professor G N. M. Collins, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. J. W. Fraser, Rev. Professor A. M. Harman, Rev. K. W. R. Cameron, Rev. D. J. W. Milne, Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald, Rev. D. Macleod (Partick Highland), Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, and Mr D. G. Mackay, the Psalmody Committee having powers to appoint other members from their own number to this Committee at any time; this Committee to prepare, with representatives who may be appointed by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, a selection of alternative Psalm versions to be submitted to a future General Assembly. This Committee shall report to the General Assembly through the Psalmody Committee. The Rev. H. G. Mackay is hereby appointed Convener.

VII. - Act appointing Trustee to the Churches and Universities' (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly thank Principal McKenzie for his many years service as a Trustee of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They appoint Rev. Professor G N. M. Collins, B.A., B.D., 19 Roseburn Cliff, Edinburgh, as a Trustee in his place.

VIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly declare an Equal dividend of £1200 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1972, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The General Assembly approve of the proposal of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend in 1973 by £120 making it £1,320 per annum as from 1st January 1973.

The General Assembly approve that the minimum contribution required by congregations on the Equal Dividend Platform be not less than half the current Equal Dividend.

IX. - Act anent Procedure for Special Arrangements for Dunoon.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1973.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Kirk Session of Dunoon. They remit it to the Committee on Sustentation and Supply in consultation with the Committee on Church

Extension, instructing them to submit their proposals to the October Commission of Assembly which is hereby empowered to dispose of the matter, provided the Commission has before it an acceptable Petition for the consolidation of Dunoon and Strachur Congregations as a single charge.

X. - Act Appointing Committee to Investigate Demand for Eventide Home in the Highlands.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd and 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly form a Special Committee to investigate whether there is any demand for a Free Church Eventide Home to be situated in the Highland area, and whether there is any likelihood of funds being available for such a project.

The following were appointed: The Convener and Vice-Convener of the Finance Committee, Rev. Professor W. J. Cameron, Rev. M. MacAulay, Messrs J. Urquhart, J. Maciver, D. A. Cameron, Dr I. R. MacDonald, the Chairman and Clerk of the Eventide Home Management Committee, Rev. J. W. Fraser and Rev. H. M. Cartwright. The Convener of the Finance Committee was appointed Convener.

XI. - Act Appointing Editor of The Monthly Record.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1973.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to that the Rev. J. W. Fraser be transferred from the Editorship of The Instructor to that of The Monthly Record.

XII. - Act Appointing Editor of The Instructor.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to that Rev. F. A. J. MacDonald be appointed Editor of The Instructor.

XIII. - Act anent Conditions of Appointment of Editors of The Monthly Record and The Instructor.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly ordain that the Editor of The Monthly Record relinquish his editorial duties at the General assembly following his attaining the age of 65 and that the Editor of The Instructor relinquish his duties at the General Assembly following his attaining the age of 50 - this regulation to apply to the present and future appointments.

XIV. - Act anent Resignation of Principal McKenzie

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly in accepting Principal McKenzie's resignation as Principal of the Free Church College and as Professor of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, Missions, desire to express their gratitude to him for his long and faithful service of 52 years to the Church (21 years in a Congregational Charge and 31 years in the College).

The General Assembly hope that his health will improve and that he will be spared many years to enjoy his retirement and pray that he may have much of the Lord's blessing.

The General Assembly ordain that the resignation of Principal McKenzie from his charges in the College take effect as from 31st August 1973, and that upon his resignation taking effect he be given the designation of Principal-Emeritus with a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness.

XV. - Act anent Designation of Chair of Apologetics and Practical Theology.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly enact that the Chair of Apologetics, Natural Science, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, Missions be re-designated as 'The Chair of Apologetics and Practical Theology'.

XVI. - Act anent Professors' Salaries.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly authorise that Professors' salaries be increased in terms of Act XXII, 1971, to the sum of £2,310.00 for the current year.

XVII. - Act Appointing Principal of Free Church College.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. Professor W. J. Cameron, M.A., B.D., Principal of the Free Church College in succession to Principal D. McKenzie, in terms of Act XV, Class 11, 1966. The General Assembly direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the requisite steps for his induction as Principal on a date not earlier than 1st September 1973.

XVIII. - Act Appointing Professor of Apologetics and Practical Theology in Free Church College.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. Clement Graham, M.A., B.D., to be Professor of Apologetics and Practical Theology in accordance with the existing legislation. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps to induct him to the Chair on a date after 31st August 1973.

XIX. - Act anent Provision for Indian Orphans.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly direct that provision for the orphans presently in care and for their foster-parents, Rev. Prakash and Mrs Kumar, shall have high priority in planning for the future. They approve of the in-gathering of funds for this purpose, which may be of help in the time when the inflow of money to India may be restricted. They greet Mr and Mrs Kumar warmly, in the name of the Lord.

XX. - Act anent Incorporating Indian Medical Work in Emmanuel Hospital Association.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly approve of the incorporation of the medical work in India in the Emmanuel Hospital Association. They recognize that this will involve the transfer of ownership of medical equipment to E.H.A., and the secondment of personnel who are willing, and the use of hospital and clinic buildings by the Association, who will then be responsible, with possible help from the Board, for any expansion of the work deemed necessary or desirable. The General Assembly entrust the Board with the negotiating of the necessary formal contract.

XXI. - Act Appointing Missionaries to Peru.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly approve the appointment of Mr A. J. F. Fraser, B.Sc., as a missionary-teacher to the Colegio San Andres and they wish him good success in the Lord's work. The General Assembly approve the appointment of Mr A. M. Fraser, LL.B., as a missionary to Peru and of his seeking to widen his experience by work in the home Church for about one year before proceeding to Peru.

XXII. - Act Revising Regulations 30 (4) and (6) of Foreign Missions Board.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly revise Regulation 30 (4) and (6) of their "General Rules for Missions etc." to read as follows:-

“(4) The Board shall accept responsibility for the furlough expenses to his home country of a minister after he has given a period of six years in the Overseas Field, it being understood that the congregation determine the length of furlough and retain responsibility for stipend.

(6) In the case of a minister having given six years’ service and not wishing to return to the Overseas Field, he shall receive six months’ salary or salary to the date of his induction to another charge, whichever period is shorter, the cost to be borne equally by the overseas congregations and the Board”.

XXIII. - Act Appointing Assessors to Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. W. Underhay, Rev. D. Compton and Mr Gordon Ross, General Assessors to the Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada.

XXIV. - Act Amending Act XIV, Class II, 1972.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1973

The General Assembly amend Act XIV, Class II, Appendix II B 2 (a) and (b), 1972 by adding the words, “this not being taken to encourage the use of public transport on the Lord’s Day”.

XXV. - Act Amending Standing Orders of the General Assembly.

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1973.

The General Assembly amend Standing Order III 1, to read “at the close of the first sederunt” instead of “on the afternoon that day”; and amend Standing Order V 2 (1) as follows “to make their report at the second diet of the first day immediately after the Committee on Bills and Overtures”.

The General Assembly direct that the following be added as Standing Order V 4 (5): A member of Assembly in moving or seconding an amendment shall confine himself to the matter of the amendment, and shall have the right to speak at a later stage to other matters in the Report and other amendments, provided that the total time taken in speaking shall conform to Standing Order V 4 (3).

XXVI. - Act anent Name and Functions of Assembly Arrangements Committee.

(No. 26 of Class 2.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1973.

The General Assembly change the name of the Assembly Arrangements Committee to the

Committee on Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations and define its functions as follows: (1) Arrangements for the Assembly, such as hospitality, care of the Assembly Hall and such matters as are directly connected with the Assembly; (2) Relations with Churches and religious bodies, delegates to and from these, etc.

XXVII. - Act anent Structure of Committee on Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1973.

The General Assembly ordain that the Committee on Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations be restructured as to personnel. They instruct the Nominations Committee to recommend the names of 4 ministers and 4 elders after consultation with Presbyteries; to this number shall be added, ex officio, the Moderator of Assembly, and his immediate predecessor, and the Clerks of the Assembly. The Nominations Committee are also instructed to provide for a rotation of the nominated members on the basis of a 4 year term, it being recognised that a retiring member may be recommended for a second term, after which he must retire for at least one year. The Nominations Committee shall submit their proposals to next General Assembly.

XXVIII. - Act Appointing the Commission of Assembly.

(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1973.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. D. Lamont named by the Moderator :- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising

the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXIX. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly.
(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1973.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 21st day of May 1974 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Commission - 6th March 1973.

I. - Act Authorising Sale of Manse at Achiltibuie.

Edinburgh, 6th March 1973

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Coigach and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of the Manse at Achiltibuie, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of purpose; the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees pending their application to the purchase or erection of a more suitable Manse, and the transaction to be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

II. - Act Authorising Sale of Manse at Rosskeen.

Edinburgh, 6th March 1973

The Commission of Assembly, having considered the Extract Minute from the Presbytery of Tain, receive the Petition from the Congregation at Rosskeen and grant its crave.

They authorise the sale of the Manse at Rosskeen, subject to the consent of the Superior to a change of purpose; the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees pending their application to the purchase or erection of a more suitable Manse, and the transaction to be carried through by the Church's Law Agents.

III. - Act anent Transference of Properties in India.

Edinburgh, 6th March 1973

The Commission of Assembly authorise the Foreign Missions Board, the General Trustees and the Rev. I. J. McKenzie who holds the Power of Attorney, to dispose of lands and properties presently held in India, in the manner and for the purposes set out as follows:

1. To sell the land presently held between the hospital and the village of Lakhnadon the proceeds to be held on deposit by the Mission pending the institution of a Trust Fund. If this sale cannot be effected before the transfer of property to the Evangelical Trust Association of South India (E.T.A.S.I.) as noted below, then the Trust Association will be asked to carry through the sale.
2. To transfer to E.T.A.S.I. all the immoveable property held by the Mission in India. This transfer shall, in the first instance, be on a holding basis, but the deed shall incorporate a clause to authorise the transfer of ownership to the Trust should Indian Law preclude or prejudice the "holding trust" arrangement.
3. To frame such directives to accompany the Deed of Transfer as will ensure that, as far as possible, the findings of the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions Board, with regard to the future use of Mission property or income therefrom, will be effected.

The Commission of Assembly further direct that such documents as may be forwarded from India in connection with this business be submitted for advice and such amendment as may be proper, to the Church's Law Agents.

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

MAY MCMLXXIV (1974)

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

NONE

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

I. - Act expanding Act I (Class 2) 1972 anent Resigned Ministers.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 21st May 1974.

The General Assembly direct that in regard to a minister who has resigned a charge in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and wishes to be eligible to be called to a charge in the Free Church of Scotland in terms of the Federal Relations Act (No. I of Class I, 1952) procedure shall be as follows:-

(1) Within two months of his arrival in Scotland he shall present to the Presbytery within whose bounds he has taken up residence a Certificate from the Presbytery of the Australian Church which has accepted his resignation.

(2) Provided that this Certificate shows that the minister has resigned in good standing and that it is dated no more than three months prior to its presentation to a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland the said Presbytery may instruct the Clerk of the Assembly, by Extract Minute, to include the minister's name in the Register of Ministers without Charge.

(3) Before a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland shall proceed to moderate in a Call to a minister resigned from the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, they must receive written assurance from the Clerk of Assembly that the name of the Minister has been included in the Register in terms of the foregoing clauses.

The General Assembly further direct that a Probationer of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia who wishes to be eligible for a Call or Appointment within the Free Church of Scotland shall furnish a Certificate of his standing from the Clerk of Synod of the Australian Church to the Clerk of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in order to his name being included in the Register.

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

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1974.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly this 21st day of May 1974 respectfully assure Your Majesty of our unswerving loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We are profoundly grateful for the example of integrity, dignity and diligence which Your Majesty so consistently sets before Your people. Your Majesty's high sense of duty and selfless devotion to the wellbeing of the Commonwealth of Nations continues to be an inspiration to Your Majesty's loyal subjects, as does your regular attendance on divine worship. We pray that Your Majesty's gracious influence continue to be directed towards the observance of the Lord's Day.

The extensive journeys and the intensive itineraries so often undertaken by Your Majesty and

His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and by other members of Your Royal House in the service of the country, are a source of great admiration. The recent visit of Your Majesty and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, to Australia and the Fiji Islands, as well as giving much pleasure to these members of the Commonwealth, have we are sure, strengthened the bonds that bind them to us.

With Your People everywhere we are deeply concerned at the grave issues at present confronting the nation. It is our prayer that these days of political, industrial and economic unrest may speedily pass. To this end we pray that God will continue to guide both Houses of Your Majesty's Parliament and Your Majesty's Ministers of State. We greatly sorrow over the prolonged and escalating strife in Ulster, and continually pray that great wisdom may be given to Your Majesty's representatives there, and that peace may soon return to that stricken Province. We also express our admiration for the steadfastness of Your Majesty's Forces in the face of constant provocation.

It is our sincere hope and longing that, in these critical times, we as a nation may repent of our national sins and return to the living God in the sure knowledge that "righteousness exalts a nation".

The marriage of Her Royal Highness Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips gave occasion for much rejoicing in the country. We earnestly pray that the blessing of God may rest abundantly on the young couple.

It was with a deep sense of horror that we learned of the attempted kidnapping of Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, and we give thanks to Almighty God for His protecting care upon Her Royal Highness and her husband.

We pray that the King of Kings and Lord of Lords would continue to bless Your Majesty's Person and Throne and each member of Your Majesty's Royal House.

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

III. - Act anent Sale of Church and Hall at Alvie.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1974.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kingussie and Alvie and grant its crave. They renew the authority to sell the Church at Alvie, and further authorise the sale of the Alvie Hall, subject to the consent of the Superior, the proceeds of the sale to be utilised for the congregational purposes of the joint charge of Kingussie and Alvie, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

IV. - Act anent Sale of Ground at Lochgilphead.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1974.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of the Congregation of Lochgilhead and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of a portion of the Manse ground extending to 0.2154 acre subject to the granting of a Minute of Waiver; the proceeds of the sale to be applied to congregational funds and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

V. - Act anent Re-constitution of Publications Department.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1974.

The General Assembly reconstitute the Publications Department for the ensuing five year period, and direct that membership of the Department shall consist of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee; the Editors of The Monthly Record and The Instructor; one member appointed by the College Senatus: Rev. Professor Clement Graham, Rev. Professor G N. M. Collins, Rev. W. D. Graham, Rev. R. C. Christie, Rev. Donald Macleod and Mr John O. Sutherland, Chairman.

VI. - Act anent State Reserve Pension Scheme.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1974.

The General Assembly direct that having regard to the introduction by the Government of the State Reserve Pension Scheme with effect from 1st April 1975 the Committee are:-

- (a) empowered to give effect to whatever Scheme can be devised to provide the most beneficial return for those within the Church's service to whom the legislation applies; and
- (b) to examine the Group Endowment Assurance Scheme in the light of impending legislation in conjunction with the benefits of the Retired Ministers and Professors Fund with a view to phasing out both of these Schemes should that be found advantageous and financially feasible; the remit from last General Assembly concerning the workings of the Group Endowment Assurance to be continued.

VII. - Act anent Administering Sons' and Daughters' Fund.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1974.

The General Assembly confirm that the affairs of the Sons and Daughters of Ministers and Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland Fund be administered by a Sub-Committee of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee in terms of the following Constitution and Laws of the Fund:-

- (1) The Fund shall be designated the Fund for the Benefit of Sons and Daughters of Ministers and Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland

(2) The objects of the Fund shall be:-

To make grants from its funds, as aftermentioned, to the Sons and Daughters of Ministers and Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland, towards enabling them to prosecute their education or business training, and generally to promote otherwise the welfare and advancement of the families of such Ministers and Missionaries.

(3) The Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall appoint from their members a Sub-Committee consisting of six persons, three, but not more than three, being General Trustees, and the Convener or Vice-Convener being included, to take charge of the administration of the Fund for the Benefit of Sons and Daughters of Ministers and Missionaries, formerly administered by ad hoc Trustees.

(4) Members of the Sub-Committee, other than the Convener or Vice-Convener of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall serve for four years, or, in the case of those who are not General Trustees, as long as they remain members of the Finance Committee, after which they shall not be eligible for re-election for one year, or until they are again members of the Finance Committee, but the Convener or Vice-Convener for the time being of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall always be a member.

(5) The Sub-Committee shall elect their own Chairman.

(6) Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall, at their first meeting after the rising of each Assembly subsequent to 1974, fill up any vacancy occurring in the Sub-Committee membership.

(7) The General Treasurer shall act as Clerk and Treasurer to the Sub-Committee and shall be entitled to such honorarium as they may determine.

(8) A separate Minute Book shall be kept and made available annually to the Church's Auditors so that the state of the Fund may be duly reported upon in the audited accounts submitted to the General Assembly.

(9) As at present the Capital of the Fund shall be invested in the same manner as the Capital of other Funds held by the General Trustees.

(10) The amount to be disbursed in any one year shall not exceed the total of the ordinary revenue, along with any donations given for immediate distribution, less the cost of the administration of the Fund.

(11) The Sub-Committee shall meet in the month of June each year to receive the Auditors' Report on the state of the Fund, to arrange for advertising, and to fix the date for considering the applications for grants.

(12) Applications shall be made on a prescribed form; and grants shall be made for one year only, but a fresh application may be submitted in respect of the same son or daughter up to a maximum of five years. An exception may be made in the case of a divinity student. Persons over twenty-five years of age shall not be eligible for a grant.

(13) The General Assembly repeal the finding of the 1908 Assembly regarding Constitution of the Society for the Benefit of Sons and Daughters of Ministers and Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland (page 55).

VIII. - Act Approving Schedule of Application for Resident Lay Preachers.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1974.

The General Assembly approve of the draft schedule for congregations applying for a Resident Lay Preacher.

APPLICATION FOR SERVICES OF A LAY PREACHER.

1. Name of Congregation.
2. (a) Number of Communicants.
(b) Number of Adherents over 16 years of age.
3. If the congregation is a settled charge (or looking forward to a settled ministry) what work is the Lay Preacher expected to undertake?
4. If the congregation is not a settled charge, or in a position to call a minister, has linkage with a neighbouring charge been considered?
5. Has the congregation previously had the services of a Lay Preacher?
6. (a) Is there a house available?
(b) Is it in a suitable state of repair?
7. Is the Congregation prepared to pay such an assessment in respect of the Lay Preacher as may be approved by the General Assembly?
8. Is the Congregation aware that:-
 - a) they must pay the cost of the Supply when the Lay Preacher is on holiday up to a maximum of four weeks?
 - (b) they must make a reasonable contribution towards car expenses where long distances are involved and the Preacher uses his own car?

SESSIONAL CERTIFICATE.

At _____ on
the Kirk Session of
met and was constituted.

Inter alia:-

It was agreed to make application through the Presbytery of the bounds to the Committee on Sustentation and Supply for the services of a Lay Preacher.

PRESBYTERIAL CERTIFICATE.

At _____ on
the Presbytery of _____
met and was constituted.

Inter alia:-

The Presbytery considered an application from the Congregation of _____ for the services of
a Lay Preacher and _____

Clerk.

IX - Act Repealing and Replacing Act XII 1972 anent Linkages.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1974.

The General Assembly drew attention to the question of Linkages as referred to in the Report. They repeal Act XII, 1972 and substitute for it:-

“The General Assembly ordain that when a vacancy occurs in a congregation that is not self-supporting, and is in proximity to another vacant or settled Charge, the Clerk to the Committee shall, on receiving an application for a Sustentation Fund Schedule, draw attention to the General Assembly’s instruction that the Congregation carefully consider the advisability of linkage, and, if the Congregation subsequently submits a Schedule with a view to being placed on the Equal Dividend Platform, the Committee shall not pass the Schedule unless it is accompanied by an adequate explanation of the Congregation’s decision not to proceed with steps toward linkage.

“The General Assembly further ordain that the Presbytery, within whose bounds such a vacancy may have occurred, shall adopt all reasonable steps to forward the Assembly’s wishes as indicated”.

X. - Act Appointing Synod Representatives on Eventide Home Committee

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1974.

The General Assembly re-appoint Rev. J. R. Aitken, Rogart, to represent the Northern Synod on the eventide Home Committee for a further period of three years, and appoint Rev. M. MacRitchie, Stornoway, to represent the Synod of Glenelg, and Rev. M. A. MacLeod,

Dingwall, to represent the Synod of Moray and Ross for the same period.

XI. - Act Granting Sanctioned Status to Cumbernauld Congregation.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1974.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Cumbernauld and grant its crave. They direct that the Congregation be raised to the status of a fully sanctioned charge on condition that they fulfilled the financial conditions of the Committee on Sustentation and Supply i.e. contribute a sum equal to one half the current Equal Dividend.

XII. - Act Re-appointing Trustee to Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1974.

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

XIII. - Act anent Salary of Professors.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly approve the recommendation that Professors' Salaries continue to be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend plus 75 per cent. thereof.

XIV. - Act anent Professors' Furniture Removal Costs.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly enact that the removal costs of Professors appointed to the College be met from the Training of the Ministry Funds, this to include the 1973 appointment.

XV. - Act Repealing and Replacing Act IV (Class II) 1967 anent Appointments to Free Church College.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly repeal Act IV, 1967, and substitute the following:-

(1) That it shall be the duty of the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee, on receiving intimation of a resignation from a College Chair or from the College Principalship, to inform Presbyteries and Synods of the impending vacancy.

(2) It shall be in the power of Presbyteries and Synods to submit to the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee one or more nominations for the vacancy: such nominations to be in the hands of the Committee by the date specified when intimation of the vacancy is made to Presbyteries and Synods.

(3) The Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee shall tabulate the returns made by Presbyteries and Synods and submit these to the General Assembly as a Supplementary Report: (the General Assembly in appointing to the Chair or Principalship not being limited to the names included in the Supplementary Report).

XVI. - Act Appointing Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Literature.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. James W. Fraser, M.A., B.D., to be Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Literature in accordance with existing legislation. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps to induct him to the Chair on a date after 31st August 1974.

XVII. - Act Appointing Sub-Committee on Education.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly, bearing in mind the responsibility of the Church to endeavour to promote observance of Christian principles in the whole field of education, and the need for careful study of contemporary educational trends in consultation with interested and knowledgeable members of the teaching profession, resolve to appoint, in place of the existing Special Committee on Education, a Sub-Committee to report to the Assembly annually through the Committee on Welfare of Youth and Publications.

The General Assembly direct that the Sub-Committee shall consist of the Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the Committee on Welfare of Youth and Publications and the Committee on Public Questions, Religion and Morals, together with four persons nominated by these Committees, not necessarily selected from their own membership. The Conveners and Vice-Conveners of the said Committees shall serve on the Sub-Committee during their term of office on their respective Committees, but the four nominees shall serve for a maximum period of four years, after which they shall be eligible for re-election. The Convener of the Sub-Committee shall be the Convener of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee for the time being, and the Clerk to that Committee shall act as Clerk to the Sub-Committee.

The General Assembly instruct the Sub-Committee to give special attention to such areas of education in Scotland as may from time to time cause concern on the ground that the content or presentation of educational matter appears to be inimical to Christian faith or principles; to take appropriate action; and to report fully each year to the General Assembly on the nature and scope of their activities.

The General Assembly discharge the Special Committee on Education.

XVIII. - Act Authorising Trials for Ordination of two Missionaries.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly authorise the Board to request the Presbytery of Inverness to take on trials for ordination and, should these be sustained, to ordain and induct as missionaries to Peru:-

- (a) Rev. Andrew M. Fraser, LL.B., Probationer; and
- (b) Mr John M. Macpherson, M.A., after he had been duly licensed.

XIX. - Act Amending Overseas 'Missions' Regulations.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1974.

The General Assembly approve that the following paragraphs be added to the General Rules of the Board: Section 30 - "Overseas (formerly Colonial) Missions":-

- (1) A Minister called from Scotland to an Overseas Charge shall have the cost of his shipment of goods met by the Calling Congregation.
- (2) A Minister returning from Overseas on acceptance of a Call from a Congregation in Scotland, shall have the cost of the shipment of his goods met by the Calling Congregation.
- (3) A Minister who has served in an Overseas Congregation for the full period of six years, which qualifies for home leave, and who resigns his charge, with a view to returning to Scotland, shall be entitled to the same payment of fares and salary as he would have received if proceeding on furlough.

In such a case the cost of the shipment of soft furnishings, china, crockery and kitchen utensils and personal effects shall be chargeable in equal proportions to the congregation in which he has served and to the Board, always provided that both congregation and Board have been previously satisfied by a binding estimate as to the reasonableness of the cost. No responsibility shall be accepted by either party for the shipment of furniture, provided that the Overseas Congregation has borne the expenses of the shipment of furniture on the outgoing journey.

XX. - Act anent Payment of Interest by Perth, Thurso and Cumbernauld Congregations.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1974.

The General Assembly recognise the anomaly with regard to Interest Charges on loans which has occurred. They ordain that the congregations of Perth, Thurso and Cumbernauld be dealt with on the same basis as the earlier Extension Charges, that they be relieved of future payment of interest on their loans for Church buildings, and that all monies already paid as interest by any of these congregations in this respect, be credited to the repayment of their loans; the Extension Committee to pay all outstanding, or future, interest to the General Trustees in respect of monies funded by them for the said buildings.

XXI. - Act anent Revenue of Church Extension Committee.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1974.

The General Assembly authorise that the interest on the Capital Redemption Fund for 1974 be made available to the Committee for revenue.

XXII. - Act Re-appointing Special Psalmody Committees.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1974.

The General Assembly are gratified to learn of a measure of progress by the Special Committees for the Revision of the Psalter and for the Preparation of Alternative Renderings of the Metrical Psalms. They re-appoint the former Committee, consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, with Rev. H.G Mackay, Rev. A. P. W. Fraser and Mr D. G. Mackay, continuing the remit of the 1973 Assembly. They re-appoint the latter Committee consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, Rev. Principal-Emeritus P. W. Miller, Rev. Professor-Emeritus R. A. Finlayson, Rev. Professor G. N. M. Collins, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. J. W. Fraser, Rev. K. W. R. Cameron, Rev. D. J. W. Milne, Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald, Rev. D. Macleod (Partick Highland), Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, Mr D. G. Mackay and the Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis at the Free Church College, the Psalmody Committee having powers to appoint other members from their own number to this Committee at any time, the remit of the 1973 Assembly being continued and Rev. H. G. Mackay continuing as Convener. Both Special Committees shall report to the General Assembly through the Psalmody Committee.

XXIII. - Act Appointing the Commission of Assembly.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1974.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. W. D. Graham named by the Moderator:- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own

Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, and to deal with such specific proposals as may be submitted to them for re-organising the Presbytery of Kaffraria, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXIV. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May, 1974.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 20th day of May 1973 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Commission - 2nd October 1973.

I. - Act anent Consolidation of Dunoon and Strachur.

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1973

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregations of Dunoon and Strachur and consolidate the Congregations into a single charge to be known as the charge of Dunoon and Strachur having one Kirk Session and Deacons' Court, and place the consolidated charge under special arrangements in regard to the Sustentation Fund for a specified period.

The Commission of Assembly resolve to place the Charge of Dunoon and Strachur on special arrangements for a period of five years following the settlement of a minister on condition that the Congregation contribute not less than £400 annually to the Sustentation Fund. The Committee on Extension and Maintenance to contribute the sum of £162.50 to the minister's stipend and the Committee on Sustentation and Supply an equal sum. The minister's stipend will be at the rate of the Equal Dividend.

With reference to the foregoing note the following Finding of General Assembly 24th May 1974.

Deliverance of Committee on Extension and Maintenance.

The General Assembly approve the action of the Committee in its agreeing to share payment, on an equal basis, with the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, of a Ministerial Stipend for the linked Charge of Dunoon and Strachur, and subject to the Conditions laid down in the Finding of the Commission of Assembly.

