

THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Free Church of Scotland
1990 – 1999

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 MCMXC (1990)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

I. - Act anent Problem Ministries (Repealing Act III, Class I, 1892)

(No. 1 of Class I)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1990

The General Assembly noting the almost total support accorded to the Overture regarding Problem Ministries enact as follows:

The General Assembly, being sadly aware that difficulties prejudicial to the work of the Gospel sometimes arise in congregations, and though not of such a kind as to involve regular disciplinary process, demand solution, enact and ordain, with consent of Presbyteries as follows:

1.1 When a Presbytery, as a result of any competent procedure on their part, have found the state of a congregation under their charge to be seriously unsatisfactory (for example, an undue falling away of attendance at public worship and/or undue withdrawal of financial support of the congregation), they shall take due pains in the use of counsel and exhortation with a view to remedying the state of affairs. If these should fail they shall record in their minutes a statement of the facts brought under their notice, of the steps taken by the Presbytery, and of the results. If they are further of opinion that there are *prima facie* grounds for thinking that the failure may be due to defects or mismanagement personal to the minister, they shall embody the said grounds in their statement; and an extract of the whole statement shall be furnished to the minister concerned, with notice of the time when it is to be further considered.

1.2 At a subsequent meeting the Presbytery shall hear any statement the minister may make, receiving and recording any relevant matter which he may tender to be recorded on his behalf. It shall also be competent to receive and duly record verbal or written statements by persons in the communion of the Free Church, who are, or have been members of the congregation, bearing on the question of how far the existing state of things is to be traced to the minister. If, then, the Presbytery are constrained to conclude that the ends of the ministry are not being served, and further, that the state of the congregation is due to defects or mismanagement personal to the minister, they shall record their judgment on both heads, with any additional statement of the grounds of it which they shall find to be just and necessary, and notify the minister that they shall further review the situation in six months' time and that unless the situation be improved they shall then recommend to the General Assembly that his pastoral tie be dissolved.

1.3 When six months have elapsed the Presbytery shall again review the situation and if it appears that it remains unsatisfactory due to defects or mismanagement personal to the

minister they shall refer the whole matter directly to the General Assembly with recommendation that the pastoral tie be dissolved.

1.4 If the General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Presbytery they shall authorise the dissolution of the pastoral tie and direct that the minister's name be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge eligible for call. But if the minister concerned be at least 55 years of age and has given 10 years' service to the Church a recommendation may be made to the Pensions Committee to consider the award of an early retirement/~subsistence allowance at their discretion.

1.5 The procedure of the Presbytery under sections 1.1 and 1.2 and their final judgment under section 1.3, shall be subject to appeal and complaint in ordinary form to the superior courts; but when the Presbytery have taken the steps authorised in section 1.1, they shall proceed in face of all appeals until they have disposed of all questions arising under section 1.2.

2.1 When a Presbytery, having reached the stage of drawing up the statement prescribed in section 1.1, are of the opinion that prima facie grounds exist for thinking the unsatisfactory state of affairs to be due to the fault of any office-bearers or members of the congregation, they shall furnish extracts of their statement of such grounds to the party concerned, and call such party to the meeting of Presbytery at which the case is to be further considered, when they shall proceed in the same manner as in the case of a minister.

2.2 If, then, the Presbytery are constrained to conclude that the ends of the Gospel are not being served, and that this state of things is due to the fault or mismanagement personal to an office-bearer, or office-bearers, they may in such a case remove from office.

2.3 If the state of affairs, however, is seen to be attributable to a member or members of the congregation, the Presbytery may order that they be relieved of all public functions entrusted to them in the congregation, and order also that disjunction certificates be given to them, as the justice of the case and the interests of the congregation may require.

2.4 The provisions of section 1.5 regarding complaints and appeals shall apply also to cases arising under sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

3. Act III (Class I) 1892 - Act Anent Ministerial Inefficiency - is hereby repealed, except insofar as it applies to proceedings already instituted and referred to this Assembly in due form.

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

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

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1990

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 22nd day of May 1990, desire most respectfully to declare our wholehearted and unswerving allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks continually to Almighty God that He has blessed Your Majesty with health and strength, to enable you to fulfil all the duties of your Exalted Office, and that He has preserved you in your frequent journeyings at home and abroad.

We were glad that, as Head of the Commonwealth, you were able to preside over the recent Commonwealth Conference at Singapore; we are confident that such meetings help to foster good relations in the international sphere.