II. - Act anent Sale of Manse at Kincardine.

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1973

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kincardine and Croick Free Church Congregation. They authorise the sale of the Manse at Kincardine, subject to the approval of the Superior and the granting of a Minute of Waiver, and to the agreement of the General Trustees, the proceeds to be invested with the General Trustees pending the purchase or erection of a new building, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

III. - Act anent Sale of Church at Lybster.

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1973

The Commission receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Lybster and Bruan. They authorise the sale of the Church building at Lybster subject to the consent of the superior and the approval of the General Trustees, the proceeds to be applied to the erecting of a more suitable place of worship on ground held by the Congregation and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

IV. - Act Appointing General Treasurer.

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1973

The Commission of Assembly appoint Mr Iain Duncan Gill, C.A., 19 Douglas Road, Renfrew, General Treasurer of the Free Church of Scotland from 1st November 1973.

The Commission enact that the remuneration and other terms of employment of Mr Gill be as in the terms of a Minute of Agreement between Mr Gill and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee as set out in the Minute of that Committee, dated 21st September 1973.

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

MAY MCMLXXV. (1975)

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

NONE.

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

I. - Act Amending Standing Orders.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly amend the undernoted Standing Orders as follows -

V.2 (2) Delete the words after "Assembly" in line 2 down to " following" in line 6.

V.3 (4) To read:-

That all amendments to a Committee's proposed deliverance on their Report (other than the Reports of the Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee) shall be handed to the Clerk not later than the

day before they are intended to be moved, and shall be read by him before the first adjournment, and shall be circulated for the use of members. Amendments to the proposed deliverance on the Report of the Committee on Welfare of Youth and Publications - other than the part containing the results of the Welfare of Youth examinations - shall be handed to the Clerk and read by him before the first adjournment on the opening day of the Assembly. Amendments to the proposed deliverance on the Report of the Committee on Assembly Arrangements and Ecumenical Relations may be moved without previous notice. All amendments must be moved in the terms notified but it shall be competent to modify these by a subsequent motion from the floor of the house.

V.3 (6) To read :-

That when any Committee is appointed during the Assembly's sittings it shall be competent to move amendments to the proposed deliverance on its Report without previous notice.

V.4 (3) Substitute twenty-five for thirty and fifteen for twenty in line 2.

V.5 (1) Delete and renumber paragraphs of section.

VI.I - Delete words after "required" in line 3 down to "matters" in line 6.

VI.1 - Delete the Note, from "Committees" down to and including the words "Special Committees".

(N.B. -The Standing Orders referred to above now read as follows :-

V.2 (2) That the Assembly shall, at their first diet, appoint a Committee for printing the Acts of Assembly and that the Committee shall arrange that the Acts be divided into two classes. Class I: those which have passed the Barrier Act; Class II: Acts which are of General Interest to the Church.

V.3 (4) and V.3 (6) - as above.

V.4 (3) That in the discussion of any question the proposer of each motion may address the House for not longer than twenty-five minutes, and the seconder for fifteen minutes; and no subsequent speaker shall address the House for a longer period than ten minutes; and that these limits shall only be exceeded when the Moderator shall have ascertained that the House desires any speaker to continue, and shall intimate the ascertained desire to that effect.

VI. 1 - That the business of the Church between one Assembly and the next ensuing shall be carried on by Standing Committees and the Foreign Board to meet as may be required, and to be arranged in groups, meeting simultaneously, as follows:-
(as previously)).

II. - Act Expanding Act I, 1972.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly amend Act I, 1972, by the addition of the following:-

When a minister from another Church is admitted by the General Assembly with the status of a minister without charge his name shall forthwith be added to the Register of Ministers without charge, but it shall not remain on the Register for more than three years unless an application for the extension of the period has been granted by the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident, or was last resident, and an extract specifying the length of the extension has been forwarded to the Principal Clerk.

To avoid prejudice the Assembly ordain with regard to the admission of 1972 that the Minister concerned be included in the Register, provided an application is granted by the Presbytery having jurisdiction, within two months of the close of this Assembly.

(N.B. - This series of Acts now reads: -

I. - Act anent Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly enact:-

(1) That a Register of Ministers without Charge and a Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be kept by the Principal Clerk of Assembly.

(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 Foreign or Overseas Charge, the Secretary of the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board) shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by Extract Minute. This Extract shall include the resolution of the Presbytery that the minister's name be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge. Should a Presbytery resolve that the name be not included in the Register, the minister shall be entitled to be informed of the reason(s) and may bring the matter before the Higher Courts of the Church in due form.

(3) A minister whose name is placed on the said Register shall be eligible for a Call.

(4) In no case shall the name of a resigned minister remain on the Register of Ministers without Charge for more than three years from the date of his resignation of his Charge 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 resigned 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.

(5) If the Presbytery accepting the resignation does not recommend that the resigned minister's name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, the Principal Clerk shall, on receipt of the Presbytery's Extract Minute, add the name to the Roll of Resigned Ministers where it shall remain without a time limit, subject to the provision of paragraph 7.

No minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be eligible for a Call unless his name is transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge.

(6) A minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers desiring to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the General Assembly or its Commission through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time.

(7) Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers (other than ministers who have been granted a Colleague and Successor) shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident, unless they are admitted to the ministry of another Church, in which case their names shall be removed from the Register/Roll.

(8) The General Assembly direct that this Act shall apply to all ministers of the Free Church of Scotland who have already resigned their charges and have not been given seats in Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland, or been admitted to other Churches:

That is to say:-

1. In the case of those whose resignation has been accepted by a Presbytery of this Church within the three years preceding the passing of this Act the provisions of section (4) above will apply.

2. In the case of those whose resignation was accepted by a Presbytery of this Church more than three years prior to the passing of this Act the provisions of section (6) above will apply.

(9) The General Assembly specifically direct that this Act does not apply to ministers who, subsequent to resignation of their charges, have been granted seats in Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland.

(10) The General Assembly repeal Act IV 1896, and Act II 1960.

I. Act expanding Act I. (Class 2) 1972 anent Resigned Ministers.

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly direct that in regard to a minister who has resigned a charge in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and wishes to be eligible to be called to a charge in the Free Church of Scotland in terms of the Federal Relations Act (No. 1 of Class I, 1952) procedure shall be as follows:-

(1) Within two months of his arrival in Scotland he shall present to the Presbytery within whose bounds he has taken up residence a Certificate from the Presbytery of the Australian Church which has accepted his resignation.

(2) Provided that this Certificate shows that the minister has resigned in good standing and that it is dated no more than three months prior to its presentation to a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland the said Presbytery may instruct the Clerk of the Assembly, by Extract Minute, to include the minister's name in the Register of Ministers without Charge.

(3) Before a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland shall proceed to moderate in a Call to a minister resigned from the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, they must receive written assurance from the Clerk of Assembly that the name of the Minister has been included in the Register in terms of the foregoing clauses.

The General Assembly further direct that a Probationer of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia who wishes to be eligible for a Call or Appointment within the Free Church of Scotland shall furnish a Certificate of his standing from the Clerk of Synod of the Australian Church to the Clerk of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in order to his name being included in the Register. (Act II, 1975 - as above).

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

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1975.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

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

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly this 20th day of May 1975, respectfully assure Your Majesty of our unswerving loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

As a Church of Jesus Christ we recognise that our first duty is to fulfill His will and maintain a witness to His Divine Sovereignty which binds monarchs and people together. We rejoice at every evidence that Your Majesty shares this allegiance with us. We are persuaded that the present distresses which press upon our nation are largely due to a forsaking of our duty to our God and Saviour as is evidenced by the disregard of the standards of morality which find definitive expression in the Decalogue. It would rejoice our hearts beyond words, were Your Majesty to call our nation to return to the obedience due to God, in worship and in consecration of the Lord's Day. This way, we are persuaded, lies the path of national recovery.

The people of this Church make constant intercessions for Your Majesty in view of the many and arduous journeys to places near and far which have to be undertaken on behalf of the nation. They rejoice that visits from Your Majesty, and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Queen Mother and the other members of Your Royal House, are a means of binding together our commonwealth of nations and of securing good-will in relations with countries outside the commonwealth.

It is a cause of deep regret to this Church that part of the United Kingdom continues to be riven asunder so that Your Majesty's subjects are prevented from following their lawful vocations in peace and security. That the fair name of the Christian religion is besmirched by this situation is a cause of deepening distress and an incitement to prayer that God will grant

repentance to us all so that in renewed obedience to Him will be found a new affection which will bind the presently irreconcilable factions in the unhappy Province of Ulster.

May Almighty God “by whom Kings reign and Princes decree justice” bless Your Majesty’s Person and Throne and each member of Your Majesty’s Royal House.

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

IV. - Act anent Feu at Oban.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Oban Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the Congregation, following the purchase of the superiority of the feu upon which the Oban Free High Church and Manse are erected and the feu of the adjoining amenity ground, to grant a feu charter or feu disposition of the said adjoining ground on terms acceptable to the Congregations for the future use thereof, the proceeds from the transaction to be applied as the Congregational Finance Committee may determine; and the transaction to be carried out by the Church’s Law Agents.

V. - Act anent Sale of Church at Balvicar (Kilbrandon).

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building at Balvicar, subject to any necessary consent of the Superior, the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income utilised for Congregational purposes, either at Kilbrandon or in connection with the Congregation’s worship at Oban; and the transaction to be carried out by the Church’s Law Agents.

VI. - Act anent Sale of Church Building at Jura.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons’ Court of Jura Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building at Jura, subject to the consent of the Superior, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income to be applied to the upkeep of Church property at Portnahaven, Islay; the transaction to be carried out by the Church’s Law Agents.

VII. - Act anent Sale of Manse at Burghead.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Burghead Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse on such terms relating to the Garden Rent as may be agreed upon between the Superiors and themselves, the proceeds to be applied to the erection or purchase of a more suitable house, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

VIII. - Act anent Sale of Church Building at Corpach.

(No.8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1975.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kilmallie and Arisaig Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church Building and site at Corpach, subject to any necessary consent of the Superior, the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income utilised for Congregational purposes; and the transaction to be carried out by, or subject to report to, the Church's Law Agents.

IX. - Act anent Fund Structures.

(No. 9. of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly ordain that the Funds of the Church be reduced to three, namely, Central Fund and separately earmarked within the Central Fund, Sustentation Fund and Foreign Missions. Jewish Missions, Eventide Homes and Highways and By-ways should be treated as the other Funds apart from the three here listed.

X. - Act anent Trust Estate.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly direct that:-

(a) the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee of the Free Church of Scotland shall in regard to the retention, realisation, investment and management of the assets of the Church together with those Special Trusts where the General Assembly has appropriate authority (hereinafter called the Trust Estate) have full power to invest the assets of the Trust Estate or any part thereof in any of the Public Funds or Stocks or Government Securities of any Government or State or in Funds or Securities guaranteed by the Government of Great Britain or in the Debentures, Debenture Stock, Preference Stock or Ordinary Stock or Shares fully paid or otherwise of any Company, Corporation, Bank or Public Body in the United Kingdom or any other country or in any unit, sub-unit or share in a Unit Trust Scheme, whether within the United Kingdom or abroad, as defined by Section 26 (1) of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof or in the Bonds, Registered or Bearer, Debentures, Receipts, Obligations or Notes of any Company,

Corporation, Community or Institution in the United Kingdom or in any other Country authorised to borrow or receive money on Debentures or Deposit or on real or heritable security, or in the purchase of real or heritable property or in feu-duties and ground annuals and perpetual ground rents secured over heritable or real property in the United Kingdom and to deposit the said assets with any Local Authority, Bank, Investment Company, Building Society or any other Company, Corporation, Community or Institution authorised to receive money on deposit;

(b) the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall have full power to appoint a recognised investment adviser to manage the investment of the Trust Estate or any part or parts thereof and to remunerate such investment adviser;

(c) the Investments of the Trust Estate shall be held in name of the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees or to its order by or through any Nominee Company of the appointed investment adviser;

(d) the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall have full power to arrange for the investments representing the Trust Estate to be managed as an unauthorised unit trust or similar scheme providing for each beneficial interest therein to receive a share of the capital and income of the whole Trust Estate determined in an equitable manner;

(e) the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees are hereby indemnified for all claims for loss sustained by the Trust Estate through investments made by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee so long as such investments are made within the authority conferred by this Ordinance;

(f) the finding of the Commission of Assembly of 19th November 1947 be hereby repealed.

XI. - Act anent National Insurance Payments of Lay Preachers and Professors

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly direct that Lay Preachers and Professors shall not have their employees' proportion of National Insurance paid for them but instead the Committee on Sustentation and Supply and the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee respectively shall increase the present salary by the amount of the employee's proportion which shall then be deducted from the regular payments made to Lay Preachers and Professors.

XII. - Act anent Ministers' National Insurance Payments.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly empower the Finance Law and Advisory Committee to deal with the question of Minister's National Insurance when the Government enact relevant legislation

and if Ministers are to be classed as employed for National Insurance purposes the Committee on Sustentation is empowered to increase the stipend by the amount of the employee's proportion of the total National Insurance contribution.

XIII. - Act Appointing General Trustee.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly appoint Mr Donald Jack, Inland Revenue Official, 20 Summerside Place, Leith, Edinburgh, to be a General Trustee.

XIV. - Act anent Kirk Care Housing Association.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly direct that the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee negotiate with the Kirk Care Housing Association and authorise a nominal contribution of £2,000, spread over five years.

XV. - Act anent Equal Dividend.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £1,525 per annum to every Minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1974, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve of the increase in the Equal Dividend from £1,450 to £1,750 as from 1st October 1974.

XVI. - Act anent Minimum Contribution to Sustentation Fund.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly approve that the minimum contribution required by congregations on the Equal Dividend Platform be not less than half the current Equal Dividend.

XVII. - Act anent Salary of Resident Lay Preacher.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly approve the increase in the salary of each Resident Lay Preacher to £1,050 per annum as from 1st October 1974.

XVIII. - Act anent Retirement Allowances of Lay Preachers.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly approve that Retired Lay Preachers with ten or more years service be paid £14 per annum in respect of each year of service as from 1st October 1974.

XIX. - Act anent Increase in Retirement Allowance Ministers and Professors.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly approve the increase of £160 per annum to the Beneficiaries of the Retired and Infirm Ministers' and Professors' Fund with effect from 1st October 1974.

XX. - Act anent limit of Transfer for Home Mission Grants.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly authorise that the transfer from the interest of Home Mission Capital for the purpose of Home Mission Grants, in terms of Act VIII, 1960, be increased to a sum not exceeding £600.

XXI. - Act Re-appointing Trustee of Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

It was agreed to that, Rev. Principal W. J. Cameron be re-appointed a Trustee of the Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XXII. - Act anent Development Charges and Repealing Certain Acts.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly, gratefully recognising that as a result of the missionary outreach of existing congregations of the Church, the nuclei of new congregations emerge which show promise of development, resolve to frame procedures to assist such development and enact as follows:

A. Re the Process leading to Development Charge Status.

(1) The emerging congregation shall be under the care of a recognised Kirk Session for a minimum period of two years, during which time regular Services shall be held in the new district and some pastoral visitation undertaken. During this period the Church Extension Committee may on the request of the Kirk Session concerned, and with the approval of the

Presbytery of the bounds, give such financial aid towards the expenses of the Mission as it deems appropriate.

(2) When the care-taking Kirk Session shall adjudge that the work has developed as far as possible under their sole care, and that it shows promise of further advance if given more attention especially in pastoral visitation they shall so report to their Presbytery. The Presbytery being apprised as fully as possible of all the relevant facts and of the convictions and aspirations of local residents in the new area, shall consider whether the emerging congregation can be combined with any other in a similar situation or whether there is within the bounds a Kirk Session which can undertake to secure further progress of the work. They may effect such linkages as are feasible and make such provisions as are within their own resources to secure the continuing growth of the new congregation if desirable in consultation and with the assistance of the Church Extension Committee.

(3) When the Presbytery are satisfied that there is promise of growth which can be realised only if full-time pastoral care is given to the new congregation, they shall so inform the Church Extension Committee who, after consultation with the Committee on Sustentation may recommend to the General Assembly that the congregation be designated a Development Charge - EITHER :-

(a) under the care of its own Kirk Session whose membership and interim moderator shall be appointed by the Presbytery, in which case the new Kirk Session shall not affect the Presbytery's representation in the General Assembly, OR

(b) under the care of a recognised Kirk Session within the bounds.

(4) When the General Assembly designate the new congregation a Development Charge they shall at the same time declare it to be equivalent to a Charge for the purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. This will empower the Church Extension Committee in agreement with the Presbytery of the bounds to appoint, a suitable person to the, pastoral care of the Development Charge. In the case of the appointment of a Minister or Probationer qualified to accept a call in the Free Church of Scotland the conditions of appointment shall be as in section B of this Act.

B. Conditions of Appointment of Minister or Probationer to a Development Charge

(1) (a) When the Development Charge has its own Kirk Session induction will be to that charge and the minister will be moderator of that Kirk Session and have a seat in the Presbytery.

(b) When the Development Charge is under the care of a neighbouring Kirk Session induction shall be as assistant to the moderator of that Kirk Session with special responsibility for the Development Charge and the person inducted shall have a seat in the Presbytery.

(2) The appointment will be, in the first place, for a period of three years. if the appointment be that of a Probationer, it will include his Ordination to the Pastoral Ministry after regular

trials duly sustained, by the Presbytery involved.

(3) The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend each year and shall be borne, in equal proportions by the Committee on Extension and the Committee on Sustentation; there shall in addition be paid a sum, to be fixed and reviewed annually and payable by the Church Extension Committee, for travelling and incidental expenses.

(4) The Committee on Sustentation and Supply shall be responsible for payment of his annual premium to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund in terms of regulation 4A.

(5) The Committee on Extension shall meet his National Insurance Contribution and the entire annual burdens on the property in which he lives, together with any repairs or decorations which may be considered necessary and reasonable.

(6) The minister appointed shall devote his whole time to the Development Charge and work under the supervision of the Committee on Extension, in conjunction with the Presbytery of which he is a member.

(7) The minister shall report regularly to his Presbytery, and annually in March to the Committee, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the Charge.

(8) The minister shall advise the Committee in conjunction with the Presbytery concerned, on the advisability, or otherwise, of continuing the Development Status of the Charge at the end of the three-year appointment.

(9) At the close of his three-year period of service the minister shall be eligible for re-appointment, failing which, he shall be treated as a minister without Charge except that he shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of his appointment's expiry or until his induction to another Charge, whichever is sooner.

(10) While it is expected that at the end of three years the Development Charge should be in a position to seek Extension Charge Status the General Assembly may, on being so requested by the Church Extension Committee, grant a further three-year period of Development Charge Status. In normal circumstances there shall be no further extension beyond this period.

C. Acts Repealed.

The General Assembly repeal Acts XXIX Class II 1966; XIII Class II 1968; XVIII Class II 1970.

They recognise that the position of the Thurso Development Charge is covered by paragraph A 3(b) and B 1(b) and following clauses of this Act.

XXIII. - Act Instituting Livingston/Whitburn a Development Charge.

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly note with interest the present position of the missions at Livingston and Whitburn and ordain that they be linked to form one Development Charge in terms of the foregoing Act. Agreeably to section A 4 of the said Act the General Assembly declare Livingston/Whitburn to be equivalent to a Charge for the purpose of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XXIV. - Act anent interest on Capital Fund. (Extension and Maintenance).

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly direct that the interest on the Capital Redemptions Fund for 1975 be made available to the Committee (on Extension and Maintenance) for revenue.

XXV. - Act Uniting Congregations of Oban, and Kilbrandon and Kilchattan.

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly direct that the Congregations of Oban, and Kilbrandon and Kilchattan be united under one Kirk Session and with one Finance Committee and that all monies at present held separately be henceforth used for the benefit of the united charge.

XXVI. - Act Altering Bounds and Seat of Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly transfer the Congregations of Tongue and Farr from the Presbytery of Dornoch to the Presbytery of Caithness and ordain that the seat of the Presbytery be changed from Wick to Thurso.

XXVII. - Act Dissolving and Uniting Charges - (Reay, Strathy and Halladale, Thurso, Tongue, Farr)

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly dissolve the consolidated charge of Reay, Strathy and Halladale and unite the congregation of Reay with the Development Charge of Thurso; the new congregation to be a Development Charge under the jurisdiction of the Olig Kirk Session for the duration of the Development status of Thurso Congregation as fixed by the General Assembly.

Mr John Dunnett, Elder at Reay, is hereby granted a seat in the Olig Kirk Session.

The General Assembly dissolve the Consolidated Charge of Tongue and Farr Congregations

and unite the congregations of Tongue, Farr, Strathy and Halladale into a single Consolidated Charge within the Presbytery of Caithness, the newly formed Charge to be known as Tongue, Farr, Strathy and Halladale and be recognised as one deserving the services of a minister with the help of resident supply. Each congregation shall retain its own Kirk Session, Deacons' Court or Finance Committee and Treasurer. The dissolution and union shall take effect from the date of the present Charge of Tongue and Farr falling vacant. The agreement with the Rev. Roderick Murray in respect of the use of the Manse at Skerray subsequent to his retirement is to continue.

XXVIII. - Act Consolidating Congregations of Croy and Cawdor, and Ardersier
(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly ordain that the Congregations of Croy and Cawdor, and Ardersier be consolidated into one pastoral Charge with two Kirk Sessions, and two Finance Committees.

XXIX. - Act Appointing Assessors to Presbytery of Inveraray.
(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly . . . appoint Rev. A. G. Ross and Rev. A. Gollan, General Assessors to the Presbytery of Inveraray.

XXX. - Act appointing Assessor to the Presbytery of Perth.
(No. 30 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975

The General Assembly.....re-appoint Rev. John Morrison as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Perth.

XXXI. - Act Appointing Assessor to the Presbytery of Caithness
(No. 31 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly re-appoint Rev. W. K. Stone, B.A., Minister at Helmsdale, a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Caithness.

XXXII. - Act Altering Date of Statutory Meeting of the Synod of North America
(No. 32 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly ordain that the statutory meeting of the Synod of North America shall be on the Tuesday immediately following the 17th day of March.

XXXIII. - Act Authorising Co-option to Welfare of Youth's Sub-Committee on Education.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1975.

The General Assembly grant the Committee's (Welfare of Youth Sub-Committee on Education) request for permission to co-opt a member of the Free Church Teachers' Association to its membership.

XXXIV. - Act anent Special Committee on Alternative Versions of the Psalms.

(No. 34 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1975.

The General Assembly are pleased to learn of the progress made by the Special Committee for the Preparation of Alternative Versions of the Metrical Psalms and they thank the Special Committee and especially their Convener, Rev. H. G. Mackay, for their diligence. They instruct that the nine alternative versions set out in Appendix 2 to the Committee's Report be submitted to the Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions of the Church for their consideration and comment, and that the Psalmody Committee report to next General Assembly on the opinions of these courts regarding the provision of alternative versions of the Psalms. The General Assembly re-appoint the Special Committee consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, Rev. Principal-Emeritus P. W. Miller, Rev. Professor-Emeritus R. A. Finlayson, Rev. Professor G N. M. Collins, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. K. W. R. Cameron, Rev. D. J. W. Milne, Rev. F. A. G. Macdonald, Rev. D. Macleod (Partick Highland), Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, Mr D. G. Mackay, Mr D. Jack and the Professor of Old Testament Exegesis at the Free Church College, the Psalmody Committee having powers to appoint other members from their own number to this Committee at any time. They continue the remit of the Special Committee and re-appoint Rev. H. G. Mackay as Convener.

XXXV. - Act Re-appointing Special Committee on Psalter Revision.

(No. 35 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1975.

The General Assembly are pleased to learn the progress made by the Special Committee on Revision of the Psalter and they thank the Special Committee and especially their Convener, Rev. A. P.W. Fraser, for their diligence. The General Assembly note that the Special Committee expect to submit their final Report to the Psalmody Committee shortly, and that their recommendations will be considered in connection with the ordering of fresh stocks of The Scottish Psalmody. The General Assembly also note with interest that the production of an edition in staff Notation is under consideration. The General Assembly re-appoint the Special Committee consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, Mr D. G. Mackay and Mr D. Jack. They continue the Special Committee's remit and re-appoint Rev. A. P. W. Fraser as Convener.

XXXVI. - Act anent Special Committee on Procedure Review.

(No. 36 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee on Procedure Review whose remit is to consider what procedures in the various Courts of the Church require modification and to report to next General Assembly.

Special Committee on Procedure Review:-

The Clerks of Synods - Mr John Munro.

The Assembly Clerks - Dr J. R. MacDonald; Mr D. Jack.

The Principal Clerk of Assembly shall be Convener.

XXXVII. - Act Re-structuring the Nominations Committee.

(No. 37 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report. They thank the Special Committee, especially the Convener, and discharge the Committee.

The General Assembly accept the recommendations of the Committee to the extent that the Nominations Committee be reconstructed along the lines indicated in order to make it more directly representative of all the Presbyteries of the Church.

The General Assembly enjoin each Presbytery of the Church to nominate one of its members as representative to the Nominations Committee, holding office, under normal circumstances, for four years, but eligible for one further period of four years. All such nominations shall be in the hands of the Principal Clerk to the Assembly not later than the last day of January each year.

The General Assembly further enjoin that the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee be entitled to nominate two of its members to the membership of the Nominations Committee on the same terms as apply to Presbytery members. In the event of members nominated from these two sources not containing enough elders to amount to one-third of the total membership, as required by Standing Order VI 2, the Nominations Committee shall be empowered to nominate additional elders from the list submitted to them under Standing Order VI 12, sufficient to implement that proportion, the total membership of the Committee thus constituted not to exceed twenty. Standing Order VI 2 shall be amended to that extent.

The General Assembly enjoin that the Clerk to the Assembly shall act as Clerk to the Committee.

XXXVIII - Act anent Sale of Properties in Peru.

(No. 38 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly authorise the Board in consultation with the General Trustees, to empower the Trustees Nominees to sell such moveable and immovable properties as may be necessary for the proper functioning of the Mission.

XXXIX. - Act anent Ordination of African Pastor.

(No. 39 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly authorise the Board to direct the the Presbytery of Kaffraria to licence Mr. W.T. Vumindaba to preach the gospel upon the sustaining of such trials as the Presbytery may prescribe. It is recognised that Mr Vumindaba will then be eligible for a call to a charge within the bounds of the Presbytery, when the usual procedures applicable to Probationers shall be followed.

The General Assembly declare that ministers whose training has been in terms of regulations approved by the Presbytery of Kaffraria are not eligible to be called to a charge in the Free Church of Scotland outside the bounds of that Presbytery.

XL. - Act anent Ordination of Probationers to serve in North America.

(No. 40 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

In the, event of a Probationer offering to give a minimum of one year's service in any of the congregations in North America but not wishing to accept a call, it shall be competent for the Board in consultation with the Canadian Presbytery involved to request the Presbytery of Glasgow to ordain him after due trials. He shall, during the period of his service, have a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he serves.

XLI. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 41 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Duncan Beaton, named by the Moderator: To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or

to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in, matters of doctrine, and ripen, such, affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of Vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committee's of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XLII. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 42 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1975.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to met in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 18th May 1976, at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Edinburgh, 1st October 1974.

I. - Act anent Allowance to Rev. Alasdair MacDonald.

Edinburgh, 1st October 1974.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Application from Rev. Alasdair Macdonald, and

authorise the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to award a grant, appropriate to his years of service in the ministry, from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Retired Professors' Fund, when the necessary supporting documents from the Presbytery of Glasgow shall have been received.

II. - Act anent Presbytery Appointments re Highland Region Education Committee.

Edinburgh 1st October 1974.

The Commission of Assembly direct the undernoted Presbyteries to take action as follows, if necessary by convening pro re nata i.e., to appoint two representatives who shall meet together with other Presbytery representatives so appointed, in Dingwall Free Church on Monday, 21st October 1974, at 3 pm. with the purpose of nominating a representative of the Free Church of Scotland to serve on the Education Committee of the Highland Region and to furnish the name of their nominee to the Highland Regional Council. Presbyteries referred to are : Caithness, Dornoch, Tain, Dingwall and Chanonry, Lochcarron, Skye and Uist, Inverness, and Lochaber and Lorn.

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

MAY MCMLXXVI (1976)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Congregational Assessments and Cost of "Acts of Assembly".

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly approve of the measures taken by the Committee to effect economy and to increase the income at the Committee's disposal, namely that Congregations and

Presbytery and Synod Clerks receiving copies of the Acts of Assembly be charged the full cost of each copy and that the Congregational assessment for Assembly expenses be increased to £10.

II. - Act anent Closure of Assembly.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly ordain that, beginning with 1977 and for a trial period of three years, the Assembly be brought to a close with devotional exercises at the end of the first sederunt on Friday and that there be no closing address.

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

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly accept with regret the resignation of the Principal Clerk as from the close of this Assembly. They instruct the Finance Committee to grant him the retiring allowance appropriate to his years of service in terms of Act IV, 1890. The Assembly appoint Professor C. Graham to be Principal Clerk on the same terms as those obtaining in the case of Principal Cameron, the appointment to date from the close of this Assembly.

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

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 18th May 1976.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly on this 18th day of May 1976, respectfully express our deepest loyalty and most devoted allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and the Throne.

We constantly bear in mind the heavy burden of duty that Your Majesty bears, and the responsibilities that are inseparable from the Throne. This we especially do in the public worship of our people, praying that You may be strengthened with all might according to God's glorious power, long to bear rule over us by the grace of our Sovereign Lord, "by whom kings reign and princes decree justice".

We take this opportunity to express to Your Majesty our profound gratitude for the helpful influence that continues to be exerted by Your Majesty in Your many visits abroad, not only to countries within the British Commonwealth of nations, but also to lands beyond these borders. That these visits do much to strengthen the spirit of goodwill among the various countries thus favoured we are well assured, and we give thanks to Almighty God for His

favour in upholding Your Majesty in the exertions involved. It is our fervent prayer that by God's grace, Your Majesty will be enabled to set such an example of respect to God's moral Law, as shall be a rebuke to the ungodly, and an encouragement to all who love God's precepts, throughout the Nations.

The prolonged strife and bloodshed in Northern Ireland continues to be a matter of prayerful concern with us, as with all truly Christian people. We mourn with the many stricken relatives who have suffered bereavement in the course of these deplorable hostilities, and pray that the Prince of Peace may, in his goodness, restore order and prosperity to that stricken Province, and that Your Majesty's Throne may be established in righteousness.

We entreat the blessing of God upon Your Majesty's Person and Household, and pray that He who "setteth the solitary in families" may sanctify and strengthen the family bond throughout our Land and unite us in His fear and service; for it is of "the people that do know their God" that it is written that "they shall be strong, and do exploits".

We note with special pleasure that Your Majesty intends to visit Your Scottish Capital during the sittings of next year's General Assembly, as part of the programme for the Silver-Jubilee of Your Majesty's reign, and we assure Your Majesty of the felicitations of Your loyal subjects throughout this northern Realm.

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

V. - Act anent Sale of Old Chapel at Evanton.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Kiltearn Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Old Chapel building at Evanton, subject to the consent of the Superior, the proceeds to be applied to congregational purposes, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

VI. - Act anent Sale of Ground at Oban.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Oban Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the 600 square yards of ground below the Free Church manse, the proceeds to be applied to congregational purposes and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

VII. - Act anent Sale of Greenock Church.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Greenock Deacons' Court and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building, subject to any consent which may be required from the Superior, or otherwise, as to a change of use, the proceeds to be meantime lodged with the General Trustees until such time as they can be expended on the provision of a more suitable place of worship, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

VIII. - Act Amending Conditions of Sale of Tobermory Manse.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1976.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Tobermory, Torosay, Ross and Brolas and grant its crave. They amend the 1972 Assembly's finding relating to the use of the proceeds from the sale of the Manse at Tobermory by the deletion of the words "more centrally situated in the Island of Mull".

IX. - Act anent Ministers' National Insurance.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly empower the Finance Law and Advisory Committee to deal with the question of Ministers' National Insurance when the Government enact relevant legislation and if ministers are to be classed as employed for National Insurance purposes the Committee on Sustentation is empowered to increase the stipend by the amount of the employee's proportion of the total National Insurance contribution.

X. - Act appointing Special Commission to examine Administration and Finance.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly appoint a special Commission to collect, with all diligence and speed, factual information about demographic and economic changes taking place, and likely to take place, in communities where our people live, and to assess the effects of such changes on our congregations and on their ability to contribute to Church funds; further, and always in relation to the foregoing to examine minutely the administrative and financial principles and procedures now used by the Church in gathering and distributing its funds, and to judge their adequacy to enable the Church to fulfill its mission in present conditions; and to report to the next General Assembly with such summaries, interpretations and recommendations as the Commission deems necessary.

The General Assembly instruct all Church Courts and Committees to co-operate with the Commission in the fulfillment of its remit.

Edinburgh, 20th May 1976.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to that the following comprise the Commission:-

Dr N. A. R. MacKay, Edinburgh, Convener.
John O. Sutherland, Perth.
Principal W. J. Cameron, Edinburgh.
Professor C. Graham, Edinburgh, Clerk.
D.A. Cameron, Edinburgh.
Rev. Donald Gillies, Lewis.
Rev. D. Macleay, Snizort.
Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald, Glasgow.
Angus Macdonald, C.A., Glasgow.
Dr Ian R. Macdonald, Aberdeen.
Rev. R. MacKay, Golspie.
Rev. A. M. MacLeod, Kinloch.
W. S. Wyllie, Dingwall.
Mr John Munro.

XI. - Act anent Monthly Retiring Collection for Central Fund.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly direct that congregations not operating the weekly inclusive Envelope Scheme shall each month have a retiring collection for the Central Fund, the responsibility for the intimation being that of the Minister and Congregational Treasurer.

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

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly note the resignation of Mr. James Stewart as a Trustee to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.... They appoint in his place Mr. Iain D. Gill, C.A. General Treasurer, Free Church Offices, 15, North Bank Street, Edinburgh.

XIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Linkages.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly approve of the continuance of the Equal Dividend at £1,750 per annum, until such time as funds are available for an upward adjustment in salaries.

The General Assembly approve that the minimum contribution by congregations on the Equal Dividend platform be not less than half the current Equal Dividend, but that in all cases where the main church buildings of two vacant congregations, or a vacant congregation and a settled charge, one or both of the congregations being non self-supporting, are not more than

15 miles apart, the Presbytery shall be required to take all possible steps to bring about linkage.

The General Assembly enact that in future a congregation, not self-supporting, nor suitably situated to become part of a consolidated charge, but promising to contribute annually to the Sustentation Fund an amount not less than half the Equal Dividend current at the time of application, shall be placed on the Equal Dividend platform for a period of three years only, and shall at the end of that time be required to submit a fresh schedule triennially. The Sustentation Fund Committee shall in no circumstances authorise the continuance of any congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform unless it promises a minimum annual contribution of half the amount of the Equal Dividend current when a fresh Schedule is before them. Where a settled Charge hitherto on the Platform fails to qualify for retention in terms of a fresh schedule the Committee shall report the case to the General Assembly, and unless the General Assembly are satisfied that circumstances meriting special consideration exist, they shall ordain that the Minister's salary be at the rate of twice the amount contributed by the congregation in each year that it fails to pay half the amount of the Equal Dividend current when the immediately preceding schedule was submitted to the Committee.

XIV. - Act anent Salaries and Assessments for Resident Lay Agents.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly approve the continuance of the salaries of Resident Lay Agents at £1,050 until such time as adjustment in the Equal Dividend figure is possible.

The General Assembly approve the Assessments on settled charges having the services of a Resident Lay Agent, and also the fixed assessment on vacant charges having Lay Agents, as follows;

Settled Charges; Vacant Charges.

Barvas £350 Flat rate £50

Harris £240

Diurinish £300

Staffin £300

Snizort £300

Grimsay £250

Poolewe £340

XV. - Act anent Relation of Rogart to Equal Dividend Platform.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1976

The General Assembly ordain that the congregation of Rogart be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform, with the proviso that in the event of there being no settlement at the close of the General Assembly, any legislation passed by the Assembly requiring a triennial schedule from all aid-receiving congregations settled after that date, will apply in the case of

Rogart.

XVI. - Act anent Consolidation of Aberfeldy, Glenlyon and Pitlochry

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly unite Aberfeldy, Glenlyon and Pitlochry into a single charge to be known by that name. The General Assembly direct that the Funds formerly held in the name of Glenlyon be applicable to the new united charge so formed.

XVII. - Act anent Consolidation of Portnahaven and Jura.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly unite the Congregations of Portnahaven and Jura as a consolidated charge under one Kirk Session, that the money presently held in behoof of the Congregation in Jura be applicable to the purposes of the joint charge.

XVIII. - Act anent Consolidation of Kilberry and Tarbert.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly unite the Congregations of Kilberry and Tarbert as a consolidated charge under one Kirk Session, the funds held in behoof of Kilberry to be applicable to the purposes of the joint charge.

XIX. - Act anent Consolidation of Kilbride, Lochranza and Lenimore.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly ordain that the Congregations of Kilbride, Lochranza and Lenimore be consolidated into one pastoral charge under one Kirk Session and with two Finance Committees, the consolidated charge to be known as Kilbride and Lochranza Free Church.

They direct that monies held in behoof of each part of the congregation be applicable to the purposes of the joint charge.

The Assembly instruct the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to consider on what basis they may be prepared to place the congregation on Special Arrangements for three years and to report to the October meeting of the Commission of Assembly.

XX. - Act Disjoining Whiting Bay from Kilbride and Consolidating with Shiskine and Slidery.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly.. . disjoin the Congregation of Whiting Bay from the Congregations of Brodick and Corrie, and unite it with the Congregations of Shiskine and Slidderly, the Charge so consolidated to be known as Shiskine, Slidderly and Whiting Bay, all monies presently belonging to Whiting Bay Congregation, or which may subsequently be, deemed to belong to it, consequent upon the sale of Congregational property, to be used for the purpose of the united charge.

XXI. - Act anent Student-Missioner at Aberdeen.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly authorise the Aberdeen Kirk Session, in consultation with the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to appoint a Student-Missioner. The Missioner will work among Free Church students in Aberdeen under the supervision of the Kirk Session and will be paid by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply for the academic year ending in June an amount equal to the annual remuneration of a lay preacher. This arrangement will continue for a three year period; the Congregation of Aberdeen to pay £25 per year to the Committee in respect of this appointment.

XXII. - Act anent Union of Kirk Sessions of Lybster and Bruan with Latheron and Berriedale.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 19th May 1976.

The General Assembly unite the Kirk Session of Lybster and Bruan with the Kirk Session of Latheron and the Kirk Session of Berriedale thus forming one Kirk Session to be known as Lybster, Bruan, Latheron and Berriedale.

XXIII - Act anent interest on Capital Redemption.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly direct that the interest on the Capital Redemption Fund for 1976 be made available to the Committee on Church Extension for revenue.

XXIV. - Act Constituting Thurso and Reay a Church Extension Charge.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly constitute Thurso and Reay a Church Extension Charge from 30th September 1976 on the understanding that the Congregation will contribute a minimum of

£600 for each year of the period during which the Congregation is a Church Extension Charge. They further ordain that Mr John Dunnett, Elder, formerly a member of Reay Kirk Session, be granted a seat on the new Kirk Session of Thurso and Reay.

XXV. - Act appointing Assistant Clerk of Assembly.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Alasdair P. W. Fraser, Minister at Elgin, to the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. His duties shall be generally to assist in the preliminary work connected with the preparation of the business of the Assembly, to take Minutes of the General Assembly and its Commission and such other work as required, all under the direction of the Principal Clerk. His remuneration and conditions of service will be in accordance with current practice, his duties to commence as from the close of the General Assembly of 1976.

XXVI. - Act appointing Foreign Missionaries.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly extend a warm welcome to those who are joining the ranks of their missionaries. To Miss Barbara M. Stone they give assurance of their warm affection and prayerful remembrance as she begins her work with the unglamorous task of learning a new language. The Rev. W. D. Graham with his wife and family and Mr and Mrs Clive Bailey and their daughter they receive cordially, and commend to God's grace as they envisage departure to their different spheres of work. They confirm the appointment of all the new missionaries in the spirit of gratitude to the Lord.

XXVII. - Act anent Agreement with the Free Church in South Africa.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly approve an agreement with the Free Church in South Africa in the following terms:-

Whereas the Free Church of Scotland has for many years engaged in missionary work in South Africa which by the blessing of God has resulted in the turning of people to serve the living and true God . . . and whereas the people so turned to God have been associated in congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in South Africa each congregation having its own Kirk Session and under the pastoral oversight of the Presbytery of Kaffraria, which Presbytery has been an integral Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland with the Foreign Missions Board of the said Church being "in loco Synodi" and whereas the constitution of the said Church being founded upon the Word of God is set forth in the following subordinate standards "The Westminster Confession of Faith" and its associated documents:

Whereas by the blessing of God the Free Church of Scotland in South Africa approaches a condition of maturity in which it is fitting that it be recognised as an independent branch of the Church of Jesus Christ realising progressively the ideal of Government, financial support and Missionary outreach as the responsibility of its own membership:

Whereas it is the expressed desire of the Free Church of Scotland and of the Free Church in South Africa to retain the closest ties of fellowship and co-operation in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Wherefore it is hereby agreed between the Free Church of Scotland on the one part, and the Free Church in South Africa on the other:

I. That by Act of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland the Presbytery of Kaffraria as presently constituted shall be dissolved.

II. That by Act of a representative assembly of the Free Church in South Africa a Presbytery shall be erected to be known as the Presbytery of Kaffraria of the Free Church in South Africa and this Presbytery shall be in association with the Free Church of Scotland, the terms of association being as follows:

(1) Both Churches shall continue to own the Westminster Confession of Faith as their principal standard in subordination to the Word of God, as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

(2) The General Rules of Procedure in the courts of both Churches shall be as set forth in "The Practice of the Free Church of Scotland", it being recognised that each Church is free to adjust these rules in regard to procedures not affecting fundamental principles as best suits its needs.

(3) The Free Church of Scotland shall continue to send missionaries to labour within the bounds of the Free Church in South Africa. These missionaries, whilst remaining Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland shall be seconded to the Free Church in South Africa, and shall be admitted to its courts with voice and vote and shall be subject to the authority of the Presbytery, always with right of access to the Foreign Missions' Board and General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland as provided in paragraph (6) hereunder.

(4) The accommodation and maintenance of missionaries seconded by the Free Church of Scotland shall be the responsibility of that Church. The Free Church of Scotland also undertakes, so far as its resources allow, to aid the Central Fund of the Free Church in South Africa as shall seem necessary and expedient within the period of this agreement.

(5) It shall be the responsibility of the Free Church in South Africa to fix educational standards, arrange appropriate courses and supervise the training of candidates for its ministry, it being understood that so long as assistance is given by the Free Church of Scotland either directly by bursary or grant, or indirectly through the Central Fund of the African Church, the Foreign Missions' Board of the Free Church of Scotland will be consulted in the framing of the requisite regulations.

(6) The Presbytery of Kaffraria of the Free Church in South Africa, shall continue to recognise the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board of the Free Church of Scotland as "in loco Synodi" and the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland as the court of ultimate appeal. This agreement shall be reviewed by both Churches on the expiry of five years.

The General Assembly authorise the Chairman and Secretary of the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board to sign the relevant documents on behalf of the Free Church of Scotland and to convey their cordial greetings to their daughter Church on this auspicious occasion. They ordain that the agreement shall be deemed effective from the date of signature of the documents notice of which shall be given to the October Commission of Assembly.

XXVIII. - Act Dissolving Presbytery of Kaffraria.

(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly dissolve the present Presbytery of Kaffraria with effect from the date of the signing of the Agreement referred to above. They approve the secondment of missionaries from the Free Church of Scotland to the Free Church in South Africa to have voice and vote in the Presbytery (or Presbyteries) of that Church in terms of the association recorded in the agreement. They direct that missionaries to South Africa being ministers or elders of the Free Church of Scotland shall be commissioned to the General Assembly when on furlough in Scotland in terms of paragraph 24 of the "General Rules for Missions, and the Guidance of Missionaries from Scotland, of the Free Church of Scotland".

XXIX. - Act appointing Co-ordinator General and Director of Administration in Colegio San Andres.

(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1976.

The General Assembly approve the Board's action in appointing Dr A. J. F. Fraser to succeed the Rev. W. M. MacKay as their effective head of school. They recognise that preparation for this appointment involves Dr Fraser in an early furlough which will be largely devoted to academic labours.

XXX. - Act anent Finance Committees.

(No. 30 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly noting that Finance Committees exist in many congregations without the benefit of formal legislative recognition enact that the following regulations shall apply to the appointment and duties of Finance Committees:

(1) In ordinary circumstances a congregational finance committee shall be appointed only in the absence of a sufficient number of suitably qualified male members whose names are on

the congregational roll and who are willing to accept office as deacons after being duly elected by the congregation.

(2) The necessity for appointing a finance committee and the number of its members should be determined by the Kirk Session in the same manner as they decide upon the appointment of office-bearers.

(3) Election should be by the congregation, preferably annually, on the recommendation of the Kirk Session.

(4) The Finance Committee shall undertake to discharge all the duties normally discharged by a Deacons' Court, in whose place they shall be called upon to express formally their opinion on all matters affecting the financial obligations of the congregation, or the oversight of congregational property, requiring decisions by the General Assembly, its Commission or a Court of the Church. They shall, "mutatis mutandis" observe the general rules of procedure applicable to a Deacons' Court and enjoy the same immunity as that Court provided they observe the laws of the Church. In particular they appoint a Clerk and minutes of all meetings shall be kept and engrossed in a permanent record when approved, and the record shall be submitted annually along with the Treasurer's books to the Presbytery for examination.

(5) When the Kirk Session is of opinion that altered circumstances admit of an adequate number of suitably qualified male members whose names are on the congregational communion roll being elected to form a deacons' court, and that the time has come when this might be harmoniously accomplished, they shall proceed accordingly in terms of the regulations, it being understood that the Finance Committee's term of office shall end on the date of the first meeting of the newly elected Deacons' Court.

XXXI. - Act anent Certificates for Elder Commissioners.

(No. 31 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly ordain that a sessional certificate shall continue to be required in respect of an elder appointed a commissioner to the General Assembly, but they instruct that in the event of an interim Moderator failing to convene a meeting of Kirk Session timeously it shall be competent for a quorum of members of Presbytery, being members of Assembly, to convene by permission of the Assembly and grant the necessary certificate so as to prevent a duly elected commissioner being deprived of his seat.

XXXII. - Act Clarifying Existing Practice.

(No. 32 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly direct that the Communion Roll being an essential record for the purposes of the election of office-bearers and the election and calling of a minister shall be submitted annually to the Presbytery by all congregations, for examination.

The General Assembly recognise that only Congregational Meetings called for the purpose of ecclesiastical acts require the authority of a Kirk Session or a superior court, and that the annual Congregational Meeting does not belong to this category.

The General Assembly approve that in the case of ordinary meetings of Presbytery any form of citation other than that apud acta be in the discretion of the Court.

XXXIII. - Act anent Procedure in Consolidation of Congregations.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly recognise that when consolidation of congregations is proposed the regular procedure is to consult all the Kirk Sessions and Deacons' Courts, or Finance Committees concerned, but they authorise that in cases where courts comprising members of the local congregation do not exist and the Presbytery visits and consults with the congregation(s) concerned, the absence of any extract minute which would normally be required shall be explained in the extract minute of Presbytery, the Assembly to decide whether or not the documents before them may be accepted as adequate, apart from the missing extract(s).

XXXIV. - Act anent Procedure in Prosecution of Translations.

(No. 34 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly, having regard to the importance of procuring harmony and obviating difficulties connected with the calling of a minister, instruct that the procedures presently applicable be retained, with the exception that the appointment of one commissioner to prosecute should be deemed sufficient, or where the calling congregation is prepared to forego the right of appeal, the transmission of written reasons be regarded as sufficient by the Presbytery at whose bar the call is to be prosecuted, this without prejudice to the right of other interested parties to be represented.

XXXV. - Act anent Permitted Hour of Election of Assembly Commissioners.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly approve that the requirement regarding hours of meeting for the election of commissioners to the Assembly be no longer obligatory.

XXXVI. - Act anent Rescinding Decisions.

(No. 36 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly enact that there be added to the rule prohibiting a Presbytery from

reversing or rescinding any of its decisions (Practice 1964, page 44, 2.1) the following:

“This regulation is not strictly applicable to non-judicial proceedings, but in the interests of the orderly conduct of business, recessory proceedings should be used with caution and only after due discussion following on notice of motion. Before adopting a motion to revise a previous decision the Presbytery should be satisfied of the necessity of this action:-

“(a) by reference to new evidence affecting the matter and/or

“(b) by demonstration that the finding minuted has consequences, at the time unforeseen, prejudicial to good order, equity or the interests of the Court”.

XXXVII.-Act anent Medical Examination of Theological Students.

(No. 37 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

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

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

(b) The Committee reserves its right to require a further examination at any stage.

XXXVIII. - Act Re-appointing Special Committee on Revision of the Psalter.

(No. 38 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly are pleased to learn of the work accomplished by the Special Committee on the Revision of the Psalter and that the new edition which they have prepared will shortly be available. They thank the Committee and particularly their Convener for the diligent application of their musical knowledge to the compilation of a worthy edition of the Psalter. The General Assembly re-appoint the Special Committee consisting of the Convener and Vice-Convener of the Psalmody Committee, Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, Rev. H. G. Mackay, Mr D. G. Mackay and Mr D. Jack, Rev. A. P. W. Fraser to continue as Convener. They extend the remit of the Special Committee until such time as the work on the new version be completed.

XXXIX. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 39 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Donald Lamont, named by the Moderator :- To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their

quorum which is declared to be any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto; or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XL. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 40 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1976.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 24th day of May 1977, at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

I. - Act Consolidating Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside.

Edinburgh, 7th October 1975.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inveraray and grant its crave.

They consolidate the Congregations of Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside into a single Pastoral Charge, with two Kirk Sessions and two Finance Committees, the minister to be resident at Lochgilphead, and the consolidation to become operative on the retiral of Rev. Duncan MacLachlan from Lochfyneside.

II. - Act anent Sale of Manse at Whiting Bay.

Edinburgh, 7th October 1975.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Whiting Bay Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Free Church Manse at Whiting Bay, subject to the prohibitions mentioned in the Feu Disposition, namely that it be not used for any purpose likely to cause a nuisance to neighbouring proprietors, nor as a hotel, public house or club for the consumption of alcoholic liquors, the proceeds of the sale to be applied for the payment of congregational debt and the residue to be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation; the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

III. - Act anent Presbyterial Liaison Committees.

Edinburgh, 7th October 1975.

The Commission of Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Welfare of Youth Committee: they direct that Presbyteries form committees of liaison with the regional authorities: such committees to comprise two members from each Presbytery - preferably the Moderator and Clerk, and the Presbytery whose bounds include the seat of the Regional Authority shall convene the liaison Committee.

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

MAY MCMLXXVII (1977)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Sales of Property.

(No.1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Lochfyneside congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Minard, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Coll congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse on the island of Coll subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior: the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied to the purchase or erection of a more suitable residence involving, if need be, and the necessary permission being obtained, the altering of the Church building: the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Oban congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church hall at 19/21 Stevenson Street, Oban, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees until such time as they can be expended on the provision of a more suitable building and the income meantime to be utilised for congregational purposes: the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the petition from the Whiting Bay congregation (part of the consolidated charge of Shiskine, Slidery and Whiting Bay) and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building at Whiting Bay, the proceeds to be invested with the General Trustees, and the interest made available for the purposes of the consolidated charge in terms of Act XX (Class II) 1976: the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Cawdor and Croy and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and Mission Hall at Cawdor and the land adjoining (and, at the discretion of the congregation, also the schoolhouse) subject to any necessary consent of the Superior, the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and the income to be applied to the Sustentation Fund of the congregation: the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Logie Easter congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church building at Balnagown, Logie Easter, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied as required to the repair of the Church at Kilmuir Easter, the income meantime to be utilised for congregational purposes.

II. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Kilmallie and Arisaig Deacons' Court and grant its crave. They authorise that when the transaction in regard to the sale of the Church site at Corpach has been completed one half of the total net sum realised be paid to the congregation for fabric maintenance.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Edderton and Tain and grant its crave. They authorise the release of the monies held for behoof of Edderton (£214.00) to be applied to congregational purposes.

III. - Act appointing Rev. Professor C. Graham a General Trustee.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly appoint a Rev. Professor Clement Graham, Principal Clerk of Assembly, a General Trustee.

IV. - Act Uniting Kirk Sessions and Finance Committees of Strathpeffer and Garve.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They unite the Kirk Session of Garve with the Kirk Session of Strathpeffer, to form the Kirk Session of Strathpeffer and Garve; they unite the Finance Committee of Garve with the Finance Committee of Strathpeffer, to form the Finance Committee of Strathpeffer and Garve; they authorise the continuance of the grant given to the minister of Strathpeffer and Garve in respect of services held in Garve.

V. - Act appointing General Assessor to Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Presbytery of Caithness and grant its crave. They re-appoint Rev. W Kenneth Stone, B.A., Minister at Helmsdale, a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Caithness.

VI. - Act Uniting Kirk Sessions of Watten and Bower

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Kirk Sessions of Watten and Bower and grant its crave. The Assembly unite the Kirk Session of Bower with the Kirk Session of Watten, the united Kirk Sessions to be known as the Kirk Session of Watten and Bower.

VII. - Act appointing General Assessor to Presbytery of Perth.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They re-appoint Rev. John Morrison, Senior Minister of Strath, a General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Perth.

VIII. - Act altering date of Northern Synod.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Northern Synod and grant its crave. They appoint the third Wednesday of April each year to be the date of meeting of the Northern Synod.

IX. - Act anent Responsibilities of Editors.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly declare that it is the responsibility of the Editor of the Monthly Record to prepare a report of the proceedings of the General Assembly for publication in The Monthly Record; that this report be issued in the July-August edition of The Monthly Record; and that the Welfare of Youth Committee be responsible for the provision of competent secretarial assistance for this work.

The General Assembly require that ordinarily, resignation from the editorship of either The Monthly Record or The Instructor be submitted in writing to the Welfare of Youth Committee six calendar months prior to the next ensuing meeting of the General Assembly.

X. - Act anent Presbyterial Oversight of Vacancies.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly being concerned for the well-being of vacant congregations, instruct Presbyteries to confer with congregations within their bounds, which having been vacant for

two years or longer have taken no action to secure a settlement. Such conference should encourage the congregation to proceed to an election as soon as this can be harmoniously achieved.

XI. - Act amending Act XXX (Class II) 1976 anent Finance Committees.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1977.

The General Assembly expand Act XXX (Class II) 1976 re Finance Committees by the inclusion of the following as paragraph (6) of section 2.

(6) “The General Assembly expressly state that no section of the foregoing legislation confers the status of office-bearer on members of Finance Committees. These Committees are recognised only as temporary expedients which should be replaced in terms of the preceding paragraph: as temporary expedients they do not rank as Church Courts.”