We give thanks for Your Majesty's publicly-expressed concern for the wellbeing of family life, at a time when the family is under great stress and insidious attack, and we are grateful for the wholesome example of Your Majesty and Your Royal Consort, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

We, your loyal subjects, have rejoiced with Your Majesty and the whole Royal House that God has blessed their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York, with the gift of a second daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Eugenie.

At this time, when there are such sweeping changes in the leadership of other nations, we rejoice that Your Majesty's Throne is based upon principles of justice, and the loyalty and deep affection of Your people.

We extend our affectionate greetings to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. We remember with gratitude her long years of public service, and we give thanks to God for the radiant personality with which she has been endowed, and the pleasure which her visits have given to so many of Your Majesty's faithful subjects. We pray that she may be maintained in health and strength to celebrate her ninetieth birthday in August.

We seek to make conscience of praying regularly, both in public and in private, for Your Majesty, and all the members of Your Royal House.

The sad situation in Northern Ireland continues to be a matter of grave concern, and we pray that God, in His mercy, may overrule these sad calamities, and give guidance and wisdom to those in authority, to find a just and peaceful solution to the problems of Ulster.

We view with appreciation the interests of Their Royal Highnesses The Prince and Princess of Wales in matters relating to the environment, the inner cities, and the youth of our land.

We note with admiration the selfless and untiring work of Her Royal Highness the Princess Anne on behalf of the Save the Children Fund, and also the enthusiastic efforts of His Royal Highness the Prince Edward on behalf of the homeless.

May the Divine blessing rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Throne, and upon His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and upon every member of your Royal House.

So pray Your Majesty's most loyal 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, 22nd May 1990

1. **Snizort.** The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Snizort Congregation and grant its crave. They approve of the sale of the Mission House at Uig, the proceeds of sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and the interest to be available for congregational purposes: the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

2. **Campbeltown.** The General Assembly receive the Petition from Campbeltown Deacons' Court and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Lorne Street Hall subject to the granting of a waiver by the Superior. The capital realised is to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation and the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

IV. - Act anent Release of Congregational Funds

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1990

1. **Nairn.** The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier and grant its crave. They amend paragraph 5 of Act I, 1977 to the extent that the sum of £10,000 is to be paid from the capital held in terms of that Act to defray the cost of the acquisition and renovation of a new Church Hall at Nairn.

2. **Kirkcaldy.** The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kirkcaldy congregation and grant its crave. They modify the terms of paragraph 4 of Act III 1985 to the extent that one half of the capital sum presently held in terms of that Act is to be made available to the Deacons' Court towards the cost of procuring a new Church building in Kirkcaldy.

3. **Rosskeen.** The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Rosskeen Deacons' Court and grant its crave. They authorise such release of capital from the Kilmuir Easter Fund as together with the monies already held by the congregation will enable a house to be acquired as manse for the assistant minister.

They ordain that in the event of the proposed arrangements being departed from in the future

and the said manse being sold, Rosskeen Deacons' Court will repay to the General Trustees for behoof of the Kilmuir Easter Fund an amount which will bear the same proportion to the selling price as the sum granted them from the Kilmuir Easter Fund bears to the purchase price.

V. - Act anent Reappointment of General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1990

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave; they reappoint the Rev. Huite Sliep a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

VI. - Act anent Reconstitution of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1990

The General Assembly reconstitute the Psalmody Advisory Panel as follows:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. H.G. MacKay, Rev. Fergus Macdonald, Rev. Professor Alasdair I. MacLeod, Rev. I.D. Campbell, Mr A. Finlay (Free North, Inverness), Mr D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr D.G. MacKay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr D.M. MacLeod (Livingston) and Mrs W.B. Scott (Dumfries).

VII. - Act anent Reconstitution of Working Party on the Syllabus

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1990

The General Assembly continue the remit of the Working Party on the Syllabus and reconstitute the Working Party as follows:

The Convener and Vice-Convener of the Welfare of Youth Committee; one representative of the Select Committee on Education, The Editor of The Instructor, Rev. Professor Donald Macleod, Rev. Innes M. MacRae, Rev. C. Matheson, Rev. R.C. Christie, Mr D. Gordon, Mr Colin MacDonald, Mr Evan Macdonald, Dr. Donald MacKenzie, Mr M.K. MacLeod and Mr G.F. MacLean.

VIII. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of The Monthly Record

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1990

The General Assembly appoint Rev. R.C. Christie, M.A., B.D., M.Th., Editor of The Monthly Record in terms of current legislation and in the first instance for seven years.

IX. - Act anent appointment of Editor of The Instructor

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The General Assembly appoint Rev. I.D. Campbell, M.A., B.D., Editor of The Instructor in terms of current legislation and in the first instance for seven years.

X. - Act anent Amendment of Pension Scheme

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The Assembly authorise the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to arrange for the following changes to the Pension Schemes to be incorporated into the new Schemes currently being drafted by the Church's professional advisers.

1. The Disability Pension should be based on prospective service. The old provisions will continue as an alternative for those in service prior to 21st May 1980.
2. The present Death-in-Service benefit while in receipt of Disability Pension is to be revoked. In its place the Scheme will permit commutation, similar to the provision on normal retirement.
3. Early retirement with pension after age 55 should be permitted on the following bases:
 - (a) In connection with any scheme approved by a presbytery and subsequently by the Assembly, for the betterment of the work in a congregation: such benefit will be discretionary and will be based on actual years of service with no reduction for extra years of pension payment.
 - (b) At employee's discretion but subject to an actuarial reduction to take account of extra years of pension payment.
4. (a) A discretionary pension equivalent to one half of the member's pension or prospective pension at normal retirement (calculated on 40 year Scheme) and taking into account the benefit payable under the Churches and Universities Widows' and Orphans Fund should be payable to a widow, but terminable on her remarriage.
 - (b) Similarly, an orphan's pension would be payable at one quarter of the rate of the widow's pension up to the legal maximum of four children per family. In the event of the widow's death, such orphans' benefits would be doubled.
5. As required by the law, the rules regarding calculation of commutation have been changed for those whose service started after 16th March 1987.
6. As required by the law, each Scheme must incorporate provisions to credit service to

females during time off on maternity leave.

7. In accordance with general pension practice, the normal base for the calculation of initial pension should be the salary of the member in the calendar year prior to retirement.

8. The General Assembly direct that in terms of Act of Commission IV, March 1982 (regulation 1 in both Pension Schemes) employees of the Church who work under the direction of the Asian Outreach Committee or any successor thereof, or the Committee on Church Extension or any successor thereof, and who otherwise come within the definition of those covered by the Pension Scheme for Ministers, etc. (i.e. full-time, permanent, etc.) are covered by the Scheme and are entitled to its benefits. Likewise any employee of the Publications Department who otherwise comes within the definition of those covered by the Offices Scheme is entitled to the benefits of that Scheme.

The Finance Committee is empowered to implement the changes to the Pension Scheme approved by the Assembly at whatever date may be judged appropriate, bearing in mind professional advice and the requirement for Inland Revenue approval.

XI. - Act anent Allocation of Legacies to Revenue

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The General Assembly direct that the Finance Committee be given discretion, provided no bar is imposed by the instructions of the testator, to allocate to revenue any single legacy of the value of £5,000 or under. Act VI, 1958 and subsequent adjusting Acts are hereby repealed.

XII Act anent Grant of Seats in Presbytery

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The General Assembly deem it appropriate to specify a code of regulations with reference to applications for a seat in a Presbytery from ministers who have demitted their charges. In doing so the General Assembly recognise that the primary consideration is the good of the Church. They therefore ordain as follows:

1. The General Assembly shall consider a petition to grant a seat in Presbytery to a minister who has demitted his charge only in the following two sets of circumstances:
 - 1.1 where for the conduct of the new work undertaken the minister is to a significant extent to be responsible to the Presbytery in which a seat is sought;
 - 1.2 where the new work undertaken is by secondment by a relevant Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.
2. Where the minister concerned has demitted his charge to take up a secular

appointment he shall not be entitled to seek a seat in the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides.

3. The provisions of this Act shall be without prejudice to the position of those granted seats in Presbyteries prior to the passing of this Act.

XIII. - Act anent Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers

(repealing Act I, 1972)

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

With reference to Ministers without Charge and resigned Ministers, the General Assembly enact that:

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

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. The Extract Minute shall include the resolution of the Presbytery to place the name of the minister either on the Register of Ministers without Charge or on the Roll of Resigned Ministers.

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

- 3.1 Where resignation is due to a breakdown in health;

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

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

4. Placement on the Register shall not be granted where the resigning minister has accepted an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland other than by secondment as noted at 3.3 above.

5. If a minister whose name has been placed on the Register or Roll shall be admitted to the

ministry or other full-time employment of another Church other than by secondment, his name shall be removed from the Register/Roll.