XII. - Act re Current Economic Patterns and Categories of Congregations.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly take note of the changes in demographic and economic patterns identified by the Commission and in the light of them they ordain as follows:

I. That no group, however small, shall be disregarded as a case for encouragement and subsidisation until its strategic potential has been very carefully assessed.

II. That the Committee on Sustentation shall keep linkages, achieved or possible, under constant review and be ready to propose new measures for the optimum use of available resources.

III. That, for the next few years, the Church Extension effort of the Church shall be mainly directed to internal expansion, utilising existing bases, ministries and buildings in an effort to secure the direct involvement in the Church of those presently listed as “non-supporting adherents” as also newcomers to areas of Free Church commitment.

IV. That the Welfare of Youth Committee shall undertake a thorough study of the whole question of the movements of Church people, especially children and adolescents and that they shall propose measures for (a) making sure that the Church does not lose sight of them as they move from one place to another; (b) for arousing and retaining their interest in and loyalty to the Free Church.

In this task the Committee are to have regard to the statistical errors which arise when communicant members fail to obtain disjunction certificates on leaving their home congregations. In order to maintain the emphasis upon the Church’s total task referred to earlier, and so as to relate each congregation’s contribution to that total, the General Assembly recognise the following descriptive categories or groups :

Group I. "Aid-giving" congregations (i.e., those contributing stipends and full share, or more of other expenditure).

Group II. "Stipend-plus" congregations (i.e., those contributing the equivalent of full stipend but not a full share of other expenditure).

Group III. "Stipend-minus" congregations (not contributing equivalent of full equal dividend and therefore heavily aid-receiving).

Group IV. Congregations not included in the fore-going groups.

The General Assembly, bearing in mind the possibility of a changing ratio between stipends and other expenditure direct the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee as follows:

Early each year the next expenditure of the previous year (i.e., expenditure met, or which should be met out of congregational remittances) be divided by the number of sanctioned charges existing at the end of the previous year and the resulting quotient shall be regarded as the threshold for separating Group I from Group II, and this figure will be confirmed by the next ensuing General Assembly.

The Committee shall, when negotiating targets, inform congregations as to the expected level of the next quotient so as to stimulate effort to keep within the group already attained or to rise above it.

XIII. - Act anent Minimum Stipend.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977

The General Assembly recognising that the maintenance of the ministry and of Gospel ordinances in established charges of the Church is to be regarded as a primordial responsibility for which adequate provision must be made, direct as follows:-

A minimum stipend shall be secured for ministers in accordance with the cost of living, and in order to have an objective criterion for fixing the minimum, and for obviating both long periods of hardship for ministers and sporadic dislocating adjustments of the Equal Dividend, stipends shall be increased annually from an agreed base until they reach the level of 75 per cent. of the average annual wage by 1982 at the latest. The programming of those increases shall be the concern of the Committee on Sustentation in presenting their annual estimates to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

XIV. - Act anent Re-grouping of Funds.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly with a view to discontinuing the Central Fund repeal Act II (Class II) 1971 with its amending finding of 1975 (F.L.A. Deliverance) with effect from a date to be fixed by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and reported to a Commission of Assembly or next Assembly. They ordain that from that date the Funds of the Church shall be

grouped under three main headings, viz.: Sustentation (inclusive of supply and retirement provision), Foreign Missions and General, on a provisional basis, it being understood that in the case of funds in surplus the flexibility found so helpful in the operation of the Central Fund, shall be, as far as practicable retained so that no enterprise of the Church shall be in deficit where this can be avoided. They direct the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee when negotiating targets to give guidance, based on estimated expenditure, to Deacons' Courts as to the respective proportions of income required by the three Funds.

The General Assembly further ordain that as a stimulus to intelligent giving to the Funds now being instituted quarterly statements, showing cumulative income in relation to the year's commitments, shall be given in the Monthly Record.

XV. - Act anent Negotiation of Targets.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly approve the following provisional timetable and procedure for negotiating targets with congregations:-

September - first expenditure estimates to be prepared.

October - first expenditure estimates to be finalised by Committees.

November - January target figures to be negotiated with congregations.

February - (a) target figures to be finalised;
(b) expenditure estimates to be up-dated.

March - (c) formal approval of final figures by Committees.

Communications to Deacons' Courts in October (giving provisional figures) and in March (giving final figures) will indicate the percentage distribution required by the three funds and will notify that unallocated givings will be lodged in the General Fund to be available, if required by the other two Funds.

XVI. - Act anent Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and General Control of Revenue and Expenditure.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly ordain that, under the Assembly and without prejudice to powers vested in the General Trustees, the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall be entrusted with the general control of revenue and expenditure, and with the approval of the total annual outlays of other Committees but without encroachment on the autonomy of these Committees in the discharge of their remits. And the General Assembly remind all Committees of their responsibility so to monitor their expenditure as to avoid bringing the Church into debt, and

to avoid commitments beyond those already approved without the knowledge and consent of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

XVII. - Act anent Standing Committees and Executives.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly, in order to facilitate the work of Standing Committees ordain as follows:-

(i) Standing Committees shall be relieved, whenever possible, of responsibility for dealing with minor routine matters and shall concern themselves mainly with policy matters.

(ii) Urgent matters that arise between Committee meetings, provided they be of a routine nature and within the scope permitted by a Committee's policy and by Acts of Assembly, may be dealt with by the Convener, in consultation with the Vice-Convener; that action taken shall be reported to the Committee but not reviewed by it unless fresh evidence is adduced.

(iii) In the event of a situation developing which does not admit of the above procedure being adopted, the Convener shall call the Executive who are empowered to take such action as may be required to prevent the Church or persons concerned suffering damage in so far as they may prevent it until the Committee can consider the matter in the light of the Executive's report.

(iv) That the Convener and Clerk and/or the Executive, if called at the Convener's discretion prior to an ordinary meeting of the Committee, shall deal with routine matters on the agenda for the Committee and shall advise the Committee, as to their decision regarding the disposal of these matters, and unless for special reason the time of the Committee shall not be taken up with discussion of these matters. This discretionary power shall not apply to the procedures for the interviewing of applicants unless the interviewing has been specially delegated by the Parent Committee at a previous meeting.

(v) That delegated powers of the kind recommended above should expressly state limits on expenditure.

XVII. - Act re-appointing Special Commission.

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly re-appoint the Commission for one year to complete its remit, inclusive of a study of the Church's Schemes.

XIX. - Act anent Pensions for Office and Eventide Home Staff.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly ordain that new pension arrangements be introduced for employees in the Offices of the Free Church and in the Church's Eventide Homes in the terms listed below.

(a) Applicability.

These regulations shall apply to all members of the permanent staff of the Offices of the Church and in the Church's Eventide Homes and to such other permanent employees of the Church of a similar nature as may be directed by the General Assembly.

(b) Retiring Age.

Persons to whom these regulations apply shall retire at the end of the month in which they attain the age of 65 years if male, or 60 years if female.

(c) Amount of Pension.

Subject to the abatement mentioned in paragraph (d), on retirement after attaining the retiring age a person to whom these regulations apply and who has completed at least 15 years qualifying service shall be entitled to a yearly pension during life equal to 1/80th of the average yearly salary during the 3 years immediately prior to the date of retirement, in respect of each completed year of qualifying service, but with a maximum of 40/80ths of such average salary.

(d) Abatement/or State Pension.

The amount of the pension provided under paragraph (c) shall be abated by the amount of the additional part of the State pension attributable to the contributions made by the Church for the purpose of that additional part of the State pension during the employee's period of qualifying service.

(e) Disability Pension.

In the event of a person to whom these regulations apply and who has completed at least 15 years qualifying service becoming unfit, before attaining the retiring age, for further service on account of physical or mental disability, a disability pension may be paid to him or her at the discretion of the Church whose decision shall be final. Such pension, which is alternative to any other benefit receivable under these regulations, shall be equal to 1/80th of final annual salary while in the service of the Church in respect of each completed year of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 40/80ths and subject also to the abatement mentioned in paragraph (d) where such additional part of the State pension is payable. A person in receipt of a disability pension may be required by the Church to furnish a certificate from a medical practitioner nominated by the Church as to his or her state of health. If the Church is not satisfied as to the person's continuing unfitness for service, the Church may direct that the disability pension shall cease.

(f) Preservation of Pension Rights.

In the event of a person to whom these regulations apply and who has completed at least 15 years qualifying service leaving the service of the Church otherwise than by retirement on pension, he or she shall be entitled on attaining the retiring age specified in paragraph (b) to a yearly pension during life equal to 1/80th of final annual salary while in the service of the Church in respect of each completed year of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 40/80ths and subject also to the abatement mentioned in paragraph (d).

(g) Qualifying Service.

(i) For the purposes of these regulations “qualifying service” means actual service with the Church as a full-time, permanent, salaried member of staff.

(ii) In the calculation of years of qualifying service for the purpose of paying a pension under paragraphs (c), (e) and (f) the Church may at its complete discretion credit additional years of service to a person to whom these regulations apply but in no case shall such a person be credited with more than 40 years service in all.

(h) Variation of these Regulations.

Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations it shall be competent for the Church and any person to whom these regulations apply to vary these regulations as they affect that person, by mutual agreement.

(j) Powers of Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

(i) The powers, duties and obligations, discretionary or otherwise, of the Church under these regulations shall be carried out and exercised by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

(ii) The Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall each year consider the amount of pensions being paid under these regulations or under Act IV of 1890 and shall have power to increase them if considered advisable.

(k) Pensions not Assignable.

All pensions payable in terms of these regulations shall be strictly alimentary and incapable of being assigned or attached for debt.

The General Assembly direct that Act IV 1890 shall cease to apply in respect of persons to whom the new regulations above enacted apply.

XX. - Act anent Housing for Professors.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly authorise that on the occasion of a full time teaching appointment to the Free Church College the choice of the following alternatives is available to appointees:

(a) The General Trustees are prepared to consider applications for limited finance, depending on the applicant’s circumstances, for house purchase purposes, in the event of such finance being unobtainable from other sources.

(b) (i) The General Trustees shall provide, as soon as practicable, accommodation for the appointee, on his written request; the suitability of such accommodation shall be determined by the General Trustees.

(ii) The matter of rent shall be remitted to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee in the light of the amendment moved, viz.:-

The appointee shall pay a just and fair rent, bearing such relation to that determined by the

Government Rent Officer as his salary bears to that paid to people in comparable professional employment.

Provisional arrangements will be made, if necessary, in the interval, and the Committee will report to next General Assembly.

(iii) To the extent that the rent paid by the appointee is less than the notional interest that would otherwise be obtainable on whichever is the greater of, (a) the total sum invested by the General Trustees in the property at the date of occupancy or (b) the sum represented by the capital value of the property as revalued every third year, the deficiency shall be charged to the College Account.

(iv) The appointee shall accept the house from the General Trustees on lease (the General Trustees to be responsible for keeping the property wind and water tight) and agree to vacate it on termination of appointment or as otherwise agreed.

The General Assembly welcome the help given by the Disaster and Relief Fund in case of dire distress and need and commend this Fund to the generosity of the Church.

The General Assembly re-appoint Messrs Whinney, Murray & Co., C.A., as Auditors of the Accounts of the General Treasurer for the ensuing year.

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

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

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

XXII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £1,950 per annum to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1976, exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve of the policy of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend in 1977 to £2,150. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

XXIII. - Act anent Stipend of Minister at London.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly ordain that the minister at London continue to be paid in excess of the

Equal Dividend half its amount, the whole sum being paid from the Sustentation Fund, and not, as previously, partly from the income of other Committees.

XXIV. - Act anent Responsibility for Congregational Schedules.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly approve the recommendation that responsibility for congregational Schedules be transferred from the Committee on Sustentation to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

XXV. - Act anent Allowances for Resigned Ministers.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly enact that a minister, whose resignation, on the ground of ill-health or old age, has been accepted by the Presbytery, or the appropriate oversight Committee, in terms of Practice (1964) pp. 36-37, and who is otherwise qualified in terms of the regulations, shall, on the Committee's receipt of an adequate extract minute from the Presbytery, or Oversight Committee, be awarded by the Committee a grant appropriate to his years of service, or his special circumstances, the Committee to report to the next General Assembly the terms of his admission to the Register of beneficiaries of the Fund.

XXVI. - Act anent Arrangements for Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Kennoway.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly approve the continuance of the present arrangements governing the union of Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Kennoway, and ordain that the situation be again reviewed at the end of three years.

XXVII. - Act anent Home Mission Allocation.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly approve the allocation of the sum of £730 for Home Mission grants for the coming year.

XXVIII. - Act reconstituting Committee of Highways and Byways Mission.

(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1977.

The General Assembly reconstitute the Committee of the Highways and Byways Mission a

sub-committee of the Committee on Extension and Maintenance to consist of the Conveners of the Committee on Extension and Maintenance and the Committee on Sustentation and Supply ex officiis (the former to be Convener) with two Ministers and four other persons, being Office-bearers, Divinity Students or Communicant Members of the Free Church known to be interested in and to have gifts suited to the work of evangelism, to be co-opted by the Committee on Extension and Maintenance, the Highways and Byways Committee to have its own Secretary and to maintain separate minutes. Having regard to the historical background to the foundation and on-going work of the Highways and Byways Mission, the General Assembly appoint the following persons honorary members of the Mission and declare them eligible to serve either as ex officio or as co-opted members if so required :-

Principal W. J. Cameron,
Rev. Hector Cameron,
Rev. Donald Lamont,
Rev. Murdo A. MacLeod,
Rev. Neil A. MacLeod,
Rev. Hugh B. Sutherland
Mr Donald Jack.

XXIX. - Act appointing Editor of Monthly Record.
(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1977.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Donald MacLeod, M.A., Editor of the Monthly Record, in the first instance for seven years.

XXX. - Act appointing Missionary for Cajamarca Bookshop.
(No. 30 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1977.

The General Assembly are glad to learn of the progress of the Cajamarca Bookshop and approve the Board's action in appointing a new missionary for the specific work of the bookshop. They hope that all the provisions associated with finalising the appointment of Mr. Charles Douglas will soon be fulfilled, and they greet Mr and Mrs Douglas with affection and hope.

XXXI. - Act appointing Trustees' Nominees in Peru.
(No. 31 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1977.

The General Assembly approve the appointment of Dr A. J. F. Fraser and Rev. A. M. Fraser as Trustees' Nominees to succeed Rev. W. M. MacKay and Rev. G. T. Thomson - the appointment to be effective from 1st August 1977 and to be held in the first instance jointly with the present Trustees' Nominees until the expiry of their terms of duty. The Law Agents are authorised to draw up the required Power of Attorney for the new Trustees' Nominees.

XXXII. - Act anent Release of Rev. D. S. Fraser from his present Charge.

(No. 32 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1977.

The General Assembly authorise the Presbytery of Lorn at the request of the Foreign Mission Board to release Rev. David Fraser from his present charge, and they empower the Board to arrange for his induction by a Presbytery of their choice.

XXXIII. - Act amending Act VII (Class II) 1961 anent Membership of Foreign Missions Board.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly amend Act VII (Class II) 1961 with effect from the Assembly of 1978 by the deletion of the last sentence of the first paragraph. The last sentence will now read:-

“Members retiring after two terms of service (i.e. ordinarily 8 years) shall not be eligible for re-appointment until after one year”.

XXXIV. - Act anent Exit Examinations.

(No. 34 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly amend Act VIII (Class II) 1961 by adding the following words to paragraph 11 of said Act:-

Latin, German and Ancient History shall no longer be included in the subjects examined in Exit Examinations.

XXXV. - Act anent Procedure in making Appointments to College.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly amend Act XV (Class II) 1974 by adding:-

When the returns of Presbyteries and Synods relative to College appointments have been collated by the Clerk of the Training of the Ministry Committee, those whose names are listed shall be informed of the data relevant to them.

XXXVI. - Act appointing Principal of Free Church College.

(No. 36 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Professor James Mackintosh, M.B.E., M.A., B.D., M.Ed., Principal of the Free Church College in succession to Principal W. J. Cameron, in terms of Act XV, Class II, 1966. They direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his admission on a date not earlier than 1st October 1977.

XXXVII. - Act appointing Professor of Greek and New Testament Exegesis and Literature.

(No. 37 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. A. C. Boyd, M.A., B.D., to be Professor of Greek and New Testament Literature in accordance with existing legislation. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps to induct him to the Chair on a date not earlier than 1st October 1977.

XXXVIII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 38 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. D. Lamont named by the Moderator: To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in The Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust

Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXXIX. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 39 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 27th May 1977.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 23rd May 1978 at 9.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Act placing Kilbride and Lochranza on Special Arrangements.

Edinburgh, 5th October 1977.

The Commission of Assembly receive and adopt the report. They ordain that the Congregation of Kilbride and Lochranza, having promised an annual contribution of £600 to the Sustentation Fund, be placed on Special Arrangements for a period of three years.

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20. Act anent Pension Scheme for Ministers, Professors and Lay Preachers of the Free Church of Scotland
21. Act anent National Insurance in respect of Ministers’ Supplements
22. Act anent Provision of Manse and Ownership of Church at Dumfries
23. Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries
24. Act anent Revised Scale of Preaching Fees
25. Act appointing Trustees to Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund
26. Act anent List of Accredited Preachers
27. Act anent Definitions for Inclusion in “ The Practice “
28. Act anent Statement of Principle in regard to Discipline
29. Act anent Quinquennial Visitation
30. Act anent Committee and Synod Meetings
31. Act anent Synod Representatives on Eventide Home Committee
32. Act anent Theological Syllabus and Exit Examinations
33. Act anent Recognition of Candidates for the Ministry
34. Act appointing Principal of Free Church College
35. Act appointing Professor of Systematic Theology in Free Church College
36. Act anent Agreement with Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru
37. Act appointing Foreign Missionaries
38. Act anent Provision of Manse at East Kilbride
39. Act appointing Commission of Assembly
40. Act appointing Next General Assembly

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

1. Act anent Sale of Aberdeen Church
2. Act anent Consolidation of Wick and Keiss Congregations
3. Act anent Sale of Manse and “Cliff Cottage “ at Tarbat

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

MAY MCMLXXVIII (1978)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE.

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

I. - Act anent Congregational Assessments and Distribution of “Acts of Assembly”

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

The General Assembly approve the Committee’s proposals for securing wider distribution of “The Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly “. They repeal Act I (Class 2) 1976 and authorise the distribution of copies of “The Acts” to Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries and Synods. They direct that the Assembly Assessment on all Congregations be at the rate of £12.

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

(No.1 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

TO THE QUEEN’S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

May it please your Majesty,

We, your Majesty’s loyal subjects, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly on the 23rd day of May 1978, pledge anew unswerving allegiance to your Majesty’s Person and Throne.

Last year was an occasion for rejoicing when your Majesty celebrated your semi-jubilee as the Sovereign of our Realm. Twenty-five years is a considerable period of time and during these years many changes have occurred in our complex society. Critical problems have emerged, particularly of a moral and economic nature, affecting the well-being of our nation in one way or another. But nevertheless we have to affirm God’s goodness in granting to our people throughout these years a large measure of peace and stability and a degree of affluence hitherto unknown.

Throughout these years the stable family life of your Majesty’s Home has set before your subjects an excellent example. And we are thankful for your Majesty’s commitment to, and concurrence in, a culture and way of life based upon a Christian foundation.

Your semi-jubilee celebrations allowed us to express our gratitude for these years of your Majesty's gracious reign. As you travelled throughout our nation you were left in no doubt as to the esteem and affection in which your Majesty's Person is held by all your loyal subjects. A year ago when you visited Scotland the welcome given to you was spontaneous as it was sincere and it afforded us in the Free Church of Scotland a renewed pleasure when your Majesty and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited our Assembly and we were graciously privileged to be addressed by your Majesty.

Through press and television coverage we followed with prayerful interest your extensive semi-jubilee tour which gave genuine pleasure to your loyal subjects throughout the Commonwealth. We praise God for preserving you and giving you needed grace and strength to accomplish the many demanding duties that were required of you during your visits both at home and abroad when not infrequently you were exposed to danger in one form or another. We rejoice too that His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, was able to accompany you and provide your Majesty with his valuable support in the course of these happy but strenuous celebrations.

We recognise the ever increasing measure of responsibility assumed by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and we admire the competent manner in which he discharges his onerous duties.

With your Majesty's subjects we rejoiced at the birth of a son to Her Royal Highness Princess Anne and her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, an event that undoubtedly brought unqualified joy to your Majesty's Royal House. We express our prayerful good wishes for the well-being and future happiness of Master Peter Mark Anthony Phillips.

We pray that the Divine Blessing of Him by whom Kings reign and Princes decree justice may rest upon your Majesty's Person and Royal Family, and that your Royal House may lead our nation in righteousness and due observance of God's Commandments.

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

III. - Act anent Sales of Property

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Thunder Bay Congregation and grant its crave as follows:-

They authorise the sale of the properties in whole or in part provided (i) the local trustees have the agreement thereto of the assessor elders of the congregation; and (ii) the transaction is carried through by competent Attorneys or Solicitors. The proceeds of sale shall be invested by the Attorneys primarily for behoof of the congregation of Thunder Bay - the income to be available to the congregation, whom failing, to the Overseas Missions' Board of the Church for behoof of overseas work, and the capital to be drawn upon only by authority of the Overseas' Board in consultation with the Synod of North America.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kilbride and Lochranza and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Lochranza, the proceeds to be utilised for the repair of the congregation's house in Corrie, subject to such consents as may be necessary, and any surplus to be invested with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation. The whole transaction is to be carried through by the Church's Law agents.

IV. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies.

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Greenock Congregation, and grant its crave. They direct that, when the sum acquired from the sale of the Church is lodged with the General Trustees, the sum of £750 be made available to the congregation to extinguish the debt on the manse.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Tarbat Congregation and grant it crave. They authorise that, if necessary, the proceeds from the sale of "Cliff Cottage" be used for the repair of the existing Manse.

V. - Act appointing General Assessor to Presbytery of Caithness.

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They re-appoint Rev. W. K. Stone, B.A., a General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Caithness.

VI. - Act anent Statutory Date of Meeting of Synod of Moray and Ross.

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

The General Assembly ordain that the Synod of Moray and Ross meet on Tuesday the 27th day of March 1979, at 11 o'clock forenoon, in Dingwall Free Church, and that, thereafter, the Synod meet on the last Tuesday of March annually, wherever within its bounds the Synod may resolve.

VII. - Act anent Advisory Editorial Sub-Committee to the Monthly Record

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978

The General Assembly appoint the Executive of the Welfare of Youth Committee an Advisory Editorial Sub-Committee to the Monthly Record.

VIII. - Act appointing Editor of The Instructor to Special Committee on Education.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1978.

The General Assembly appoint the Editor of The Instructor a member of the Special Committee on Education.

IX. - Act appointing Committee to review Legislation concerning the General Trustees.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly appoint an ad hoc Committee of not more than five members to review all existing legislation concerning the General Trustees of the Church, to consult with the Church's law agent and any others competent to advise, and to propose to next General Assembly legislation which will define the powers and responsibilities of the General Trustees and clarify their relationship with the General Trustees' Nominees Company, with the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and with any other committees as necessary.

Edinburgh, 26th May 1978.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to that the Special Committee to review legislation concerning the General Trustees should be: -

Rev. Principal-Emeritus W. J. Cameron, Convener

Rev. A. P. W. Fraser, Clerk.

Mr D. A. Cameron.

Dr N. A. R. Mackay.

Mr J. O. Sutherland.

X. - Act anent Responsibility for Assembly Hall.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly recognise that the Assembly Arrangements Committee have hitherto been responsible with the Deacons' Court of St Columba's congregation for the care and maintenance of the Assembly Hall in terms of Act II (Class 2) 1970 and preceding legislation. They continue these arrangements so far as they relate to internal appointments and decorations and the routine care of the building and the action to be taken in regard to emergencies. In regard to more general supervision and structural maintenance the General Assembly now place that responsibility upon the General Trustees and direct them in liaison with the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to confer with the Deacons' Court of St Columba's congregation as to the possibility of obtaining periodically an architect's report on the Assembly Hall. At the same time a report on the Mound buildings should also be obtained.

XI. - Act anent Transference of Specified Funds and Discontinuance of “Schemes of the Church”.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May, 1978.

The General Assembly direct that the Training of the Ministry and the College Accounts be transferred from the General Fund to Class I of the Funds but be shown separately from the Sustentation Fund.

The General Assembly also direct that the Church Extension Fund be transferred to Class (II), to be shown with, but separately from Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions.

The General Assembly discontinue reference to “Schemes of the Church” and direct attention to the various departments of the Church’s work and witness.

XII. - Act anent Ministers’ Expenses and Supplements

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978

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

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

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

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

XIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Linkages

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly ordain that in future congregations in Groups III and IV, upon becoming vacant, shall not be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform except upon the following considerations and terms:

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

Committee.

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

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

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

- (a) The geographical position of the congregation; and
- (b) The potential for growth perceived to exist.

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

The General Assembly repeal Act XIII Class 2 1976.

The General Assembly re-enact as follows:

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

XIV. - Act anent Building Maintenance and Titles.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly relieve the Committee on Church Extension and Maintenance of responsibility for the allocation of building-maintenance grants and re-designate the Committee as the Committee on Church Extension. This arrangement is to be effective from the date of re-appointment of Standing Committees by this Assembly.

The General Assembly appoint a Standing Committee on Church Building Maintenance, and Custody of Titles comprised of the same membership as the General Trustees, of which the Clerk of Assembly shall be clerk.

They direct that the responsibility for negotiations with congregations regarding the custody

use or transfer of titles be that of the Clerk of Assembly as Clerk of the Committee on Custody of Titles to whom all correspondence on these topics is to be directed.

They further direct that the Committee on Church Building Maintenance and Custody of Titles shall be concerned with legal aspects of tenure or ownership of congregational property, and in particular, the appointment and replacement as necessary, of local trustees.

XV. - Act appointing Special Committee to Review Arrangements for Training of Ministry.

(No. 13 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly appoint a Special Committee to review the arrangements for the Training of the Ministry in the light of the resources and needs of the Church; to prepare, if necessary, a draft constitution for the College embodying all the necessary regulations governing the appointment, number, duties and prerogatives of the academic and other staff, the powers and responsibilities of the Senatus and any other bodies proposed as part of the constitution, and to indicate the relationship which should exist between the College and the Church, and between it and the General Trustees, the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and other Committees. This Special Committee shall report to next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 26th May 1978.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to that the personnel of the Special Committee to Review Arrangements for the Training of the Ministry should be:

Rev. H. Cameron Rev. K. W. R. Cameron, Rev. W. J. Campbell, Rev. Professor G. N. M. Collins, Rev. J. A. Gillies, Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald, Rev. M. A. MacLeod, Rev. J. D. MacMillan, Rev. G. Mair, Mr Angus Boyd, Mr Angus MacDonald, Dr Ian R. MacDonald; Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald to be Chairman, and Rev. A. J. MacDonald to be Clerk.

XVI. - Act anent Raising Sub-Committees to Status of Special Committees.

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly ordain that as from the close of this Assembly the Sub-Committees listed below shall be re-constituted as Special Committees, the membership rules remaining unchanged, and the Committee given power to appoint their own Conveners.

Committees referred to:

The Eventide Home Committee.
The Publications Department.
The Education Committee.

XVII. - Act anent Initial Year of New Professors.
(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly ordain that a Professor newly appointed to a chair in the Free Church College to succeed one whose retirement is required by Act 1966 shall normally in his first year, have charge only of the junior (and elementary) class in his discipline, and so be free “ab initio” to programme his total course. In these circumstances the Training of the Ministry Committee shall invite the retiring Professor to take charge of the senior class for one year only, with the status of a Visiting Professor who shall be associated with the Senatus (with voice but not vote). For this service a modest honorarium will be offered, and this year will not count for pension purposes.