6. A Minister whose name is placed on the Register or Roll is required to notify the Clerk of Presbytery of any change of address. If a minister takes up residence within the bounds of another Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall also inform the Clerk of that Presbytery of his address.

7. In no case shall the name of a minister remain on the Register of Ministers without Charge for more than three years from the date of inclusion in the Register unless application for an extension of the period, conforming to the conditions of paragraph 3 above, be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three-year period. When the minister resides outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, his application for retention on the Register shall be made to the Presbytery of which he was previously a member. In no case shall a name remain on the Register for more than six years.

8. If a Presbytery instruct that a minister's name be placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers, it shall remain on that Roll without limit of time, subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 above.

9. A minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned Ministers and who desires to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the General Assembly through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time, such petition to conform with the conditions of paragraph 3 above.

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

11. Act I 1972 is hereby repealed.

XIV. - Act anent Assistant Minister of Rosskeen

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Rosskeen Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Ross to appoint an assistant minister to the Rosskeen Congregation in terms of Act V, 1986.

XV. - Act anent Consolidated Deacons' Court for Nairn, Croy and Ardersier

(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier and grant its crave. They amend Act II of the Commission of October 1987 so that

one Deacons' Court shall serve the consolidated charge.

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

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

The General Assembly reappoint as Trustee Mr Alastair Macdonald, OBE, who goes out of office at 30th May 1990.

XVII. - Act anent Designating Church Extension Charges under Act XXVII, 1989

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1990

1. **Dumfries.** The General Assembly designate the Congregation of Dumfries a Church Extension Charge in terms of Act XXVII 1989, but direct that a review undertaken in terms of paragraph 4.7 of the Act treat the Congregation as if it has already had that status for eight years.

2. **Lennoxtown.** The General Assembly designate the Congregation of Lennoxtown a Church Extension Charge in terms of Act XXVII 1989, but direct that a review undertaken in terms of paragraph 4.7 of the Act treat the Congregation as if it has already had that status for seven years.

3. **Drumchapel.** The General Assembly designate the Congregation of Drumchapel a Church Extension Charge in terms of Act XXVII 1989, but direct that a review undertaken in terms of paragraph 4.7 of the Act treat the Congregation as if it has already had that status for six years.

4. **Dunblane.** The General Assembly designate the Congregation of Dunblane a Church Extension Charge in terms of Act XXVII 1989, but direct that a review undertaken in terms of paragraph 4.7 of the Act treat the Congregation as if it has already had that status for four years.

5. **Coatbridge.** The General Assembly designate the Congregation of Coatbridge a Church Extension Charge in terms of Act XXVII 1989, but direct that a review undertaken in terms of paragraph 4.7 of the Act treat the Congregation as if it has already had that status for three years.

6. The General Assembly repeal Act III 1969 anent Extension Charges.

7. The General Assembly repeal Act XII 1975 anent Development Charges.

8. The General Assembly repeal Act XI 1979 anent Outreach Charges.

XVIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1990

1. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £9,125 from 1st January 1990 exclusive of the premiums paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. This figure is based on the variation in equal dividend permitted by Act XII 1989.
2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ministers who are in receipt of stipend only shall be paid at a rate equivalent to £9,099 per annum in the period April to December 1990, this variation not to affect other calculations or emoluments based on the Equal Dividend, and those affected receiving an additional payment of £25 in January 1991.

XIX. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Uig

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1990

The General Assembly approve that the congregation of Uig be placed on Special Arrangements for a period of five years.

XX. - Act anent Disjunction of Killearnan and Fortrose

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1990

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Ross to the extent that (a) they disjoin the congregations of Killearnan and Fortrose, and grant to each the status of a fully sanctioned charge, with right to call a minister upon approval of the relevant Schedule by the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance; and (b) they remit to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee (in consultation, if thought necessary, with the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance) consideration of methods of financing the provision of a manse in Fortrose, the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to report with recommendations to next General Assembly.

XXI. - Act anent Appointment of Professor of Church History and Principles

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1990

The General Assembly appoint Rev. H. Cartwright, M.A., to be Professor of Church History and Principles in the Free Church College in accordance with existing legislation. They direct the Presbytery of Ross to loose him from his present charge, and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair on a date not earlier than 8th September 1990.