XVIII. - Act anent Categories of Congregations amending Act XII (Class II) 1977.
(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly approve the method by which the threshold figure of £3,641 has been calculated as the dividing line between congregations in Groups I and II and they hereby confirm that figure.

The General Assembly amend Act XII Class 2 1977 by the 1978 substitution for “sanctioned charges” in the penultimate paragraph of “the number of congregations (other than Development or Extension Charges) which have, or are authorised to call a minister” and by the deletion of the words “and this figure will be confirmed by the next ensuing General Assembly” in the same paragraph.

The amended Act now reads as follows:

The General Assembly take note of the changes in demographic and economic patterns identified by the Commission and in the light of them they ordain as follows:-

I. That no group, however small, shall be disregarded as a case for encouragement and subsidisation until its strategic potential has been very carefully assessed.

II. That the Committee on Sustentation shall keep linkages, achieved or possible, under constant review and be ready to propose new measures for the optimum use of available resources.

III. That, for the next few years, the Church Extension effort of the Church shall be mainly directed to internal expansion, utilising existing bases, ministries and buildings in an effort to secure the direct involvement in the Church of those presently listed as “non-supporting adherents “ as also newcomers to areas of Free Church commitment.

IV. That the Welfare of Youth Committee shall undertake a thorough study of the whole question of the movements of Church people, especially children and adolescents and that

they shall propose measures for (a) making sure that the Church does not lose sight of them as they move from one place to another; (b) for arousing and retaining their interest in and loyalty to the Free Church. In this task the Committee are to have regard to the statistical errors which arise when communicant members fail to obtain disjunction certificates on leaving their home congregations.

In order to maintain the emphasis upon the Church's total task referred to earlier, and so as to relate each congregation's contribution to that total, the General Assembly recognise the following descriptive categories or groups:-

Group I. "Aid-giving" congregations (i.e., those contributing stipends and full share, or more of other expenditure.)

Group II. "Stipend-plus" congregations (i.e., those contributing the equivalent of full stipend but not a full share of other expenditure).

Group III. "Stipend-minus" congregations (not contributing equivalent of full equal dividend and therefore heavily aid-receiving).

Group IV. Congregations not included in the fore-going groups.

The General Assembly, bearing in mind the possibility of a changing ratio between stipends and other expenditure direct the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee as follows:

Early each year the next (nett?) expenditure of the previous year (i.e., expenditure met, or which should be met out of congregational remittances) be divided by the number of congregations (other than Development or Extension Charges) which have, or are authorised to call a minister at the end of the previous year, and the resulting quotient shall be regarded as the threshold for separating Group I from Group II.

The Committee shall, when negotiating targets, inform congregations as to the expected level of the next quotient so as to stimulate effort to keep within the group already attained or to rise above it.

XIX. - Act anent Housing for Professors amending Act XX (Class II) 1977.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly amend Act XX Class 2 1977 as follows:-

To (b) (i) there shall be added the words:- "As house purchase is to be regarded as the norm, renting shall be discouraged except in the case of older and single men".

(b)(ii) shall now read :-

"the appointee shall pay a just rent as shall be fixed by the General Trustees having regard to the rent assessed by the Government Rent Officer, such assessed rent being for guidance only as to the optimum rent. The actual rent charged will be subject to negotiation between the

General Trustees and the appointee in the light of all known relevant information and will, in any event, not exceed 20 per cent. of the appointee's gross annual salary; such rent will be subject to regular review.

The amended Act now reads as follows:-

The General Assembly authorise that on the occasion of a full-time teaching appointment to the Free Church College the choice of the following alternatives is available to appointees : -

(a) The General Trustees are prepared to consider applications for limited finance, depending on the applicant's circumstances, for house purchase purposes, in the event of such finance being unobtainable from other sources.

(b)(i) The General Trustees shall provide as soon as practicable, accommodation for the appointee, on his written request; the suitability of such accommodation shall be determined by the General Trustees. As house purchase is to be regarded as the norm, renting shall be discouraged except in the case of older and single men.

(ii) The appointee shall pay a just rent as shall be fixed by the General Trustees having regard to the rent assessed by the Government Rent Officer, such assessed rent being for guidance only as to the optimum rent. The actual rent charged will be subject to negotiation between the General Trustees and the appointee in the light of all known relevant information and will, in any event, not exceed 20 per cent. of the appointee's gross annual salary; such rent will be subject to regular review.

(iii) To the extent that the rent paid by the appointee is less than the notional interest that would otherwise be obtainable on whichever is the greater of, (a) the total sum invested by the General Trustees in the property at the date of occupancy or (b) the sum represented by the capital value of the property as revalued every third year, the deficiency shall be charged to the College Account.

(iv) The appointee shall accept the house from the General Trustees on lease (the General Trustees to be responsible for keeping the property wind and water tight) and agree to vacate it on termination of appointment or as otherwise agreed.

XX. - Act anent Pension Scheme for Ministers, Professors and Lay Preachers of the Free Church of Scotland

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th, May 1978.

The General Assembly ordain that with effect from 1st April 1978 pension arrangements for Ministers, Professors, Missionaries and Resident Lay Preachers shall be as set forth in the following schedule:-

PENSION SCHEME FOR MINISTERS, PROFESSORS, LAY PREACHERS OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

(1) Applicability.

These regulations shall apply to:

- (a) ordained ministers of the Church;
- (b) principals and professors in the College of the Church;
- (c) lay-preachers of the Church, employed by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply as resident supply;
- (d) missionaries of the Church coming within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Missions Board; and to such other permanent employees of the Church of similar natures as may be directed by the General Assembly.

(2) Interpretation.

In these regulations:

- (a) "Church" shall mean the Free Church of Scotland;
- (b) "minimum retiring age" shall be 65 years in the case of males and 60 years in the case of females;
- (c) "retirement" shall mean, in the case of a minister in a pastoral charge, the relinquishment, according to the legislation of the Church, by him, having attained the minimum retiring age, of that pastoral charge and, in the case of any other person to whom these regulations apply, the relinquishment by him of his main office or employment with the Church, having attained the minimum retiring age;
- (d) "qualifying service" shall mean actual service with the Church in a full-time, permanent, salaried capacity in one of the categories set out in paragraph 1, and may include service in more than one of these categories.
- (e) "pensionable salary" shall mean the principal emoluments paid by the Offices of the Church to a person to whom these regulations apply in respect of his main office or employment with the Church from time to time; subject to paragraph 8 (e) below;
- (f) words denoting the male gender, shall, where appropriate, be construed as extending to mean the female gender.

(3) Amount of Pension.

Subject to the abatement mentioned in paragraph 4, on retirement after attaining the minimum retiring age a person to whom these regulations apply and who has completed at least 10 years qualifying service shall be entitled to a yearly pension during life equal to one-fiftieth of the rate of annual pensionable salary immediately prior to the date of retirement in respect of each completed year of qualifying service, but with a maximum of 25/50ths of such annual pensionable salary.

(4) Abatement for State Pension.

The amount of the pension provided under paragraph 3, shall be abated by the amount of the additional part of the State pension attributable to the contributions made by the Church for the purpose of that additional part of the State pension during the period of qualifying service of a person to whom these regulations apply.

(5) Disability Pension.

In the event of a person to whom these regulations apply and who has completed at least 10 years qualifying service becoming unfit for further service before attaining the minimum retiring age, on account of physical or mental disability, a disability pension may be paid to him at the discretion of the Church whose decision shall be final. Such pension, which is alternative to any other benefit payable under these regulations, shall be equal to one-fiftieth of the rate of final annual pensionable salary while in the service of the Church in respect of each completed year of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 25/50ths and subject also to the abatement mentioned in paragraph 4, where such additional part of the State pension is payable. A person in receipt of a disability pension may be required by the Church to furnish a certificate from a medical practitioner nominated by the Church as to his state of health. If the Church is not satisfied as to the person's continuing unfitness for service, the Church may direct that the disability pension shall cease.

(6) Preservation of Pension Rights.

In the event of a person to whom these regulations apply and who has completed at least 15 years qualifying service leaving the service of the Church, otherwise than by retirement on pension, he shall be entitled on attaining the minimum retiring age specified in paragraph (2)(b) to a yearly pension during life equal to one-fiftieth of the rate of final annual pensionable salary while in the service of the Church in respect of each completed year of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 25/50ths and subject also to the abatement mentioned in paragraph 4.

(7) Power to Credit Additional Years of Service.

In the calculation of years of qualifying service for the purpose of paying a pension under paragraph 3, 5, or 6 the Church may, at its complete discretion credit additional years of service to a person to whom these regulations apply but in no case shall such a person be credited with more than 25 years of service in all.

(8) Variation of these Regulations.

(a) Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations it shall be competent for the Church and any person to whom these regulations apply to vary these regulations as they affect that person, by mutual agreement, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

(b) In the event of a principal or professor of the Church College, who has attained the minimum retiring age, resigning and taking up a pastoral charge, he shall be entitled on his subsequent retirement to such yearly pension as he would have been entitled to had he then resigned from the College post he formerly held.

(c) In the event of a principal or professor of the Church College, who has not attained the minimum retiring age, resigning and taking up a pastoral charge, he shall be entitled on his subsequent retirement, after attaining the minimum retiring age, to such augmentation of his yearly pension as appears reasonable to the Church, taking account of the circumstances of the case.

(d) In the case of a missionary for whom the Foreign Missions Board has made a pension provision through a Life Assurance contract(s) incorporating annuity benefits, the benefits payable thereunder shall be integrated with the benefits payable under these regulations so as

to achieve parity with the position that person would have had under these regulations had the said Life Assurance contract(s) not been made.

(e) In the case of ministers in overseas congregations under the supervision of the Overseas Missions' Board of the Church "pensionable salary" shall mean the full rate of stipend paid by the Offices of the Church to ministers in home congregations in respect of their main office or employment with the Church from time to time; and any overseas state pension benefits payable to such ministers in overseas congregations shall be integrated with the benefits payable under these regulations, applying mutatis mutandis the principles set out in these regulations.

(9) Increase of Pensions.

(a) From the commencement of the calendar month following the coming into operation of these regulations all pensions then payable under former pension arrangements to persons coming within the categories specified in paragraph 1 are to be increased to the levels provided by these regulations for such categories of persons then retiring.

(b) After the coming into operation of these regulations all pensions payable under these regulations or under former pension arrangements to persons coming within the categories specified in paragraph 1, but excluding those specified in paragraph (6), shall be subject to the same percentage increases respectively, as are awarded on the basic salaries of the corresponding categories of persons still in employment.

(10) Powers and Duties of Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

Always subject to Assembly legislation, the powers, duties and obligations discretionary or otherwise, of the Church under these regulations shall be carried out and exercised by the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee subject to an individual's right of access to the General Assembly in proper form.

(11) Repeal and Amendment.

The Acts and findings of Assembly governing the former pension arrangements for the categories of person specified in paragraph 1 are hereby repealed except insofar as they continue as authority for the payment of pensions at present payable under them.

The Acts and findings referred to are:

Act V 1928: Act III 1945: Act III 1946: Act VI 1950: Act VI 1959: and Finding paragraph 7 on page 35 "Acts and Proceedings" 1968: Act VII 1959: Act VIII 1961 (fourth from last paragraph) last paragraph of page 34 into page 35 of "Acts and Proceedings" 1962: Act X 1969: Act IX 1972. All the foregoing Acts are of Class 2.

Act XXV 1977 is amended to read "The Finance, Law and Advisory Committee" where there is reference to "the Committee".

XXI. - Act anent National Insurance in respect of Minister's Supplements.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly re-affirm the proposals regarding National Insurance as set forth in Act IX 1976 and direct all Congregations to remit to the General Treasurer the total cost of the National Insurance contributions in respect of their minister, where these are attributable to local supplements.

XXII. - Act anent Provision of Manse, and Ownership of Church at Dumfries.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave to the extent that they enjoin the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to confer with the Church Extension Committee and the General Trustees with a view to securing the means to provide a manse at Dumfries, which shall be so held that in the event of sale, the proceeds will be returned to those advancing the purchase price: the conferring Committee should meantime ascertain the situation regarding ownership of the Church building at Dumfries.

XXIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £2,250 per annum to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1977 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve the aim of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend to £2,650 per annum as from 1st April 1978. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salaries that, are paid at a fixed proportion, to the Equal Dividend.

XXIV. - Act anent Revised Scale of Preaching Fees.

(No. 24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly approve the revised Scale of Preaching Fees as follows:-

SCALE OF PREACHING FEES.

Retired Free Church Minister	£5
Retired Free Church Minister Resident	£10
Free Church Minister - without charge	£8
Free Church - Minister without charge, in other employment	£4
Minister of another Church	£5
Minister of another Church - Resident	£10
Retired Minister from another Church	£5

Retired Minister from another Church Resident... £10
 Probationer £8
 Probationer in other employment £4
 Probationer - Resident £15
 Student £5
 Student Resident £12
 Week-end Lay Supply £3
 Retired Lay Preacher £5
 Retired Lay Preacher Resident £8

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

(No. 25 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly re-appoint Mr. D. A. Cameron, B.L. to represent the Free Church of Scotland on the Board of Trustees of the Scottish Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

XXVI. - Act anent Lists of Accredited Preachers.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly receive the Overture and grant its crave as follows:

They instruct Presbyteries to prepare lists of Preachers committed to the Reformed doctrine of the Free Church, and accredited by their Kirk Session; and to furnish copies of these lists to the Committee on Supply, who shall circularise the information to Presbyteries.

XXVII. - Act anent Definitions for Inclusion in " The Practice ".

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th, May 1978.

The General Assembly instruct that the list of definitions following be retained for inclusion in a future edition of " The Practice "

(1) Citation.

(a) A formal written summons or notice requiring attendance at a Church Court.

It is delivered to the person named or to his dwelling and the fact of delivery is duly certified.

Such citation may, at the discretion of the Court, be repeated up to a third time if not obeyed sooner.

(b) A formal verbal summons issued in presence of the Court and this fact minuted is called a "citation apud acta". This is a peremptory summons which does not have to be repeated.

(2) Libel. - A formal charge, against a minister must be presented in the form of a libel which

has three parts: (i) Reference to forms of behaviour which are exhibited as in breach of Scripture with indication of the consequences to the transgressor: (ii) Allegations with reference to particulars, that the person on whom the libel is served has committed the breach described: (iii) Conclusion that the person libelled is, upon proof of the allegation, open to the consequences specified.

A libel may be served by a Church Court or a private accuser. In every case its form must be approved by the Church's Law Agent.

(3) Relevancy. The relevancy of a libel gives an affirmative answer to two questions:

(a) Does the conduct specified in the first part of a libel constitute a breach of Scripture?

(b) Does the items specified in the second part amount to the breach specified?

(4) Competency. - This refers to witnesses and their ability to give reliable evidence and the propriety of so requiring.

(5) Hability. (p. 22 F. of P.) Fitness.

(6) Assoizied. Discharged and not to be tried again on the grounds specified.

(7) Expiscate the truth. Lit. to "fish out", i.e. to discover the truth.

XXVIII. - Act anent Statement of Principle in regard to Discipline.

(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly accept the following statement of principle in regard to disciplining procedures.

"It should be recognised that Church discipline is not of precisely the same order as civil, and the Church cannot therefore divest itself of the responsibility of ascertaining facts and their relevance. No proceedings or judgement of a civil (or criminal) court can be regarded as a substitute for due ecclesiastical process though such judgements may help in determining whether a process is required. Church courts must form their own judgements independently of proceedings in other courts".

XXIX. - Act anent Quinquennial Visitation.

(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1978.

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

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

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

XXX. - Act anent Committee and Synod Meetings.

(No. 30 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th, May 1978.

The General Assembly ordain that no Assembly Committees shall meet on the dates appointed for the meeting of Synods if any Committee member be also a member of the Synod concerned.

XXXI. - Act anent Synod Representatives on Eventide Home Committee.

(No. 31 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1978.

The General Assembly direct that with effect from March 1979 Synods shall directly appoint their representatives on the Eventide Home Committee, and these appointments shall be reported to the Clerk of Assembly for the information of the Assembly.

XXXII. - Act anent Theological Syllabus and Exit Examinations.

(No. 32 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1978.

The General Assembly repeal Act XII 1969 without re-instating legislation repealed therein and enact as follows:

- (1) For the better instruction of students in Hebrew and Greek elementary classes in these

subjects shall be provided in the first year of the Free Church College course.

(2) Subject to the discretion of the Senatus in individual instances, the programme of studies in the three-year course shall be:-

1st Year - Elementary Greek, Elementary Hebrew, Junior Church History, Apologetics.

2nd Year - Junior Greek and New Testament Literature, Junior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Senior Church History, Junior Systematic Theology.

3rd Year - Senior Greek and New Testament Literature, Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Senior Systematic Theology, Pastoral Theology.

(3) The Senatus shall arrange the curriculum of students taking the four-year course.

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

(5) Students who have secured a pass in Higher Hebrew and/or Higher Greek in S.C.E. examinations or their equivalents shall be exempt both from the appropriate Entrance and elementary class.

(6) All students other than those referred to in (5) above shall be required to pass the Entrance Examination in Hebrew and/or Greek as appropriate before being admitted to the classes of Junior and Old Testament and Junior New Testament.

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

The General Assembly rescind paragraph 11 of Act VIII 1961 and, to ensure that Exit Examinations relate as closely as possible to the work covered in the various courses of the Free Church College they ordain as follows:-

(1) The practice of preparing and publishing a separate Exit Examination syllabus shall be discontinued.

(2) The Exit Examinations shall be based on the published syllabuses of the various College classes.

(3) In the case of courses where there are Junior and Senior classes the Exit Examinations shall be based on the syllabus of the Senior Class.

(4) The Exit Examinations shall continue to be conducted by competent external examiners appointed by the Training of the Ministry Committee.

(5) To facilitate the work of the external examiners, comprehensive outlines of the various courses shall be published, along with lists of prescribed or recommended reading, in the

College Calendar; and Professors shall take any other steps which seem reasonable to ensure that examiners are adequately informed as to the work covered in the classes.

(6) Proposed Exit Examination papers shall be timeously submitted to the relevant Professors for scrutiny; and any difficulty shall be referred to the sub-Committee on Studies and Examinations, whose decision shall be final.

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

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

XXXIII. - Act anent Recognition of Candidates for the Ministry.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1978.

The General Assembly repeal Act XXI 1970 without re-instating legislation repealed therein: They rescind paragraph 3 of Act XI 1964: they repeal Act XX 1967 and Act XXI 1971 and ordain as follows:-

(1) Before recognition as a candidate for the ministry can be given it will be a normal requirement that the applicant shall be qualified to enter upon a University Degree course; and before entry to the Free Church College such a candidate will be expected to secure a University Degree.

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Students who, in the judgement of the Committee, would not benefit from a University non-graduating course shall be admitted to the College once they have fulfilled the requirements of paragraph (b); and shall be required to take a four-year course at the Free Church College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Training of the Ministry Committee shall have power, after full consideration of the facts, to grant full recognition as candidates for the ministry to students who, at the time of their application, possess the Diploma of the Bible, Training Institute, Glasgow, with an average mark of not less than 60 per cent. Such students shall be admitted to the three-year course at the Free Church College and shall be required, concurrently with their College course, to secure two S.C.E. passes on the Higher grade, one of which must be English. These provisions shall apply equally to candidates who possess similar attestation from other comparable institutions.

XXXIV. - Act appointing Principal of Free Church College.

(No. 34 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1978.

The General Assembly appoint the Rev. Professor C. Graham, M.A., B.D., Principal of the Free Church College in succession to Principal James Mackintosh, in terms of Act XV, (Class II) 1976. They direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps for his admission on a date not earlier than 1st October 1978.

XXXV. - Act appointing Professor of Systematic Theology in Free Church College.

(No. 35 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1978.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Donald MacLeod, M.A., to be Professor of Systematic Theology in accordance with existing legislation. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take the necessary steps to induct him to the Chair on a date not earlier than 1st October 1978.

XXXVI. - Act anent Agreement with Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru.

(No. 36 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1978.

The General Assembly send fraternal greetings to the Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana del Peru and assure them of their sense of privilege in the continuance of fellowship with them.

The General Assembly approve the Agreement with the Iglesia Evangelica Presbiteriana del

Peru as underwritten:-

Agreement between the Free Church of Scotland and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru.

Whereas the Free Church of Scotland have been working in Peru for 60 years, in more recent times in co-operation with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru: and Whereas both Churches acknowledge, without reservation, the “Westminster Confession of Faith” as their subordinate standards; and Whereas it is now convenient to formulate a pledge of continued co-operation in terms of which missionaries shall be sent to Peru by the Foreign Overseas and Jewish Missions’ Board:

Wherefore :-

It is agreed that the sending and receiving of such missionaries shall be on the following terms:

Ordained Missionaries.

- (1) They are on loan as ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. The place and nature of their service will be decided after consultation between the Foreign Missions’ Board of the Free Church of Scotland, and the Pastoral Commission of the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Either of the bodies may suggest changes where it is thought necessary.
- (2) The Missionary is, in the first place, responsible to the local presbytery, without ceasing to be responsible to the Church which sent him. Normal discipline will be exercised by the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church, but in the case of suspension of ministers, the matter must be referred to the Foreign Mission’s Board of the Free Church of Scotland.
- (3) The Foreign Missions’ Board of the Free Church of Scotland will be responsible for the maintenance of missionaries, and the expenses involved in their ministry; this without preventing the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church from co-operating according to their ability to do so.
- (4) The Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be informed of the policy of the Foreign Missions’ Board of the Free Church of Scotland regarding furloughs - at present, nine months every four years. It will be taken for granted that, unless the missionary does not return, or the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church does not want him, the missionary will resume his service as before, and subject to the same conditions, in consultation with the Pastoral Commission of the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- (5) Those ministers sent to fulfil specific duties organised by the Foreign Missions’ Board of the Free Church of Scotland, (e.g., service in San Andres School), will be free to participate in the work of the courts of the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church, if invited.

Unordained Missionaries.

They are sent by the Foreign Missions’ Board of the Free Church of Scotland for specific duties. It is understood that all will co-operate fully with the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The duties may be related to:

- (i) institutions organised and administered by the Foreign Missions' Board of the Free Church of Scotland; and/or
- (ii) work assigned by the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

As missionaries, they are not subject to the government of the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church, although open to the advice of that Church. If they are members of the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church, they are under its discipline.

This means, among other things, that the Peruvian Evangelical Presbyterian Church should not expect that the missionaries fail to fulfil their ordination vows. Each missionary will have to exercise his liberty of conscience with reference to the co-operation he gives, while there shall be respect for the principles of the Free Church of Scotland.

This agreement shall be subject to review in the light of developments as may be deemed necessary by either Church and shall, in any case be reviewed upon the expiry of five years.

XXXVII. - Act appointing Foreign Missionaries.

(No. 37 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1978.

The General Assembly authorise such Presbytery as may be requested by the Foreign Missions' Board to ordain Dr. David Ford and Mr D. Maclean as missionaries to Peru on condition that they fulfil the requirements for Ordination to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland. The General Assembly authorise such Presbytery as the Board may designate to ordain Mr John S. Graham for Jewish mission work - it being understood that all the requirements for ordination will previously have been met. The General Assembly further authorise the Board to second Mr Graham to the Christian Witness to Israel on such terms as they may deem proper.

XXXVIII. - Act anent Provision of Manse at East Kilbride.

(No. 38 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1978.

The General Assembly renew the authorisation granted to the Committee, by the Assembly of 1977 to help the congregation of East Kilbride in the acquisition of a manse the suitability of which is to be approved by the Presbytery of Glasgow. They relax the terms imposed by that Assembly in conformity with Act XX (Class 2) 1972, so that the terms of assistance now read:

“The Committee may make available to the Deacons' Court of East Kilbride a sum amounting to three-quarters of the cost of acquiring a manse for the congregation: one half of the sum advanced by the Committee is to be regarded as a repayable interest-free loan; the other half to be a grant: and the manse shall be held under the Model Trust Deed”.

XXXIX. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 39 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 26th May 1978.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Professor G. N. M. Collins, named by the Moderator: - To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to any fifteen or more of their numbers whereof eight at least are always to be ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator; and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with any urgent matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needed advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XL. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.
(No. 40 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1978.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 22nd May 1979, at 9.30 o'clock forenoon.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

I. - Act anent Sale of Church at Aberdeen.

Inverness, 18th October 1977.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from Aberdeen and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church in Dee Street, Aberdeen provided the titles of the Church acquired conform to the Model Trust Deed. The proceeds of the sale are to be used to defray the cost of acquiring the "Bon-Accord-St Paul's Church" and the transaction is to be under the general supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

II. - Act anent Consolidation of Congregations of Wick and Keiss.

Inverness, 18th October 1977.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They consolidate the Congregations of Wick and Keiss into a single pastoral charge, each congregation retaining its own Kirk Session and Finance Committee.

III. - Act anent Sale of Manse and "Cliff Cottage" at Tarbat.

Edinburgh, 7th March 1978.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from Tarbat Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse building at Portmahomack and the dwelling house known as Cliff Cottage (subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superiors) the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied to the purchase or erection of a more suitable manse, any income accruing to be added to the Capital realised for the purpose specified. Such sale is subject to the Congregation giving satisfactory evidence that they have a site, with planning consent for a new manse, or can purchase a suitable manse, with the proceeds of the sale. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agent.

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

MAY MCMLXXIX (1979)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

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

(No. 1 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1979.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

May it please Your Majesty.

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland in General Assembly convened, take opportunity to present Your Majesty our Humble Duty. Mindful of our Biblical obligation to honour the Sovereign, we are the more encouraged to do so that we have knowledge of your Majesty as one that fears God "by whom Kings reign and Princes decree Justice".

We are constantly moved to admiration and gratitude as we read and hear of the constant devotion to duty, involving much care, anxiety, fatigue and journeyings oft on the part of Your Majesty, and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and the members of the Royal, Family. We followed with special interest during the past year the reports of Your Majesty's visit to countries in the Middle East and we do not doubt that your gracious presence did much to ease international tensions in that part of the world.

As a General Assembly we cannot but be aware of the many sinister features that mark the contemporary situation. Concentration upon merely material affairs - important as these may be can yield no solution to our besetting problems. The continuing strife in Northern Ireland also summons our nation to a re-appraisal of our relationship with Almighty God for it is only as we are right with Him that we can be right with one another.

It is the prayer of this Assembly that Your Majesty will continue to set before the nation an example of a life devoted to the service of God and the people and that you will be sustained in physical and spiritual strength by Divine grace.

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

II. - Act anent General Trustees - General Consolidating Act.

(No. 2 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1979.

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report and thank the Committee especially the Convener.

2. The General Assembly in order to consolidate and update legislation, anent the General Trustees enact as follows:-

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES.

3. The General Assembly direct that additional Trustees shall be elected as required on the recommendation of the existing Trustees, who shall submit nominations in their Annual Report to the Assembly. Nominees for election shall be ministers or elders of the Free Church of Scotland, and in appointing due regard shall be had to each nominee's experience of work on the Church's Standing Committees and any special business qualifications he may have. The number of ministers who are Trustees at any one time shall not exceed three;

GENERAL TRUSTEES NOMINEES.

4. The General Assembly repeal Act IV, 1926 and substitute for it the following:-
The General Assembly approve the continuance of the Company known as The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees, for the purpose of holding the Church's securities and investments, in terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, printed as an Appendix, following page 304 of 1926 Acts of Assembly; and authorise that, subject to Assembly legislation, such securities and investments may be held to the order of The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees through the Nominee Company of an investment adviser. The Assembly direct the General Trustees and others holding securities for behoof of the Church to transfer the same, where appropriate, to the Company.

TENURE OF OFFICE

5. The General Assembly direct that the General Trustees shall hold office in terms of Assembly legislation and such civil legislation as may be applicable for the time being to Trustees in Scotland, and, in the case of The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees, to Companies in Scotland. They shall continue in office as long as they remain ministers or elders of the Free Church of Scotland, or until their resignation has been accepted, or as long as civil legislation may permit, provided always that Trustees appointed after the close of 1979 General Assembly be required to retire on attaining the age of 70 years. Further, the General Assembly amend Act IX, 1949 by the addendum: This Act shall not apply in the case of Trustees who become members of the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees Nominees subsequent to the close of 1979 General Assembly.

FUNCTIONS.

6. The General Assembly repeal the finding of 1852 General Assembly regarding money left or donated to Committees and substitute therefor the following:-

7. The General Assembly direct the several Committees to whom money or securities may be

left or donated, and the income to be applied to the work of the particular Committee, to invest the same not in their own names but in the names of the General Trustees or their Nominees, declaring that the General Treasurer is authorised to sign receipts or discharges for all such monies or donations in the name of the General Trustees or such Committees and to relieve the payers or donors thereof of any obligation to see to the application of such monies or donations. The Assembly instruct all Committees holding any property appropriated to general purposes to transfer the same as soon as circumstances will permit to the General Trustees; and the General Trustees shall lay before the Assembly each year a statement setting forth not only funds that have been invested in the course of the past year but also the whole funds under their control at that time.

8. The General Assembly, in accordance with the Churches (Scotland) Act 1905, Commission Order 661, affirm that the General Trustees shall hold any property bequeathed or conveyed to them for behoof of the Free Church of Scotland, and shall as regards the management and disposal of the said property, be subject to the direction of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland for the time being, and shall subject to such legislation have power to sell, or otherwise dispose of or burden with debt the said property, provided always that any proceeds arising from the exercise of the said powers, or any of them, shall be held for and applied and appropriated to the Free Church of Scotland; and that the purchasers from or lenders to the said Trustees shall not be entitled to enquire into, and shall have no responsibility in regard to the application of the money paid by them to the said Trustees.

9. The General Assembly empower the General Trustees, subject to Assembly legislation, to administer the funds and heritable property held by them for behoof of the Free Church of Scotland, and in particular authorise them to deal with and dispose of such applications for loans from capital held by them as may be transmitted to them through the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

10. The General Assembly direct the General Trustees to institute a register of all heritable properties held in their name; this register to contain all useful data as to location, condition and value; and to be brought up to date annually.

11. The General Assembly instruct the General Trustees to open and maintain a Let Property Account (Revenue and Capital) in respect of properties held by the Church and leased to tenants, such account to contain all relevant data.

12. The General Assembly further direct the General Trustees to prepare and maintain an up-to-date record of pictures, busts and objects of historic interest referred to in Churches (Scotland) Act 1905, Commission Order 1261, together with such pictures and objects as have since come or may come to be held by the Trustees as property of the Church and are presently located, or may be located within the Mound Buildings. The record shall specify the location of each item and note any change of location that may be made from time to time. The record shall also include reference to the Library of the Free Church College, as indicated in Order 1263 of the said Commission; and subsequently augmented by donations or purchases of books. The General Assembly instruct the Senatus to inform the Trustees for the purposes of the record of each new donation of historic interest that may be made to the College, and the Senate shall consult with the Trustees regarding any proposal to dispose of any such object of interest located in the part of the Mound Buildings occupied by the

College, or to dispose of any portion of the College Library.

13. The General Assembly repeal Act X, 1975, and substitute for it the following:

(a) The General Trustees shall in regard to the retention, realisation, investment and management of the assets of the Church together with those Special Trusts where the General Assembly has appropriate authority (hereinafter called the Trust Estate) have full power to invest the assets of the Trust Estate or any part thereof in any of the Public Funds or Stocks or Government Securities of any Government or State or in Funds or Securities guaranteed by the Government of Great Britain or in the Debentures, Debenture Stock, Preference Stock or Ordinary Stock or Shares fully paid or otherwise of any Company, Corporation, Bank or Public Body in the United Kingdom or any other Country or in any unit, sub-unit, or share in a Unit Trust Scheme, whether within the United Kingdom or abroad, as defined by Section 26 (1) of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958 or any Statutory modification or re-enactment thereof or in the Bonds, Registered or Bearer, Debentures, Receipts, Obligations or Notes of any Company, Corporation, Community or Institution in the United Kingdom or in any other Country authorised to borrow or receive money on Debentures or Deposit or on real or heritable security, or in the purchase of real or heritable property or in feu duties and ground annuals and perpetual ground rents secured over heritable or real property in the United Kingdom and to deposit the said assets with any Local Authority, Bank, Investment Company, Building Society or any other Company, Corporation, Community or Institution authorised to receive money on deposit;

(b) The General Trustees shall have full power to appoint a recognised investment adviser to manage the investment of the Trust Estate or any part or parts thereof and to remunerate such investment adviser;

(c) The Investments of the Trust Estate, shall be held in name of The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees' Nominees or to its order by or through any Nominee Company of the appointed investment adviser;

(d) The General Trustees shall have full power to arrange for the investments representing the Trust Estate to be managed as an unauthorised unit trust or similar scheme providing for each beneficial interest therein to receive a share of the capital and income of the whole Trust Estate determined in an equitable manner;

(e) The General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland and The Free Church of Scotland General Trustees' Nominees are hereby indemnified for all claims for loss sustained by the Trust Estate, through investments, as long as such investments are made within the authority conferred by this Ordinance.

(f) The Finding of the Commission of Assembly of 19th November 1947 is hereby repealed.

14. The General Assembly appoint a Standing Committee on Church Building Maintenance and Custody of Titles comprised of the personnel of the General Trustees along with the Clerks of Presbyteries which are not otherwise represented by the personnel of the Trustees, of which the Clerk of the Assembly shall be Clerk. They direct that the responsibility for negotiations with congregations regarding custody, use or transfer of titles be that of the

Clerk of Assembly as Clerk of the Committee on Church Buildings, Maintenance and Custody of Titles to whom all correspondence on these topics is to be directed. They further direct that the Committee on Church Building, Maintenance and Custody of Titles shall be concerned with legal aspects of tenure or ownership of congregational property, and in particular, the appointment and replacement of local Trustees.

15. The General Assembly draw the attention of local Trustees to the following requirements of the Model Trust Deed:-

- (a) Congregational Trustees are accountable to the General Trustees for the balance of the proceeds of a sale of church property for the relief of debt; and
- (b) When such a sale is considered an offer shall be made in the first instance to the General Trustees.

16. The General Assembly approve that the General Trustees be ex officio members of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, which Committee shall be responsible for approving and directing the application of revenue in accordance with Assembly legislation. They instruct that all applications involving loans from capital be channelled through the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, who shall transmit such applications with any appropriate comment to the General Trustees for consideration and disposal. They also instruct that with regard to surplus cash in hand (revenue or capital) the General Treasurer shall consult with the Convener of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, and, if so advised, shall transfer to the General Trustees for investment such sums as seem reasonable in the circumstances.

17. The General Assembly direct that the General Trustees shall meet as required to transact business other than business relating to the Trust Estate, and shall have power to appoint their own Chairman. Three shall be a quorum and the General Treasurer shall be Secretary. When required to transact business in connection with the Trust Estate the General Trustees shall meet in their capacity as the General Trustees' Nominees Company and only business relevant to the Trust Estate shall be transacted at such a meeting.

18. The General Assembly remind the General Trustees of their responsibility with regard to the maintenance of the Assembly Hall as laid down in Act X, 1978, and the extent of their obligation to provide housing for newly appointed Professors as set forth in Act XIX, 1978.

19. The General Assembly repeal (in addition to Finding of Assembly, 1st June, 1852, Finding of Commission of Assembly, 19th November, 1947, Acts, IV, 1926 and X, 1975 all mentioned heretofore), Findings 3, 4 and 5, p. 53, Acts 1978, and Act XIV, 1978, paras. 2, 3, 4.

20. The General Assembly discharge the Committee.

III. - Act anent Reconstitution of Publications Department

(No. 3 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1979.

The General Assembly reconstitute the Publications Department with the following

personnel:- The Convener and Vice-Convener of the Welfare of Youth and Publications Committee; the Editors of "The Monthly Record" and "The Instructor"; one member appointed by the College Senatus; Rev. Professor G. N. M. Collins, Rev. Professor J. W. Fraser, Rev. D. Gillies, Rev. Principal C. Graham, Rev. Principal-Emeritus J. Mackintosh, Rev. M. MacDonald, Mr D. Mackay, Dr N. A. R. Mackay, Rev. John J. Murray, Mr John O. Sutherland, Mr Sutherland to be Chairman.

IV. - Act anent Constitution for the Free Church College

(No. 4 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly direct that the high qualifications traditionally required of students training for the Free Church ministry be maintained, and, accordingly, that the Free Church College be retained in its present form or as near to it as circumstances will permit.

The General Assembly approve a Constitution for the Free Church College and enact in the following terms:-

CONSTITUTION FOR THE FREE CHURCH COLLEGE.

I. PREAMBLE.

As the Free Church of Scotland is in continuous descent from the Free Church of 1843, so is the Free Church College heir to the theology, principles and traditions of the Disruption Church and of the Colleges instituted in the period of her early evangelical fervour. Although professors and a Principal were appointed to undertake the training of the students who had joined the Disruption Church, no formal constitution was considered for some years, until the New College in Edinburgh was completed. Act V, 1852, is the basic piece of General Assembly legislation but is not in itself a complete constitution, and various Acts had to be passed at later dates in order to regulate some aspects of the College's life and activities. The constitution framed in this document is not an independent charter for the College: it is inclusive of existing legislation and is incorporated in an Act of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland (Act 1979).

II. OF THE COLLEGE.

1. The Free Church of Scotland College is a non-residential College, Reformed, Evangelical and Presbyterian. Its aim is to produce a fully equipped ministry, prepared in all the disciplines of the Reformed tradition.
2. The College is not an independent body corporate: it is under the exclusive control of, and is responsible to, the Free Church of Scotland acting through its General Assembly and committees appointed by that Assembly.
3. Doctrinally, the College is committed to an unswerving loyalty to the inspired Word of God contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and an unqualified acceptance of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Academically, it is loyal to the

Disruption policy of maintaining a high standard, comparable normally to that of the universities, in its curriculum, teaching and examinations.

III. OF THE PROFESSORS.

1. The number of professorial chairs in the College and the subjects attached to them are determined by legislation enacted from time to time by the General Assembly of the Free Church. All professors must be ordained ministers of the Free Church of Scotland, and must be appointed by the General Assembly of that Church, and inducted to their Chairs, in accordance with the Church legislation in force at the time of their appointment.
2. The duties of the professors are, in general, to teach their subjects conscientiously and competently in accordance with the requisite standards and with the curriculum approved by the General Assembly and published in the College Calendar; to co-operate with each other, formally in Senatus and informally in the daily life of the College, so as to promote its internal welfare and its external prestige; and by their labours in their chosen fields of study to edify the Church and to defend the faith.
3. Each professor shall, at the time of his appointment and at other times as circumstances may require, prepare programmes of studies for his classes within the framework of the College curriculum and in consultation with the Senatus and the relevant standing committee of the General Assembly, the aim of such consultation being to ensure that a proper balance is preserved within the curriculum and to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort. At the end of each session he shall furnish the appropriate Committee with a record of class-work covered, objectives and achievement in research and any work published by him.
4. Charges of heresy or immorality against any professor shall be dealt with in accordance with the principles and practice of the Free Church in relation to such charges against ministers. Charges of failure to comply with academic duties shall be considered by the Senatus and referred, if necessary, to the appropriate Standing Committee of the Church or to the General Assembly to whom he is ultimately responsible.
5. Each professor is entitled to adequate accommodation, furniture and equipment for teaching purposes, and to a retiring room with its necessary furnishings. Changes of accommodation or furniture and equipment should not be made without his knowledge and consent. In the organisation of his own department in his teaching and studies he enjoys traditional academic freedom within the framework of the College standards and the curriculum.
6. In his academic work, both in his teaching and in his studies, each professor is expected to maintain, during his tenure of office, the standards of application and achievement expected of him by the Church which appoints him, by the students who look to him for instruction, and possibly used by outside bodies to judge the performance of the College as a whole.
7. The Professors, being ministers of religion and the senior members of a theological College, are called to promote, by all suitable means, the spiritual life of the students under their charge.

IV. OF THE PRINCIPAL

1. The office of Principal dates from mention of it in Act V of 1852, but it was not defined or described in that Act or in subsequent legislation. By precedent the Principal is appointed by the General Assembly, is a minister of the Free Church of Scotland but is not necessarily a professor in the College.

2. In general, the Principal's authority and duties are confined to those administrative and representational responsibilities which are inherent in the title and office. More particularly, he presides at meetings of the Senatus where he has a deliberative and a casting vote he implements decisions of the Senatus when and as required of him by virtue of his office; he represents the Senatus or the College at ceremonies or on other occasions when necessary or desirable; and he uses his official and personal authority to maintain the internal discipline of the College; and he attends to all correspondence and administrative matters which naturally devolve upon him as Principal. In the absence of the Principal the most senior professor in terms of years of service in the College will preside at meetings of the Senatus and otherwise deputise for the Principal.

3. Like the professors, the Principal is responsible to the Church, through the General Assembly, for his actions and conduct during his tenure of office, and the same rules and procedures that apply to professors apply to him.

4. When by virtue of his office the Principal deals with universities and other outside bodies or parties, he upholds the witness, dignity and prestige of the College without detriment to good relations, and also takes note of any actions or proposed actions, on the part of others which could either benefit or prejudice the College.

V. OF THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS.

1. The Senatus is defined in Act V 1852, as "consisting of the Principal and Professors".

2. The same Act vests in the Senatus "the ordinary discipline of the College" and "the regulation of the Library subject to such rules as the Assembly may lay down according to the laws of the Church". References to the Senatus in later legislation are few, and do not add materially to the foregoing.

3. In practice its powers and responsibilities as a corporate body have been exercised mainly in the ordering of academic life and in fulfilling its original function of maintaining the ordinary discipline of the College. Like the professors who compose it, it is ultimately responsible to the General Assembly but it has joint and/or parallel responsibility with the Committee designated by the Assembly to supervise the training of the ministry. Its relations with that Committee or any other committees are prescribed by Assembly legislation. In matters within its competence it transacts business, or acts as a channel of communication, with outside institutions and parties.

4. The responsibility for maintaining doctrinal and academic standards which lies with the

Principal and professors severally attaches to them corporately in the Senatus.

5. The general supervision of the routine administration of the College, both in its internal affairs and in external relations with the Church, the General Trustees and the Committees, in so far as it is not regulated by Assembly legislation is a natural function of the Senatus. The finances of the College are not within its direct jurisdiction or control except for monies explicitly bequeathed, donated or assigned to it for its exclusive use. The Senatus keep accounts of its use of any such funds and the accounts are subject to an annual audit by the Church auditors.

6. In the exercise of its powers and the discharge of its duties, the Senatus has, the same rights and privileges as are normally enjoyed by other bodies in the same category. It regulates its own procedures and deliberations and its mode of conducting business: corporately, it enjoys the same degree of academic freedom as do the individual professors who compose it: it can appoint a secretary and other officers for the more efficient implementation of its decision and fulfilment of its functions.

7. In the event of a prolonged absence of a professor, the Senatus is responsible for making arrangements for carrying on his duties.

8. The “ordinary discipline of the College” originally vested in the Senatus had particular reference to the firm but benevolent disposition of order in the life and labours of the College, at all levels, and especially amongst the students. Formally, this order is expressed and upheld by means of written regulations which are known to all students, and by decisions and recommendations of the Senatus transmitted to the Students’ Representative Council or to the students as a body. Informally, order and harmonious relations are nurtured by friendly intercourse and Christian fellowship between all the members of the collegiate body. If the regulations or resolutions are disregarded or violated by a student or students, the Senatus has primary jurisdiction: in the case of disharmony between a professor and one or more of his students, the Senatus has an appellate function. Act IV, 1894 gives Free Church Students a right to appeal to the appropriate committee in a prescribed manner.

9. In matters academic, such as, for example, the conduct of examinations, and in administrative and financial affairs, the Senatus can make representations to, or transact business with, or be represented on, appropriate Standing Committees in accordance with existing Assembly legislation.

10. In the ordinary course of its duties and for special reasons within its competence, the Senatus can enter into communication or otherwise maintain relations with other theological, academic and official institutions at home or abroad: also with such public authorities as the work and welfare of the College and its staff or students may require.

VI. OF THE STUDENTS.

1. The College exists primarily for the training of Free Church Students who are admitted in accordance with regulations and procedure laid down from time to time by the General Assembly. Students who are not of the Free Church but whose church connections and personal characteristics are acceptable to the Free Church have always been admitted to the

College since Disruption times but under certain conditions which vary from time to time.

2. The qualifications for the admission of Free Church students are determined by the General Assembly. Traditionally, a university degree or its equivalent has been an indispensable preliminary requirement for enrolment in the College but legislation makes allowance for special cases such as mature students who may have had other valuable training and experience. The responsibility for admitting extra-denominational (i.e., non Free Church) students is vested in the Senatus by Assembly legislation: the students must satisfy the Senatus that their spiritual and academic qualifications are such as to enable them to benefit from a course in the Free Church College.

Extra-denominational students must be approved by their churches and recommended by them as suitable for theological training, and it is the responsibility of these churches to arrange for the pastoral oversight of their students while they attend college. The Senatus may, at its discretion, in addition to extra-denominational students, admit students who wish to study in a purely private capacity: Where the Senatus in exceptional cases sees cause for a student's fees to be reduced it can make a recommendation to this effect to the appropriate Committee whose decision shall be final.

3. All the students who enter the College are understood to profess their faith in Christ and obedience to Him, and the cultivation of the devotional life is as much their responsibility as that of the professors. In their academic studies the students are expected to take full advantage of the opportunity offered to them so as by their diligence and labour to become "able Ministers of the New Testament".

4. During their attendance at College courses all students are expected to behave with the decorum worthy of their profession and their aspirations, and to comply with the internal code of regulations of the College. By virtue of their age and their academic or other attainments they are expected to act, and can expect to be treated, not as pupils, but as junior members of the collegiate community, with certain privileges accorded to them such as a common room and other facilities or amenities within the resources of the College. Complaints by individual students should be dealt with in the first instance, if at all possible, by a professor in private: if this procedure does not satisfy the student, he can submit his complaint to the Senatus in writing.

5. A Free Church Students' Representative Council exists within in, the College as a recognised body. Its functions are to represent the students in matters affecting their interest as a whole; to afford a recognised means of communication between the students and the Church authorities; and to promote academic unity among the students.

6. Transcending all such organisational and administrative arrangements for order and harmony within the College is the bond of Christian fellowship and dedication to the Lord's cause which unites teachers and taught, and the students are expected to do all in their power to enrich, as well as to seek enrichment in, the corporate life of the College.

VII. OF THE LIBRARY

1. The Stock of books known as the “College Library” is held by the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland in behoof of the Church but the oversight of it is vested in the Senatus by Act V 1852.

2. It is therefore the duty of the Senatus to frame regulations governing the use of the Library by professors, students and other parties; to make arrangements for cataloguing the books; and to distribute the different sections of the Library in such a way as to promote easy access combined with safe custody. It is customary for the Senatus to appoint one of its members as Librarian.

3. The stock of books is maintained in reasonable condition, and additions are made to it by an annual allocation to the Library from Church funds as part of the College budget. The Library is also in a position to receive bequests and donations whether of books or money. Rare or valuable books, together with manuscripts and other papers of importance are housed separately with suitable safe-guards, and can be consulted only within the College under the supervision of the Librarian.

4. Under the terms of the Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, professors, ministers and students of the Free Church have free access to the New College Library and the use of catalogues and books therein.

VIII. OF PROPERTY.

1. The College owns no heritable property. The premises at 15 North Bank Street, including the part thereof occupied by the College, are held by the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees in behoof of the Church in terms of Churches (Scotland) Act, 1905, Commission Order 661. An agreement regulates the respective rights and responsibilities of the Trustees and the College.

2. All moveable property within the College provided for its use (apart from the personal effects of professors and students) is vested in the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland. Agreed inventories are kept up to date by the Trustees and the College.

3. The Senatus is empowered by the General Assembly to act on behalf of the College in accepting responsibility for the custody and use of moveable property in accordance with the agreement between the College and the Trustees. The assumption of this responsibility by the Senatus does not relieve professors and students of individual responsibility for the careful use of moveable property and equipment.

4. Property of historic or artistic value, such as furniture and paintings which are housed in the College though not necessarily for its ordinary use is the, subject of a special clause in the agreement between the College and the Trustees. Separate inventories are kept of such items.

5. Replacements of, and additions to, moveable property used by the College are obtained through procedures laid down in Assembly legislation or in the decisions of competent Standing Committees. New items are entered on the inventories as soon as they are delivered in the College.

6. No use can be made of the College building or property within it without the knowledge and consent of the Senatus.

V. - CONSOLIDATING ACT ANENT RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, COLLEGE CURRICULUM, PRESBYTERY EXAMINATIONS AND LICENCE; POWERS OF COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MINISTRY AND SUB-COMMITTEES; repealing all previous Acts thereanent, excepting so far as they may be embodied in this Act; or are referred to therein for purposes of amplification.

(No. 5 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

I. RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS.

The General Assembly ordain as follows:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Students who, in the judgement of the Committee, would not benefit from a University

non-graduating course shall be admitted to the College once they have fulfilled the requirements of paragraph (b); and shall be required to take a four-year course at the Free Church College.

The General Assembly ordain that the Training of the Ministry Committee shall have power, after full consideration of the facts, to grant full recognition as candidates for the ministry to students who at the time of their application possess the Diploma of the Bible Training Institute, Glasgow, with an average mark of not less than 60 per cent. Such students shall be admitted to the three or four year course at the Free Church College, and shall be required, concurrently with their College course, to secure two S.C.E. passes on the Higher grade, one of which must be English.

These provisions shall apply equally to candidates who possess similar attestation from other comparable institutions.

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

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

(b) The Committee reserve its right, to require a further examination at any stage.

II. CURRICULUM

The General Assembly ordain that the College Session shall be of three terms, viz., an Autumn and a Spring term, each of ten weeks duration, and a Summer term which shall be of five or six weeks duration as the Senatus may decide. Students shall be required to give pulpit supply for a minimum of ten week-ends during each of the first two sessions.

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

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

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

The General Assembly enact as follows: -

(1) For the better instruction of students in Hebrew and Greek elementary classes in these subjects shall be provided in the first year of the Free Church College course.

(2) Subject to the discretion of the Senatus in individual instances, the programme of studies in the three-year course shall be:

1st Year Elementary Greek, Elementary Hebrew, Junior Church History, Apologetics.

2nd Year Junior Greek and New Testament Literature, Junior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Senior Church History, Junior Systematic Theology.

3rd Year Senior Greek and New Testament Literature, Senior Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Senior Systematic Theology, Pastoral Theology.

(3) The Senatus shall arrange a curriculum for students taking the four-year course.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) The practice of preparing and publishing a separate Exit Examination syllabus shall be discontinued.

(2) The Exit Examinations shall be based on the published syllabuses of the various College classes.

(3) In the case of courses where there are Junior and Senior classes the Exit Examinations

shall be based on the syllabus of the Senior Class.

(4) The Exit Examinations shall continue to be conducted by competent external examiners appointed by the Training of the Ministry Committee.

(5) To facilitate the work of the external examiners, comprehensive outlines of the various courses shall be published, along with lists of prescribed or recommended reading in the College Calendar; and Professors shall take any other steps which seem reasonable to ensure that examiners are adequately informed as to the work covered in the classes.

(6) Proposed Exit Examination papers shall be timeously submitted to the relevant Professors for scrutiny; and any difficulty shall be referred to the Training of the Ministry Committee, whose decision shall be final.

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

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

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

III. CERTIFICATES AND PRESBYTERY EXAMINATIONS.

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

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

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

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

2. Students not resident within the bounds of the Free Church of Scotland, who have finished a course of Literature and Philosophy in any of the Universities of Scotland, may, previous to their enrolment as students of Divinity, be examined by the Presbytery within whose bounds the University at which they have studied is situated, immediately before the commencement of their first session in divinity.

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

The General Assembly hereby instruct Ministers, that before granting a certificate to any Student previously to admission to the College, the Minister shall consult with the Elders respecting the character borne by the Student in the congregation, and shall embody in the certificate such expression of the results of that consultation as he may judge useful and prudent.

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

(1) He must make application in the first instance to the Training of the Ministry Committee who shall consult with the Presbytery with which the student is connected and with the Senatus of the Free Church College.

(2) He must produce evidence that he has completed two sessions of attendance at the Free Church College and that his attendance, progress in his studies and conduct have been satisfactory to the Professors under whom he has studied.

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

(4) He must satisfy the Committee in regard to the classes he means to attend and also in regard to the congregation with, which he means to connect himself as well as in regard to the introduction which he has, or is likely to have, to the Professors of such classes, and the Pastor or Pastors of said congregation.

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

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

IV. TRIALS FOR LICENCE

The General Assembly further enact and declare:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) No student shall be admitted to trial unless he produces to the Presbytery a certificate or certificates from the Professors of Divinity under whose tuition he has studied, bearing that he has prosecuted his studies and delivered his discourses in the manner prescribed by the General Assembly; and that his conduct, as far as it consists with the knowledge of the Professors, has been in every respect suitable to his views in life; and the Presbytery shall in their minutes record that such certificates were produced and read, specifying the classes attended the names of the Professors by whom such certificates were granted; the number and dates of the sessions during which attendance had been given, whether attendance was regular or partial, the nature of the discourses delivered, and whether said discourses were sustained; and whether the character and conduct of such student or students were in all respects suitable to their views towards the holy ministry. And it is hereby enacted and declared that the student having lodged such certificate or certificates, shall be entitled to obtain extracts of the minute above prescribed, if demanded.

(d) No Presbytery shall receive any student upon trials unless they are satisfied that he is of

good report; sound in his principles, pious, sober, grave, and prudent in his behaviour; of a peaceable disposition; and that he holds the principles of this Church, as to the independence of the Church, and the duties of nations and their rulers in reference to true religion and the Church of Christ. And that the Presbytery may proceed with all due caution in the matter of such peculiar importance, they shall not agree to the motion on behalf of the student unless his residence during the year preceding has been chiefly within their bounds; or he shall produce sufficient testimonials from the Presbytery in whose bounds his residence has chiefly been during that term, bearing that his character is such as is described in the immediately preceding sentence of this paragraph, and recommending him in those respects to the Presbytery before whom the proposal is made, as a proper person to be entered upon trials.

(e) If a student has studied, either in whole or in part, in Protestant Universities which are not within the bounds of this Church he shall, when he is proposed to any Presbytery for trials, be required to produce satisfying testimonials from the Professors of Divinity in said Universities; and the time which these Professors shall certify to have been employed by him in studying Divinity under their tuition shall be computed in the same manner as if he had prosecuted his studies in the College, provided that no student in such circumstances shall be proposed for trials sooner than six calendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

4. The Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the student, and in order herein mentioned; Provided always, that no part of the examination of a student shall be commenced by a Presbytery until the last session of his theological course shall have been concluded, and until he shall produce to the Presbytery a certificate of his having passed satisfactorily an examination upon his previous studies, by the Training of the Ministry Committee.

(a) The Presbytery shall examine the student, strictly and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek language and of Philosophy and Theology.

(b) The following written exercises, on subjects prescribed by the Presbytery, shall be submitted :- (1) An Exegesis in Latin or English on some controverted head in Divinity; (2) Homily in English; (3) An Exercise on New Testament Exegesis; (4) A lecture on some large portion of Scripture; (5) A popular Sermon. It being understood that if the Presbytery see cause they may examine the student upon the subject of these several discourses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(g) To maintain such liaison with other Standing Committees as may contribute to the efficient discharge of its responsibilities.