XXII. - Act anent Code of Regulations for Missionaries

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1990

The General Assembly approve the Code of Regulations for Missionaries as set out below, and to that end they repeal Act XXXII of Class II, 1979, and Act XVIII of Class II, 1986.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGULATIONS FOR MISSIONARIES OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

1. GENERAL

1.1 The Free Church of Scotland, through its Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board (hereafter referred to as the Board) recruits, selects, appoints and sends to its present fields (and to any fields that may hereafter be taken up), the following classes of Missionaries:

1.1.1 Ordained Ministers of the Free Church of Scotland or any Church with which the Free Church of Scotland has a mutual eligibility arrangement and ministers of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland: in terms of the provisions of Act XXVII of Class II 1982. Where formal induction to missionary work is appropriate the Board will arrange this by agreement with a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, or the sending Church.

1.1.2 Christian men and women, whose qualifications, training and experience are deemed appropriate for missionary service. Appointments in this category are from the communicant membership of:

- (i) the Free Church of Scotland,
- (ii) the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland,
- (iii) the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia,
- (iv) any Church with which the Free Church of Scotland may have specific relationships.

In all such cases a written commitment of adherence to the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith shall be a condition of appointment.

1.2 Where the Free Church of Scotland recognises an indigenous Church in the country of service, missionaries appointed by the Board for work within 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.

1.3 Where the appointment is to a missionary-orientated institution such as a school or hospital which is the direct concern of the Board singly or in cooperation with other agencies, appointment of missionaries shall be by the Board or by the cooperating agency with the Board's prior agreement.

Such institutions may make appointments of a missionary nature on 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.

1.4 Secondment: The Board may second persons to other missionary work under terms of secondment regulations approved by the General Assembly. Current regulations are set out in Act XXV (Class II), 1988.

2. APPOINTMENT

2.1 Selection Procedure: Persons interested in service under the Board will normally first meet informally with the Board's Recruitment Committee. If the indications are favourable the candidate will be asked to submit a completed application form along with a certificate from his/her Kirk Session and in case of ordained person or probationer a certificate from his Presbytery. In all cases a certificate from the Board's Medical Adviser will be required in respect of the candidate, his wife and children. The candidate will then meet with the full Board. The outcome of interview will be conveyed by letter.

2.2 The Board will arrange for training and orientation as required.

2.3 Acceptance of appointment implies an undertaking by the missionary to render the full period of service which qualifies for home-leave, that is four years, and it is hoped that this undertaking will be renewed repeatedly on occasions of home-leave.

2.4 In exceptional circumstances it shall be within the power of the Board at the time of appointment to enter into special arrangements with any missionary for a definite term of service of such length and subject to such conditions as may be agreed on. Any such special arrangements shall be reported to the next General Assembly or meeting of its Commission.

2.3 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 be payable from the date of appointment.

2.6 All missionaries shall, on appointment, sign a declaration of acceptance of the regulations and of the Board's policy in the event of kidnapping. A formal contract shall only be necessary insofar as special circumstances call for definition.

2.7 A lady going out to be married to a missionary will meet with the Board and will be required to furnish a certificate from the Board's Medical Adviser.

3. TRAVEL AND TRANSIT OF GOODS

3.1 Arrangements for travel to the country of appointment and on home-leave shall be the responsibility of the Board through agents approved by them and shall be paid for by the Board.

3.2 These travel arrangements refer to missionaries, their 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 the Board's responsibility shall be limited to the same number of journeys as the missionary is due.

3.3 The Board will make travel arrangements for a lady going out to be married to a missionary when the requirements of 2.7 above have been fulfilled.

3.4 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 meet the expense of return to the home country when the travel arrangements have been vetted by the Board, and return is within one year of the young person having reached the age of 18 or having completed full-time education.

3.3 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 and paid for by the Board. It shall be the responsibility of the missionary to submit a list for approval before transit is arranged.

4. DUTIES

4.1 Where 1.2 and 1.4 above do not apply agreement about duties to be undertaken shall be made at time of appointment.

4.2 Missionaries shall not absent themselves from their sphere of duty except when on recognised vacation or in an emergency.

4.3 Missionaries shall not undertake outside commitments which may conflict with their full performance of the duties to which they were appointed.

4.4 Missionaries shall not undertake any new schemes or extensions of any schemes already sanctioned without the Board's being advised thereof in advance and their approval being first obtained.

4.5 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.

4.6 During home-leave outside employment shall not be undertaken, except with the consent of the Board.

4.7 Missionaries must gain a working knowledge of the vernacular language. The Board will meet the cost of language study. Where possible language study will be undertaken before proceeding to the field, otherwise adequate time must be given to such studies in the first period of service so that within two years of arrival on the field evidence of satisfactory progress can be provided.

4.8 All missionaries are required to submit an annual report of their work to the Board and for this purpose they are encouraged to keep regular records.