In this connection the following Acts are repealed:-

Acts V 1860, IV 1887, IV 1898, VIII 1910, IV 1915, V 1919, III 1923, VI 1926, VIII 1928, III 1939, IV 1944, X 1946, IV 1947, V 1947, III 1949, VII 1949, V 1950, IX 1951, VI 1953, VIII 1954, IV 1955, V 1955, XX 1965, XVIII 1966, XIX 1966, XX 1967, XII 1969, XXI 1970, XXI 1971, Finding of 1920 relative to Secretary to the Examination Board.

VI. - CONSOLIDATING ACT ANENT SENATUS, PROFESSORS, COLLEGE; AND POWERS OF COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MINISTRY, AND GENERAL TRUSTEES IN RELATION TO THE SAME.

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

(No. 6 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly ordain as follows:-

1. The Theological Faculty shall consist of five Professors who shall respectively give instruction in the Departments of Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology; New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology; Apologetics and Practical Theology; Church History and Principles; and Systematic Theology.
2. The ordinary discipline of the College, and the oversight of the Library shall be vested in the Senatus, consisting of the Principal and Professors, subject to such rules as the Assembly may lay down according to the laws of the Church.
3. When the Senatus find that they are unable to sustain the Session of a Student on the ground of unsatisfactory performances of his work they shall report the matter with details as to the student's marks and any other relevant information to the Committee on the Training of the Ministry, whose decision shall be final.
4. The Senatus shall have the right to appoint two of their number ex officio supernumerary members to the Training of the Ministry Committee, if there is no member of the Senatus already a member of that Committee; and one of their number for the same purpose, if there is already one member of the Senatus on the Committee.
5. Reserving the rights of parties, the Committee on Training of the Ministry are empowered to entertain and deal with any appeal that may be taken from a judgement of the Senatus, to deal with any complaints on the part of the students that may be made to them in writing, and to give advice in cases of difficulty; and further, reserving the rights of parties, they are

empowered to originate and prosecute before the Courts of the Church processes against any of the Professors for heresy or immorality, and to make enquiries for that purpose.

6. The Committee on Training of the Ministry are authorised to undertake the general administration of College property and finances.

7. The Committee on Training of the Ministry shall arrange for a Quinquennial Visitation of the College and the results of the visitation shall be fully reported to the General Assembly. All communications from students intended to be brought before the Quinquennial Visitation must be sent beforehand to the Committee on Training of the Ministry.

8. The General Assembly empower the Training of the Ministry Committee, subject to the conditions outlined in Act XXII, 1970, to make grants towards post-graduate studies undertaken by Professors and others.

9. The General Assembly direct the Training of the Ministry Committee, in the annual review of Professors' salaries, to ensure that the rate of payment be not less than the amount of the equal dividend plus 75 per cent. thereof. They charge the Committee to review this percentage at least triennially.

10. The General Assembly, in agreement with its expressed policy that all those eligible to participate in the Group Endowment Assurance Scheme should receive some financial assistance in meeting the premiums, enjoin the Training of the Ministry Committee to meet 50 per cent. of the premium payable by those Professors eligible and desirous of joining the Scheme.

11. It shall be permissible for Professors, as it is for ministers in pastoral charges, to retire on attaining the age of sixty-five years, without submitting a medical certificate. In the case of present and future incumbents the earliest date of retirement is at the end of the College Session where sixty-five years is attained by 30th September in the same year.

12. Each professor appointed after 1966 shall cease to hold his appointment, with effect from the close of the College Session (effective date 30th June) following attainment of the age of 70 years. On retiral he shall receive three months salary as a lump sum payment and qualify for pension as from 1st July.

13. Proposals for retirement of Professors on account of age or infirmity shall be submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee on Training of the Ministry. A professor entitled to retire on account of age shall, in normal circumstances, retire only at 30th June and shall intimate his intention to so retire to the Training of the Ministry Committee by 10th January of the same year.

14. In the case of a Professor's mental illness, Act I, Class I, 1936, applies.

15. The General Assembly ordain that with effect from 1st April 1978 pension arrangements for Ministers, Professors, Missionaries and Resident Lay Preachers shall be as set forth in Act XX, 1978 which repeals Acts VI, 1950 amended by Act VI, 1959 except insofar as they continue as authority for the payment of pensions at present payable under them.

16. The election of Professors shall be vested in the General Assembly, under such regulations as the Assembly may from time to time enact, for securing due deliberation in the discharge of this important duty.

17. No one can be appointed a Professor of Theology who is not a Minister or Probationer of the Church.

18. The General Assembly ordain:

(1) That it shall be the duty of the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee, on receiving intimation of a resignation from a College Chair or from the College Principalship, to inform Presbyteries and Synods of the impending vacancy.

(2) It shall be in the power of Presbyteries and Synods to submit to the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee one or more nominations for the vacancy; such nominations to be in the hands of the Committee by the date specified when intimation, of the vacancy is made to Presbyteries and Synods. The General Assembly direct the Presbyteries and Synods to prepare a note of the qualifications, academic and otherwise, of all nominees for College Chairs.

(3) The Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee shall tabulate the returns made by Presbyteries and Synods and submit these to the General Assembly as a Supplementary Report: (the General Assembly in appointing to the Chair or Principalship not being limited to the names included in the Supplementary Report).

(4) In any year in which a Supplementary Report bearing on nomination to a College vacancy is to be submitted, it shall be the responsibility of the Assembly's "Committee to arrange the Business of the House", to nominate a Committee to study the Supplementary Report and other relevant data with a view to submitting a recommendation to the Assembly when the Supplementary Report is being considered. The making of such recommendation shall be without prejudice to the liberty of the Assembly in making the appointments envisaged.

19. All Professors of Theology shall be inducted into their respective offices by the Presbytery of the bounds, in the same manner in which ministers are inducted in their charges.

20. The General Assembly ordain that a Professor newly appointed to a chair in the Free Church College to succeed one whose retirement is required by Act XV, 1966 shall normally in his first year, have charge only of the junior (and elementary) class in his discipline, and so be free "ab initio" to programme his total course. In these circumstances the Training of the Ministry Committee shall, with the concurrence of the new Professor, invite the retiring Professor to take charge of the senior class for one year only, with the status of a Visiting Professor who shall be associated with the Senatus (with voice but not vote). For this service a modest honorarium will be offered, and this year will not count for pension purposes.

21. The General Assembly authorise that on the occasion of a full-time teaching appointment to the Free Church College the choice of the following alternatives is available to

appointees:-

(a) The General Trustees are prepared to consider applications for limited finance, depending on the applicant's circumstances, for house purchase purposes, in the event of such finance being unobtainable from other sources.

(b) (i) The General Trustees shall provide, as soon as practicable, accommodation for the appointee, on his written request; the suitability of such accommodation shall be determined by the General Trustees. As house purchase is to be regarded as the norm, renting shall be discouraged except in the case of older and single men.

(ii) The appointee shall pay a just rent as shall be fixed by the General Trustees having regard to the rent assessed by the Government Rent Officer, such assessed rent being for guidance only as to the optimum rent. The actual rent charged will be subject to negotiation between the General Trustees and the appointee in the light of all known relevant information and will, in any event, not exceed 20 per cent. of the appointee's gross annual salary; such rent will be subject to regular review.

(iii) To the extent that the rent paid by the appointee is less than the notional interest that would otherwise be obtainable on whichever is the greater of, (a) the total sum invested by the General Trustees in the property at the date of occupancy or (b) the sum represented by the capital value of the property as revalued every third year, the deficiency shall be charged to the College Account.

(iv) The appointee shall accept the house from the General Trustees on lease (the General Trustees to be responsible for keeping the property wind and water tight) and agree to vacate it on termination of appointment or as otherwise agreed.

22. The General Assembly enact that the removal costs of Professors appointed to the College be met from the Training of the Ministry Funds.

23. In this connection the following Acts are repealed:-

Acts VIII 1859, III 1897, III 1922, V 1933, VI 1950, VI 1959, XIX 1965, IV 1967, XVII 1968.

VII. - Act anent Extra-Denominational Students.

(No. 7 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

1. (a) The General Assembly authorise the Senatus to admit extra-denominational students to the College and to supervise their course, and also to admit at its discretion students who wish to study in a purely private capacity.

(b) The General Assembly instruct the Senatus to consider with great care all applications from extra-denominational students who, in normal circumstances, will be interviewed by not less than three professors and will be admitted only if the Senatus is satisfied that their

spiritual and academic qualifications are such as to enable them to benefit from a course in the College.

2. The General Assembly direct the Training of the Ministry Committee, in consultation with the Senatus, to take active steps to publicise the College and to encourage extra-denominational students to enroll.

VIII. - Act anent Quinquennial Report on College Expenditure.

(No. 8 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly ordain that the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, in fulfilling the directive of the 1978 General Assembly to monitor the relative percentages of the headings of Church expenditure and to report these percentages annually to the General Assembly, shall in the case of the heading relating to the College also every fifth year make a recommendation to the General Assembly regarding the percentage to be expected from congregational contributions and the percentage to be expected from students' fees.

IX. - Act anent Code of College Discipline.

(No. 9 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

1. The General Assembly direct the Senatus in consultation with the Training of the Ministry Committee, to draw up an internal code of discipline for all students and to ensure that all students abide by it.

2. The General Assembly ordain that in matters relating to the discipline of extra-denominational students the Senatus' decision shall be final.

X. - Act anent Structure of Training of Ministry Committee and Liaison with Other Committees.

(No. 10 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly ordain that the Training of the Ministry Committee annually appoint from its membership an Executive and two Sub-Committees with the following duties:-

(1) The Executive to be responsible to the Committee for general supervision of the training of the ministry and the College, doctrine, academic standards, examinations and routine matters.

(2) A Sub-Committee on Administration and Finance to deal with financial matters generally, including the budget, applications for grants and the library.

(3) A Sub-Committee on Recognition and Admissions to interview all applicants and to make

recommendations to the Committee.

The General Assembly further ordain that the Training of the Ministry Committee instruct its Clerk to maintain regular liaison with the Clerks of the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, the Committee on Extension, the Foreign Missions' Board, and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, for the purpose of exchanging information about vacancies and prospective supply, and to facilitate routine supervision of the annual budget for the training of the ministry.

XI. - Act anent Outreach Charges.

(No. 11 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1979.

THE General Assembly enact and ordain as follows:-

The General Assembly recognise that some Congregations in Groups III and IV, although numerically and financially weakened to the stage where only Special Arrangements could secure an ongoing ministry in them are, nevertheless, so strategically situated as to have a potential for Outreach, and possible growth, normally associated with Development and Extension Charges.

In order to secure and maximise the exploitation of such potential, and in a special effort to rehabilitate and extend the Church's work and Witness in such areas, the General Assembly shall not resort to the usual Special Arrangements but, herein, adopt special procedures to assist such Congregations with Outreach work, and to provide a minister for this purpose as follows :-

A. Re the Processes Leading to Outreach Charge Status.

(1) Definition. A Congregation situated in an area where population spread and density are such as to invite special evangelistic effort on the part of the Denomination; where such effort could lead, with the blessing of God, to substantial numerical growth; and where the possibility inheres that such growth could replace the Congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform, shall be designated for the purposes of this Act, AN OUTREACH CHARGE.

(2) Conditions of Application. All applications for OUTREACH CHARGE STATUS shall be brought before the General Assembly and the designation shall be conferred only by the Assembly and that only when the following procedures and conditions have been complied with :-

(a) The Presbytery within whose bounds the Congregation making such application lies will meet with the Congregation and fully satisfy itself that it falls within the defined category of an OUTREACH CONGREGATION.

(b) The Presbytery must also satisfy itself that the work contemplated could not be carried out by means of linkage. In doing so, the Presbytery shall have special regard to existing legislation anent linkages.

(c) The Presbytery must be fully satisfied that there is potential for growth which could only be exploited by full-time pastoral and evangelistic work. Where so satisfied, they shall so inform the Church Extension Committee who, after consultation with the Committee on Sustentation, may recommend to the General Assembly that the Congregation be designated AN OUTREACH CHARGE, in order to obtain the services of a suitable minister.

B. Conditions of Appointment of a Minister to an Outreach Charge.

The induction of a minister to an OUTREACH CHARGE will be subject to the following regulations:

(1) His Call to the appointment must be agreed upon by the Church Extension Committee, the Presbytery of the bounds, and a majority of the membership.

(2) The appointment will be, in the first instance, for a period of three years. If the appointment be that of a Probationer, it will include his Ordination to the Pastoral Ministry in the usual way.

(3) The annual Stipend shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend each year and shall be borne, in equal proportions, by the Committee on Extension and the Committee on Sustentation.

(4) The Congregation shall meet at least one half of the minister's G.E.A.S. contributions annually; it shall also pay a sum for his travelling expenses, which sum shall be fixed in agreement with the Extension Committee and reviewed annually during the appointment; the Congregation shall also bear the entire annual burdens on the Manse, together with any repairs, redecoration of maintenance costs which may be necessary during the three-year period.

(5) The Congregation shall be responsible for the normal local expenses of running the Congregation and shall, in addition, make an annual contribution to the Central Fund of the Church; that contribution shall be fixed for the first year of the appointment at a figure approved by the Extension Committee in the light of the Congregation's financial income in the year prior to the appointment, and in order to secure the appointment for the whole three-year period, the sum should show a significant and satisfactory increase over each year of the appointment.

(6) The minister appointed shall devote his whole time to the OUTREACH CHARGE and work under the supervision of the Committee on Extension, in conjunction with the Presbytery of which he is a member.

(7) The minister shall report to each meeting of his Presbytery, and annually in March, to the Extension Committee, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the Congregation.

(8) The minister shall advise the Church Extension Committee, in conjunction with his Presbytery, on the advisability or otherwise, of continuing the OUTREACH STATUS of the

Charge at the end of the three-year period.

(9) At the close of his three-year period of service the minister shall be eligible for re-appointment failing which he shall be treated as a minister without Charge, except that he shall be paid at the rate of the then current Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of the expiry of his appointment, or until his induction to another Charge, whichever is sooner.

C. Possibility of Continuance.

(1) The General Assembly may, at the request of the Church Extension Committee and with the consent of the Presbytery, grant a further three-year period of OUTREACH CHARGE STATUS to the Congregation. In normal circumstances there shall be no further extending of such status beyond this second period. In no circumstances shall the period be extended if the Congregation's finances enable it to be placed in Groups I or II.

XII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries.

(No. 12 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1979.

1. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £2,587.50 per annum to every minister on the Equal Dividend Platform at 31st December 1978 exclusive of the premium payable to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. They approve the aim of the Committee to increase the Equal Dividend to £3,000 per annum as from 1st April 1979.
2. The General Assembly authorise an increase in the salaries of Resident Lay Preachers to 75 per cent. of the Equal Dividend, with downward adjustments according to circumstances for those with another source of income, the increase to take effect from 1st October 1979.
3. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salaries that are paid at a fixed proportion to the Equal Dividend.

XIII. - Act anent Travelling Expenses for Supply.

(Amending Act XV 1972.)

(No. 13 of Class 11.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly ordain that Act XV 1972, Section B, 1(a) and (b) be amended to read :-

- 1.(a) Congregations shall be responsible for meeting travelling expenses of Supply where these do not exceed £5.
- 1.(b) Where travelling expenses exceed £5 the Committee shall bear the additional expenditure up to a maximum outlay by the Committee of £7.

XIV.- Act anent Special Arrangements.

(No. 14 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly ordain that the following congregations be placed on Special Arrangements for a period of three years:-

Glenelg and Arnisdale,
Stoer and Lochinver,
Shettleston,
Tongue, Farr, Strathy and Halladale,
Ardnamurchan.

XV. - Act anent Regulations governing appointment and employment of Resident Lay Preachers.

(No. 15 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly repeal Act XIV 1972, and approve the following Regulations governing the appointment and employment of Resident Lay Preachers, and the Procedures in Applications for the services of Resident Lay Preachers:-

A. APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING APPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF RESIDENT LAY PREACHERS.

1. A Resident, Lay Preacher is appointed by the Committee to preach and exercise pastoral care under the direction of the Minister (or Interim Moderator) and Kirk Session of the Congregation, and oversight of the Presbytery.
2. Application for recognition as a Lay Preacher shall be made on a prescribed form through the Kirk Session and Presbytery to the Committee who shall interview each applicant before authorising that his name be added to the roll of recognised Lay Preachers.
3. All appointments to congregations, which shall be provisional for the first year, shall be made in consultation with the Kirk Sessions.
4. Resident Lay Preachers are entitled to the statutory notice of termination of contract. Termination can only be determined by the Committee. Resident Lay Preachers must give statutory notice of termination of contract.
5. The Congregation shall provide the Lay Preacher with a house free of charge which shall always be included in the certified Triennial Return on the condition of congregational property; and before a new appointment is made a report on the house, certifying that all needed repairs or replacements have been carried out or arranged for, shall be transmitted to

the Committee through the Presbytery of the bounds.

6. When a Lay Preacher's duties involve travel and other expenses, the Congregation shall make such contributions towards his expenses as may seem reasonable and possible.

7. The Congregation shall pay such assessment in respect of the Lay Preacher's salary as may be approved by the General Assembly.

8. A Lay Preacher appointed to a vacant congregation, or settled charge, shall only be permitted to engage in other employment provided, and as long as, the Presbytery and Kirk Session are satisfied that such employment will in no way hinder or conflict with the discharge of the duties he is expected to undertake in his capacity as a Lay Preacher.

9. A Lay Preacher may be transferred from one sphere of work to another at the Committee's discretion, after due intimation to the Kirk Session and Presbyteries concerned. He is required to take his Disjunction Certificate with him in order that his name be added to the Roll of the Congregation.

10. Removal expenses from one sphere to another shall be met by the Committee.

11. A Resident Lay Preacher shall receive a salary equivalent to three quarters of the Equal Dividend in any one year. Should he take up other employment, as permitted by paragraph 8, he must immediately inform the Committee, and, if necessary, an appropriate adjustment in salary will be made.

12. Congregations having the services of a Resident Lay Preacher shall meet the expenses incurred for Supply when he is on holiday, up to a maximum of four weeks. Holiday entitlement accrues from month to month.

13. If a Lay Preacher be unfit for duty through illness, he shall forthwith:

(a) Take action as prescribed by Law for securing (i) benefit in respect of National Health Insurance, and (ii) any pension or other benefit provided by Law. After deduction of out-of-pocket expenses directly related to the illness, the balance of National Health Insurance must be forwarded to the General Treasurer, together with intimation of the gross amount received.

(b) Give intimation of his illness to the Committee and the Clerk of Presbytery.

14. If a Lay Preacher's absence from duty shall extend beyond four successive Sabbaths, the Committee may require him to submit himself to examination by a Medical Officer selected and paid by the Committee, in order to a report being furnished to the Committee as to the prospect of the Preacher's return to duty.

15. If a Lay Preacher shall continue unfit for duty by reason of illness for more than twelve months, it shall be competent in their discretion for the Committee to allocate such grant to the Preacher, on compassionate grounds, as the Committee may think fit.

16. The Committee shall be responsible for the Lay Preacher's salary.

17. The Pension Scheme for Ministers, Professors and Lay Preachers as detailed in Act XX, 1978, and subsequent amending Acts applies.

18. The above Regulations shall take effect from the close of the 1979 Assembly with respect to all Resident Lay Preachers on the Roll of Lay Preachers, as well as those who may be placed upon it in future.

B.- PROCEDURE IN APPLICATIONS.

1. An application by a Kirk Session for a Resident Lay Preacher will be considered, provided a suitable house free of charge is available, and the congregation is prepared to meet the assessment in respect of the Preacher's salary approved by the General Assembly, in the case of (a) a vacant congregation unable to have a settled minister, or to link with a neighbouring charge, and (b) a settled charge where simultaneous services are held in widely separated districts within the congregational bounds. Each application shall be made on a prescribed schedule obtainable from the Free Church Offices.

2. In the event of a Lay Preacher being transferred from one congregation to another, the Kirk Session of the congregation from which he is transferred shall make fresh application, if a replacement is desired.

3. Exceptional cases may be considered on their merits with regard to the interests of the Church and the state of the Funds at the disposal of the Committee.

4. Every application must be made by the Kirk Session and transmitted to the Committee through the Presbytery.

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

(No. 16 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

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

XVII. - Act anent Widows' and Orphans' Fund: Recognition of Charges: and Augmentation of Annuities.

(No. 17 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

1. The General Assembly declare that for the purposes of the Churches' and Universities' (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund the positions of Rev. M. A. MacLeod, C.W.I., London and Rev. W. R. MacKay, Inverness be equivalent to those who hold or have retired from charges in the Free Church of Scotland.

2. The General Assembly empower the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to augment the pension paid to Free Church annuitants as necessary.

XVIII. - Act anent Remit of Committee on Church Extension

(Amending Act VII 1963.)

(No. 18 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly extend the remit of the Committee and authorise them to give financial assistance to established charges for ministries and buildings when with the approval of the presbyteries concerned they can satisfy the Committee that there is potential for outreach and that they themselves contribute to the total expenditure to a degree commensurate with their numerical strength and the economic climate of their particular situation.

XIX. - Act renewing Development Charge Status of Livingston and Whitburn.

(No. 19 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly authorise the continuance of Development Status for a further three years in the case of Livingston and Whitburn. They instruct the Committee in consultation with the Kirk Session and Presbytery to continue their efforts to place in the congregation a person acceptable to the parties concerned.

XX. - Act anent Church Extension status of Thurso.

(No. 20 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly, in order to give effect to the finding of 25th May 1977, authorise that Church Extension status be continued in respect of Thurso congregation for a further three years, on the understanding that their contribution to central funds will continue to increase. The normal funding arrangements for financial aid, viz., one third grant, one third loan - interest free in the first instance, and one third payable by the congregation will operate immediately so as to clear off the manse loan as quickly as possible.

XXI. - Act anent Manses at East Kilbride and Cumbernauld.

(No. 21 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly repeal Act 38, 1978, anent provision of manse at East Kilbride and now enact as follows:

“The General Assembly, recognising that the charges of East Kilbride and Cumbernauld do not own manses and recognising that it is in the interests of the respective congregations to

own their own manse and, further, recognising that these two congregations are in a different position from other congregations in that both were Extension Charges in recent years and are without manses in part at least because Extension funds were not available when the churches were built, authorise the Committee on Church Extension to purchase suitable houses, dealing first with East Kilbride and then Cumbernauld as funds may permit, and to make arrangements for the repayment of five-eighths of the cost by the congregations over as short a period as practicable, this fraction to be regarded as authorised only in the instances specified in this Act”.

XXII. - Act anent Regulations for Appointment of Evangelist.

(No. 22 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

1. The General Assembly repeal the finding of the Assembly of 1956 regulating conditions of service of the Evangelist and approve the following Code of Practice to regulate the Evangelist’s relationship to presbyteries, kirk sessions and the Committee.

(1) The appointment of an Evangelist is made by the General Assembly, the Committee on Church Extension being authorised to undertake the necessary preliminary procedures to facilitate this, to seek nominations for the post of evangelist from the Presbyteries of the Church, to examine the qualifications of those nominated and to lay the whole matter before the Assembly with a view to an appointment being made.

(2) The Evangelist’s work shall at all times be determined by the Church Extension Committee in consultation with the courts of the Church. The Evangelist shall be a member ex officio of the Committee and shall report to all statutory meetings and tell of any burden for any area.

(3) The Committee shall have sole discretion in deciding the order of priority as far as claims on the services of the Evangelist are concerned.

(4) The functions of the Evangelist shall be as follows :-

(a) To bring the gospel to bear upon the unchurched by all legitimate means appropriate to the circumstances, e.g., door to door visitation tract distribution, literature work, preaching publicly, in the open air or from house to house.

(b) To conduct his ministry in such a way that the brethren in the area in which he is working are encouraged to engage in an ongoing work of evangelism.

(c) To help by instruction and example in the training of the Church in the practice of evangelism.

The services of the evangelist shall be available to Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries when the work to be undertaken is of such a nature that it cannot satisfactorily be accomplished with the resources available to the local courts. On the Evangelist’s services being granted it becomes the responsibility of the local court to work out with the Evangelist a specific

programme of activity, to provide preparatory, supporting and follow-up ministries for the Evangelist's work.

(5) Work undertaken within any Presbytery shall be under the supervision of a particular Kirk Session as appointed by the Presbytery.

(6) The Committee shall determine on the information submitted to it the duration of the Evangelist's work in any particular area.

(7) All Evangelistic work undertaken shall be in a manner consistent with the Practice of the Free Church as set out in her subordinate standards.

No method that compromises or appears to compromise the Church's position on purity of Worship shall at any time be used in Evangelistic work.

(8) The Evangelist shall attend and report to all ordinary meetings of the Presbytery within which he is working at the time. The Presbytery will notify the Evangelist of its ordinary meetings.

(9) On the completion of the Evangelist's stated activities in any area, the Court under whose jurisdiction the Evangelist was operating shall report to the Committee on the outcome of these activities.

(10) The Evangelist shall be a member of the Presbytery within whose bounds his manse is situated.

2. The General Assembly authorise the following conditions to govern the Evangelist's remuneration and related matters:

(1) Employment will begin with the induction to the charge of Evangelist of the Free Church of Scotland.

(2) Previous employment as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland dating from first induction will count towards total period of employment for pension and other purposes. Time spent other than in service as a minister of a charge will be excluded.

(3) Remuneration will be at the rate of 110 per cent. Equal Dividend.

(4) Remuneration will be paid monthly by direct credit to the Evangelist's personal bank account to arrive by the 28th of each month.

(5) The Evangelist is expected to devote his whole time to the work.

(6)(i) Entitlement to holidays is one calendar month plus eight days public holidays per annum.

(ii) If unable to work because of illness, National Insurance and related benefits must be claimed and sent to the General Treasurer after deduction of out-of-pocket expenses directly

related to the illness.

(iii) Prolonged absence because of illness should be referred by the Committee to the Assembly or one of its Commissions for appropriate action.

(iv) The Pension Scheme for Ministers, etc., of the Free Church of Scotland as detailed in Act XX, 1978, and subsequent amending Acts, applies.

(7) The Evangelist is entitled to the statutory notice of termination of contract. Termination can only be determined by the General Assembly.

(8) A manse is provided with rent and rates paid.

(9) Widows' and Orphans' Fund annual rates will be paid by the Church Extension Fund.

(10) Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses associated with the work will be paid by the Church Extension Fund and suitable means of transport and other equipment will be provided.

(11) Annual premiums to G.E.A.S. shall be paid by the Church Extension Fund.

XXIII. - Act amending Standing Order V, 3, 4.

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly amend Standing Order V, 3, 4 to allow amendments to the deliverance of Committees whose reports are taken on the second day of Assembly to be received by the Clerk up to the time of the second adjournment on the first day.

XXIV. - Act defining Minister without Charge.

(No.24 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly direct that the category "An ordained Minister . . . without a pastoral charge", (Practice 1912, page 2) be understood to include a Minister in a position, which; although it is not under the care of a Kirk Session, is recognised as equivalent to a pastoral charge; that such a Minister be eligible for election as a Ruling Elder in the Congregation to which he belongs, but not to be given a commission as an elder to the General Assembly.

**XXV. - Act anent Eligibility of Professors for Commission to General Assembly
(Repealing Act X, 1909.)**

(No. 23 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly repeal Act X, 1909 and ordain that henceforth professors be eligible as commissioners to the General Assembly only as ministers.

XXVI. - Act anent Consolidation of Creich, Kincardine and Croick.

(No. 26 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave in so far that they consolidate the Congregations as one charge, named in the order Creich, Kincardine and Croick, with one Kirk Session and Finance Committee, the Presbytery boundaries to be adjusted so that the newly formed Congregation will be within the bounds of the Presbytery of Dornoch by disjoining Kincardine and Croick from the Presbytery of Tain, and including the consolidated charge within the Presbytery of Dornoch.

XXVII. - Anent Sales of Property.

(No. 27 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Keiss and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse at Keiss, the proceeds of sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied as required to the repair of the Church in Keiss or in connection with the provision of housing for the Minister of the joint congregation of Keiss and Wick, the income meantime being utilised for Congregational Purposes; the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Farr and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse at Bettyhill (subject to retention of the common title deeds which relate also to the Church) the proceeds to be, lodged with the General Trustees and applied to, the purchase or erection of a new Manse or, at the discretion of the congregation, for the maintenance of the Manse of the consolidated Charge. The capital to be expended on the purchase and erection of a new Manse only when the funds are sufficient to finance the new premises, and the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Buccleuch-Greyfriars Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church at West Crosscauseway, subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior, the proceeds to be lodged meantime with the General Trustees and, with the interest thereon, to be expended on the provision of a more suitable place of Worship; the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Tongue Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the ground at Strath tongue on which the former Church Hall stood, subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior, the proceeds of sale to be utilised for Congregational purposes and the transaction carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the the Petition of the Fearn Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the former Church Hall at Hilton, subject to any necessary adjustment of the existing title and the payment of a Capital sum therefor, the proceeds of

sale, after paying the Capital sum, to be utilised for Congregational purposes; the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Bishopbriggs Congregation. Though recognising that the titles of the Bishopbriggs manse are not in terms of the Model Trust Deed, the Assembly grant the crave of the Petition and approve the sale of the manse at 23 Kenmure Drive, Bishopbriggs; the proceeds of sale to be applied to the acquisition of a more suitable manse. The General Assembly direct that any assistance from central Church funds which may be sought in connection with the acquisition of a new manse shall be strictly on condition that the titles shall be in terms of the Model Trust Deed.

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Oban, Kilbrandon and Kilchattan Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the General Trustees to release the proceeds of sale of the Church building at Kilbrandon together with the income therefrom, so that it may be expended by the Congregation in the completion of the new Oban Church Hall.

The General Assembly amend Act VI (Class 2) 1975 by replacing the words after Superior by the following:-

“the proceeds of sale to be transferred to the revenue of the Church and Manse Buildings Fund in partial repayment of sums advanced from that Fund for the repair of Church property at Portnahaven, Islay”.

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

(No. 28 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1979.

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

XXIX. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies.

(No. 29 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1979.

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Kincardine and Croick Finance Committee and grant its crave. They direct that the capital lodged in the name of Kincardine and Croick with the Custodiers of Title be held as for the Consolidated Charge of Creich, Kincardine and Croick and the interest be made, available to the Congregation.

XXX. - Act anent Dual Membership.

(No. 30 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1979.

The General Assembly ordain that when members of the Free Church of Scotland are absent from their home congregations on the Church's Overseas business their names may be

retained on the Communion Roll of their home congregations but on a special “non-active” list which will be ignored for ecclesiastical purposes. Such names may be transferred to the normal list during the home-leaves of the members concerned. The “non-active” list referred to may include the names of deacons or elders who can be available in assessor capacity to serve in the courts of the sister-church in the country of missionary service at that Church’s discretion. The provisions of this Act shall not prejudice the procedure whereby a missionary on home-leave being an elder of this Church, may be commissioned as a member of the General Assembly by certificate from the Board.

XXXI. - Act appointing Secretary of Foreign Overseas and Jewish Missions Board.
(No. 31 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 24th May 1979.

The General Assembly approve the appointment of a secretary to the Board on a part-time basis according to the existing pattern, but with an office assistant whose priority of commitment will be to foreign missions’ work, and they charge the Board to review the situation within five years and in consultation with the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee so that they may report when the time is ripe for the appointment of a full-time secretary.

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Professor A. C. Boyd as secretary of the Board in terms of the foregoing.

XXXII. - Act anent Code of Regulations for Missionaries.
(No. 32 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1979.

The General Assembly approve the new Code of Regulations as set out below and to that end they repeal Act VIII, 1962 with the exception of Appendix II, Act XXV 1966, Act XXV 1972, Act XXII 1973 and Act XIX 1974.

**GENERAL RULES FOR THE MISSIONS, AND THE GUIDANCE OF THE
MISSIONARIES FROM SCOTLAND, OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.**

1. The Free Church of Scotland, through its Board above named, selects, appoints and sends forth to its present fields (and to any fields that may hereafter be taken up), the following classes of Missionaries :-

(1) Ordained Ministers of the Free Church of Scotland or any Church with which this Church has a mutual eligibility arrangement, e.g., The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

(2) Christian men and women whose professional or trade qualifications are deemed appropriate for overseas missionary work. Appointments in this category are from the communicant membership of the Free Church of Scotland, or of the Presbyterian Evangelical Church of Ireland upon recommendation by a minister of that Church, or the Presbyterian

Church of Eastern Australia on recommendation by that Church's, Foreign, Missions Committee. In all such cases a written commitment of adherence to the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith shall be a condition of appointment.

Where the Free Church of Scotland recognises an indigenous Church in the country of service, missionaries' appointed by the Board for work within the sphere of that Church shall, in the first instance be seconded to the indigenous Church and their precise place and function agreed upon in the terms of secondment. In other situations, and where the appointment is to missionary-orientated institutional work which is, the direct concern of the Board singly or in co-operation with other agencies, appointments shall be by the Board or by the co-operation agency with the Board's agreement.

Institutions like hospitals and schools may make appointments of a missionary nature or local contract and shall report these to the Board. The Board have authority to help with the financial and material provisions of such local appointments.

2. Medical Certificates - All appointments are subject to medical certification for both missionaries and their wives and for those who go out to be married to Missionaries; Such certification will be provided both by the Missionary's family doctor and a doctor, appointed by the Board at the time of application and again prior to outgoing. Medical certification by the board's doctor will also be required before return to service after home-leave.

3. Term of Office. - It shall always be within the power of the Board at the time of an appointment to enter into special arrangements with any Missionary, Ordained or Unordained, for a, definite term of service of such length and subject to such conditions as may be agreed on. Failing any such special arrangements (which are to be made only in exceptional circumstances and to be forthwith reported to the next ensuing General Assembly or meeting of its Commission), the following conditions shall apply, viz.,

(1) Acceptance of appointment implies an undertaking on the missionary's part to render the full period of service which qualifies for home leave (see Section 8 below) and it is expected that this undertaking will be renewed repeatedly on occasions of home leave. Service may, however, be terminated in the following way : -

(a) As a result of a disciplinary process. Where church censures require the termination of service this shall be deemed to have occurred from the date of censure and assistance by the Board in home-coming and sustenance will be "ex gratia" at the Board's discretion.

(b) As the result of a resolution by the National Church. - The "National Church" means the Church to which the missionary is seconded and the resolution must be notified to the Board by a body empowered by its supreme court to act for it. Where the resolution is on grounds (e.g., Incompatibility) which do not imply moral turpitude or liability to Church censure the Board, having exhausted the possibilities of alternative solutions, shall recall the missionary and be responsible for the cost of repatriation and the furlough payments for which the period of service rendered shall qualify. Where the resolution is on the grounds of such censurable conduct as requires termination of service the provision of 3 (a) above shall apply. The position in respect of fares and assistance of a minister appealing to the Board for review, shall be as therein described.

(c) By resignation by the Missionary. In this case the Board must be satisfied as to the adequacy of reasons for resignation and have at least three months' notice. Unless the missionary has rendered at least one half of the service qualifying for furlough the Board shall have no obligation in regard to home-coming fares. If the stipulated period referred to shall have been served home-coming fares will be paid by the Board provided that home-coming is within six weeks of resignation.

(d) By resolution of the Board dispensing with the services of the missionary the missionary having the right to appeal to the General Assembly or its Commission. In this case the Board shall meet the costs of home-coming and the missionary's salary for three months or such longer period as the term of service rendered shall qualify for.

In all above cases where repatriation is necessary the costs involved may be met by the Board in the first instance but shall be recoverable from the missionary to the extent that they are not an obligation either in terms of these regulations or assumed ex gratia.

(2) When a missionary resigns his/her appointment after one full period of service he/she shall be entitled to furlough salary and allowances for six months or until his/her commencement of permanent employment whichever is sooner. In cases of resignation or retirement after two or more such terms of service the entitlement shall be to nine months salary and allowances with the same proviso.

When employment is accepted within three months of return home salary (but not allowances) shall, nevertheless be paid for three months. This provision shall not apply to ministers being inducted to a home charge within three months of return.

(3) Appointments shall run from a date to be specified by the Board in each case, but only service in the foreign country shall be reckoned for purposes of home leave. Salary shall, however, be payable from the specified date of appointment at rates to be determined by the Board.

(4) Marriage. If a Woman Missionary shall marry, her engagement under the Board shall at once terminate. If at the date of such marriage the Woman Missionary shall have served for less than two years since the date of entering upon duty, either for the first time or after furlough, she shall be bound to re-pay to the Board a proportion of the money paid to, or spent upon, her by the Board in name, of outfit or passage money for her last out-going corresponding to the proportion which the unexpired portion of the period of two years shall bear to the whole period of two years. In no case shall the Board be bound to provide return passage to Great Britain for a Woman Missionary whose engagement shall be terminated as aforesaid. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it shall be competent for her to continue in the employment of the mission on local agreement with the Medical Superintendent (in India) or the School Administrator (in Peru) as may be mutually acceptable - such terms being communicated to the Board.

(5) Outfit - Missionaries proceeding to any of the Church's Mission Stations shall receive such sums by way of outfit allowance as the Board shall deem appropriate in each case.

(6) Passage - In every case the passage out shall be paid, including reasonable travelling expenses at each end.

4. Widows' and Orphans' Fund - Every missionary who comes within the definition of "missionary" in Order No. 19 (Widows' and Orphans' Fund) of the Commissioners acting under the Churches (Scotland) Act 1905, or any Act or Order coming in place thereof, shall become connected with the Free Church (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund, or any Fund coming in place thereof. The Fund is now known as the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The annual premium due to the Fund shall be payable by the Board. Entry Money and Marriage Tax required by the Regulations of the Fund shall be payable by the Missionary. These two rates shall in the first instance be advanced by the Board and be deducted thereafter from the salary paid to the Missionary. Any additional payment required, e.g., climate rate, shall be met by the Board.

5. (1) All missionaries shall, as far as possible, be insured under the British National Health Insurance Scheme and it will be the responsibility of the Missionary to provide the General Treasurer with such data and documents as are necessary to do this. Contributions at the special rate will be paid wholly by the Board. On leaving the service of the Board the Missionary will be furnished with evidence that contributions have been paid until the date of termination of service. Where service is terminated owing to illness it shall be competent for the Board to continue insurance payments at their discretion.

In the case of missionaries who are not insurable under the British National Health Scheme it shall be competent for the Board, should they deem it feasible to arrange some other form of insurance.

(2) Missionaries who are ordained ministers of the Free Church of Scotland shall be included in the Church's Group Endowment Assurance Scheme, the premium being borne wholly by the Board.

(3) Missionaries not included in the preceding paragraph shall have comparable benefit assured and paid for by the Board during their period of service. Arrangements already in operation shall continue and be deemed to fulfil this requirements.

6. Vernacular Languages.- Missionaries must gain a working knowledge of the vernacular language and the Board is empowered to meet the cost of school fees or some agreed method of tuition. An acceptable certificate of progress must be received by the Board within two years of a missionary's arrival at his station.

7. Vacation, Sick and Compassionate Leave.

(1) It is required that missionaries will take reasonable vacation within the country of service, and the Board shall, as their resources allow; make such payments to missionaries as shall enable them to take such vacation in any years in which home-furlough is not due. The incidence and duration of such vacations will be by agreement with the local mission council or Presbytery, or in the case, of Colegio San Andres, the General Administrator.

(2) Sick leave up to one month's duration may be granted by the local Council, Advisory

Council, Presbytery or in the case of teachers in Colegio San Andres by the General Administrator. The authority of the Board shall be received by the correspondent of the body named in cases where it is deemed necessary to extend sick-leave beyond a month or to have a sick person brought home. When it is evident that circumstances are such as which require a missionary's return home, the authority of the Board shall be sought before such action is taken. But should there be great urgency, passage home may be arranged forthwith and the Board notified immediately of the action taken.

In case of illness, the Board shall have power to make such financial provision as they deem necessary, it being noted that:

Lay Agents who are missionaries of the Free Church appointed by and serving under the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board are eligible for grants from the Invalid Ministers' and Lay Agents' Fund.

8. Home Leave: Conditions and Incidence. Provided suitable interim arrangements can be made and prejudice to the return of the missionary to the country of service avoided the following conditions shall apply in all the Board's foreign mission fields.

(1) The normal period of service will be four years qualifying for home-leave of nine months.

(2) The Board are empowered to alter these arrangements in the following circumstances:

(a) After a FIRST TERM of THREE YEARS, seven months home-leave will be offered on commitment to a further period of service on the field.

(b) Where three-month excursion fares are available without tax penalty missionaries may have the option of taking short home-leave after 2-3 years' service.

This option will ordinarily be available on the second and subsequent periods of service.

Thereafter, on the expiry of a further three years' service a nine month, home-leave may be granted.

These alternative arrangements shall be at the discretion of the Board and shall depend on the availability of finance.

(3) The period of home leave shall be reckoned from the date of departure from the country of service until the date of return.

The Board reserve the power to judge how far sick or special leave may affect entitlement to home-leave.

(4) The acceptance of full home-leave shall imply on the part of all missionaries an undertaking to accept renewal of appointment: where appointment is not to be renewed the Board is to be notified within one month of the commencement of home leave and the provision of 3 (2) above will apply.

(5) It shall be a definite condition of all appointments that the date of commencement and termination of home-leave shall be so arranged as to occasion minimal inconvenience to the mission, the Board being authorised to adjust the general regulations to secure this. In particular, if the termination of a specified period of service or arrival of the time for home-leave to begin shall occur during the currency of a School Session or a recognised year of operation in any College, Hospital or Institution in which the Missionary may be engaged such termination of service, or beginning of home-leave shall stand deferred until the close of such Session or recognised year.

9. Salaries and Allowances.

(1) Salary rates shall be arranged at the time of appointment and shall be adjusted from year to year as the Board's resources require. For male missionaries the normal reference criterion will be the rate of equal dividend current in the Church in Scotland but this will be subject to such modifications as in the light of the conditions of service, the Board may apply.

Salaries of lady missionaries will be arranged in the light of the circumstances prevailing.

In special cases, and by agreement with the missionary, salary otherwise payable to a married missionary, may be paid in part to the missionary's wife.

These provisions shall apply to home-leave salary as well as to salary on foreign service.

(2) Accommodation in the mission station will be provided by the Board or special arrangements made to cover the cost of this where no board-owned facilities are available. During furlough the Board will pay accommodation allowances at rates to be adjusted from time to time.

(3) Holiday Allowances in years in which home-leave does not occur will be payable in terms of 7 (1) above.

(4) Children's Allowances will be payable in respect of each child up to the age of 18 years. The rates will be fixed by the Board and adjusted from time to time and may vary from one mission field to another. During regular authorised home-leave children's allowance at the current British rate will be paid unless or until the family qualify under the State scheme.

(5) Educational Allowances - When a missionary's child reaches school age the missionary should report to the Board the expenditure involved in school and, where necessary, residential fees. The Board shall consider this in relation to the facilities available and shall fix the amount of educational grant which shall be paid in addition to children's allowances at the current scale.

(6) Separation Allowances. - Where missionaries' children are, for good cause, resident in Scotland (or their home country) while their parents are on duty overseas, it shall be competent for the Board to arrange for the children to visit their parents at such times as shall ensure that the duration of separation shall not exceed two years. This discretion shall be exercised in the light of the availability of funds. This provision shall not apply to children over the age of 18 years.

10. Travel Arrangements. - Arrangements for travel to the country of appointment and on home-leave shall be the responsibility of the Board through agents approved by them. The transit of a reasonable amount of personal effects and of such necessary goods and equipment as are not conveniently available in the country of service will also be arranged by the Board and it shall be the responsibility of the missionary to submit a list for approval before transit is arranged.

These travel arrangements refer equally to missionaries' wives, and children under 18, though it is recognised that in certain situations wives and/or children may have to travel at different times from the missionary. Nevertheless the Board's responsibility shall be limited to the same number of journeys as the missionary is due. Subject to Rule 2, the Board will be responsible for the fare of a lady going out to be married to a missionary.

When a missionary's child whose outgoing has been at the Board's expense in terms of these regulations, shall reach the age of 18 years on the mission field, the Board will be required to meet the expense of his/her return to this country.

11. Delimitation of Duties - Except when on recognised vacation or in emergency, a missionary shall not absent himself from his sphere of duty. He/she shall not undertake duties outside those to which he has been appointed which may conflict with his full performance of such duties; and he shall not undertake any scheme (and particularly, any scheme involving the Board in charges and expenses) which is novel or is an extension of any scheme already sanctioned and defined by the Board beyond such sanction and definition, without the Board's being advised thereof in advance and their approval being first obtained.

During home leave, and after due rest, the Board shall have first claim upon the services of the missionary to promote the interests of foreign missionary work throughout the Church. Outside employment shall not be undertaken, except with the consent of the Board.

12. Correspondence with the Board. Every missionary is expected to submit an annual report of his/her work to the Board. Each missionary also is accorded the right to refer to the Board any matter of personal or domestic concern in which counsel or help is required, though this can usually first be referred to a local advisory body.

Matters involving other missionaries, or mission policy or relations with the indigenous Church should be discussed with the local bodies concerned, e.g.

In India - In Field Council.

In South Africa - In Presbytery or a joint meeting of the missionaries.

In Peru - In the Missionary Advisory Committee and through them with the relevant I.E.P.P. Church Committee.

A report should then be submitted to the Board by the clerk/secretary of the body designated.

13. Property. - Where civil statute permits, all heritable property and other capital assets held for Church and Mission purposes by the Free Church of Scotland are vested in the General Trustees of the Church. Otherwise arrangements are made (e.g., in India) which comply with

the requirements of civil law and secure to the missions full use of the assets concerned. Where necessary, (e.g., in Peru) the Board nominate and the General Assembly appoint Trustees' Nominees who are empowered to manage the Church's properties and other assets on behalf of the General Trustees but all missionaries are charged with the proper maintenance of properties occupied by them or directly in their care. Copies of all Title Deeds of properties held or acquired abroad shall be sent to the Clerk to the Committee on Custody of Titles and the original Titles shall be deposited with the local Law Agent or bank of the Mission.

14. Relations with National Churches. - The relationships of the Free Church of Scotland and its Board of Foreign Missions with national Churches shall be from time to time defined in specific agreements with those Churches in terms of which agreements missionary personnel will be seconded to the national Churches. In cases where two or more Associate Presbyteries shall exist in terms of such agreement they shall be free to comprise an Associate Synod in relation with which the Board shall be accorded the status of a Commission of Assembly its findings being subject to review by the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

An Associated Presbytery is recognised as a Presbytery of a sister Church which desires such close association with the Free Church of Scotland that dissents or complaints or appeals, or references may be made from its Courts to the Foreign Missions' Board or the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

15. Membership of General Assembly. - A missionary on home-leave who is an elder of this Church but not a minister shall be eligible to be elected a Commissioner in any Presbytery of the Church. If he be so elected a Certificate under the hand of Vice-Chairman of the Board that he is "bona fide" a Missionary of the Church, and that he has signed the Formula, shall be sufficient.

Every Ordained Missionary (Minister or Elder) who is on regular home-leave and who may not have been appointed a Commissioner shall nevertheless be a Member of the General Assembly and the Commission thereof, provided he shall furnish to the Clerk of Assembly, not later than seven days before the opening of the Assembly (or a diet of the Commission thereof), a certificate of his standing under the hand of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Missions' Board, and as such Member he shall be subject to no disqualification. To secure the balance of Ministers and Elders on the Roll of the General Assembly the home Presbyteries of the Church shall, in alphabetic rotation be advised by the Clerk of Assembly of a requirement to grant the requisite commission of an Elder or Minister to correspond with each minister or elder commissioned under the former part of this regulation. In the case of an Elder from the Foreign Missions' Field to whom a Commission is given under the hand of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Missions' Board such Commission shall be held to cover both his Presbyterial and Session Certificates.

16. Induction. - Where formal induction to missionary work is appropriate the Board will arrange this by agreement with a Presbytery of the Church.

17. Call. - It shall be competent for a Presbytery in the Home Church to moderate in a Call to a missionary on foreign service. The Presbytery so doing shall notify the missionary concerned and shall transmit the Call to the Board who shall have powers of Presbytery in

disposing of it. But no Call shall be so disposed of without the missionary concerned having opportunity to communicate his mind on the matter to the Board and the decision of the Board may be appealed against to the General Assembly or its ordinary Commission the period of submission of reasons being, in this situation, extended to one month.

Where a Call so presented is sustained the Board's responsibility in respect of home-coming expenses will be proportional to the portion of the full-term of service which the missionary has served - i.e., half home-coming expenses will be met after two years of the term of service then current. The remainder shall be a charge on the calling congregation.

18. Acceptance of Regulations. - All missionaries shall, on appointment, sign a declaration of acceptance of the foregoing regulations and formal contract shall only be necessary insofar as special circumstances call for definition.

19. Overseas Missions. - Congregations in Canada and the U.S.A. comprise the Overseas as distinct from Foreign missions of the Free Church of Scotland.

These congregations are the direct responsibility of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island and the Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada, and these Presbyteries together constitutes the Synod of North America.

The Board's function is to assist in supply arrangements, to ascertain that conditions of pastoral service in these congregations comply with Assembly directives and to act as a channel of communication with the General Assembly. The Board are also authorised by the Assembly to appoint assessors to Presbytery and/or Synod as may be desirable.

Though the ideal is to have ministers settled in the overseas charges as in home charges the procedures governing which are set forth in the following paragraphs, the Board are mandated to give what assistance they can in shorter-term arrangements waiving a proportion of the costs if this should seem reasonable.

(1) When a Presbytery moderates in a Call from an Overseas Congregation to a minister in a charge in Scotland, or a Probationer or a missionary in the service of the Board, the Call shall, in the first instance be transmitted to the Board. When the Board are satisfied with the conditions of service offered they shall represent the Overseas Presbytery at the bar of the Presbytery dealing with the Call or shall deal directly with the Probationer or missionary.

(2) Before declaring themselves satisfied with the conditions of service referred to above, the Board shall approve of the minimum stipend and the range of expenses promised and shall be informed of the Congregation's undertaking to adjust the stipend and expenses annually in relation to the cost of living in the place of service.

(3) The Congregation calling the Minister shall be responsible for his outgoing travelling expenses, inclusive of the cost of his shipment of goods.

(4) In the event of a Congregation failing to provide the promised minimum Stipend, the Board shall undertake to make up the deficit at the end of each financial year for a period of three years and, failing more satisfactory financial arrangements at the end of this period, the

Board shall provide, if desired, the Minister's travelling expenses to this country. In any case the Board shall not be obliged to contrive to make good the stipend deficit beyond this period.

(5) The Board shall accept responsibility for the home-leave expenses to his home country of a Minister after he has given a period of six years service in the Overseas Field, it being understood that the Congregation determine the length of home-leave and retain responsibility for Stipend.

(6) Ministers travelling or home-leave expenses referred to in (4) and (5) above include the travelling expenses of his wife and dependant children up to 18 years of age.

(7) A Call from a home congregation duly sustained by the Presbytery of the bounds shall be transmitted to the Overseas Presbytery via the Board who shall send to the Presbytery disposing of the Call, their views to its expediency. When such a Call is accepted, the cost of home-coming fares shall be met by the Board in the proportion that the term of service given shall bear to six years: the remainder, together with the cost of shipment of goods shall be a charge on the Calling congregation who shall inform the minister as to their definition of "goods".

(8) A Minister who has served in an Overseas Congregation for the full period of six years, which qualifies for home-leave, and who resigns his charge, with a view to returning to Scotland, shall be entitled to the payment of fares and salary for six months, the cost of salary being chargeable equally to the Board and the Overseas Congregation which was served.

In such a case, the most of the shipment of soft furnishings, china, crockery and kitchen utensils and personal effects shall be chargeable in equal proportion to the congregation in which he has served and to the Board, always provided that both congregation and Board have, been previously satisfied by a binding estimate as to the reasonableness of the cost. No responsibility shall be accepted by either party for the shipment of furniture, provided that the Overseas Congregation has borne the expenses of the shipment of furniture on the outgoing journey.

XXXIII. - Act anent Admission Procedures.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1979

The General Assembly enact ad interim that paragraph IV Act I Class I 1941 be rescinded and replaced by the following:-

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

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

For the longer term the General Assembly send to the Presbyteries under the Barrier Act the following:-

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

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

XXXIV. - Act anent Entrance and Exit Examinations.

(No. 34 of Class II.)

Edinburgh. 25th May 1979.

The General Assembly enact that in normal circumstances all students will sit their Entrance/Exit Examinations at the first diet with a resit in September if necessary. Postponement from the first diet to September will be granted only in exceptional circumstances by the Training of the Ministry Committee, and application for such postponement must, as far as possible, be before the ordinary meeting of Standing Committees prior to the first, diet of examinations.

XXXV. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly.

(No. 33 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1979.

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly, with the addition of Rev. Donald Lamont named by the Moderator : - To be a Commission of this General Assembly with power to the said Commission or their quorum which is declared to any fifteen or more of their number, whereof eight at least are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene at Edinburgh on the first Tuesday of October and the first Tuesday of March next to come at seven o'clock in the evening, and oftener when and where they shall think fit and convenient, and with power to choose their own Moderator: and the General Assembly fully empower the said Commission or their quorum above-mentioned to cognosce and finally determine as they shall see cause in every matter referred to them or which shall be referred to them by or in virtue of any Act or Order of the Assembly, and everything contained in and conform to the instruction given, or to be given, by the General Assembly and to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer, or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable. Provided always that, save as hereafter stated, this general clause be not extended to particular affairs as processes before Synods or Presbyteries that are not of universal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed that no private processes be determined except at the stated diets and that what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission With relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force until disapproved by the General Assembly.

And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications that may be forwarded to them for raising preaching stations or suppressed charges to fully sanctioned, charges, for constituting Church Extension Charges or authorising the continuance of arrangements already obtaining in such, charges, for consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers Overseas and Foreign Missionaries, in the Mission Fields of the Church, for authority to sell such property as is not held under the Model Trust Deed, or to sell such properties being under the Model Trust Deed as are to be sold in order to provide for new buildings, to deal with, any urgent, matters that may arise in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, to receive and dispose of Applications for Colleagues and Successors duly documented and transmitted by the Committee on Sustentation and Supply, and to receive any reference and appeal that shall be made to them from Synods in matters of doctrine, and ripen such affairs for next General Assembly and to contribute what they can to the suppression of vice and immorality, and to give all needful advice and assistance to Synods, Presbyteries and Committees of Assembly upon application to them for that end. And the said Commission are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them as above-mentioned. And in all their actings they are to proceed according to the Acts and Constitution of this Church and do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that, and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to and censurable by next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXXVI. - Act appointing Next General Assembly.

(No. 36 of Class II.)

Edinburgh 25th May 1979.

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Tuesday, 20th May 1980, at 9.30 o'clock forenoon.

ACT OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

Act anent Sale of Manse at Strontian.

Edinburgh, 6th March 1979.

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition and grants its crave: they authorise the sale of the present Manse at Strontian with the ground pertaining thereto (subject to such consent as may be necessary from the Superior) the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees and applied to the purchase or erection of a more suitable Manse, any income accruing in the meantime to be added to the Capital realised. This authorisation is granted on the understanding that the sum realised will permit the Congregation, within their resources, to acquire or erect a more suitable Manse; the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