4.9 Vehicles: Where missionaries are provided with vehicles they are responsible for their proper maintenance and repair.

4.10 Properties: All missionaries occupying or having under their care properties owned by the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees must arrange for their proper maintenance and repair.

5. PASTORAL CARE

5.1 Each missionary is accorded the right to refer to the Board any matter of personal or domestic concern in which counsel or help is required.

3.2 Problems arising on the Field involving other missionaries, mission policy or relations with the National Churches should first be discussed locally. In exceptional cases where an amicable agreement cannot be reached a report may be submitted to the Board.

5.3 During visitation of any Field the delegate(s), of the Board will have private consultations with missionaries and missionaries wives. Soon after return either for home-leave or on completion of service designated members of the Board will interview missionaries and wives.

6. ACCOMMODATION

6.1 On the Field: Accommodation owned by the Free Church of Scotland will be occupied rent-free by the missionary. Where there is no Church-owned accommodation the Board will pay the rent of accommodation previously approved by them.

6.2 Home-leave: During home-leave the Board will, as far as possible, provide accommodation. Otherwise accommodation allowances will be paid by the Board.

7. SALARIES

7.1 The Board recognise two categories of missionary:

(i) Professionals, including ordained ministers, teachers, doctors, nurses and others possessing qualifications and appointed to posts that would be regarded as professional.

(ii) Non-professionals.

7.2 Professionals will be paid at the rate of the equal dividend.

7.3 Non-professionals will be paid at the rate of 80% of the equal dividend.

7.4 Where appropriate, expenses incurred in connection with the missionary's performance of duties will be met by the Board.

8. ALLOWANCES

8.1 Outfit Allowance: Missionaries on first going to the field shall receive outfit/luggage allowance as the Board shall deem appropriate.

8.2 Holiday Allowance: Holiday allowances in years in which home-leave does not occur will be payable in terms of 10.1 below.

8.3 Child Allowance: 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.

8.4 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 allowance.

Where, in the interests of the work, a missionary continues on the field beyond the date of any of their children completing secondary education the Board are empowered, where appropriate, to give help with tertiary education costs.

8.5 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 annually, if requested by the parents. This provision shall not apply to children over the age of 18 years.

8.6 Medical and Dental Expenses on the Field: Claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred on the field should be made by completing the relevant form available from the Board Secretary.

8.7 Responsibility Allowance: Certain posts (e.g. Head of an Institution, Field Superintendent) may qualify for a responsibility allowance.

8.8 Non-professional married man's Allowance: An allowance of up to 20% of the equal dividend is payable to a non-professional married man.

9. INSURANCE and SUPERANNUATION

Information on Insurance and Superannuation provisions will be provided at time of appointment.

10. LEAVE

10.1 Annual Leave: 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-leave 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 institutions, such as schools or hospitals, the administrator of the institution.

10.2 Sick Leave: Sick leave on full pay up to one month's duration may be granted by the local Council, Advisory Council, Presbytery or Administrator on provision of a medical certificate.

Where it is deemed necessary to extend sick leave beyond a month the approval of the Board shall be sought.

When it is evident that circumstances are such as require a missionary or a member of a missionary's family to return home, the authority of the Board shall be sought, where possible before arrangements are made. In cases of great urgency a decision should be taken on the field. In such cases the Board shall have power to make such financial provision as they deem necessary.

10.3 Compassionate Leave: Compassionate home-leave may be granted at the discretion of the Board.

10.4 Home-leave: 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 mission fields.

10.4.1 The normal period of service will be FOUR years qualifying for home-leave of NINE months.

10.4.2 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 special excursion fares are available without tax penalties missionaries may have the option, subject to the approval of the Board, of taking up to three months home-leave after not less than two years' service. This option will ordinarily be available only for those on the second and subsequent periods of service. Missionaries availing themselves of this option will be entitled to nine months home-leave after a further period of three years service.

In permitting these alternative arrangements the Board will take into consideration the needs on the field in question and the availability of finance.

10.4.3 The period of home-leave shall be reckoned from the date of departure from the country of service until the date of return thereto.

10.4.4 The Board reserve the power to judge how far sick or special leave may affect entitlement to home-leave.

10.4.5 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 may on the advice of the administrator of the institution stand deferred until the close of such session or recognised year.

10.4.6 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 12.2.1 below will apply.

11. MEMBERSHIP OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11.1 A missionary on home-leave who is an elder of the Free Church of Scotland 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.

11.2 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 Board, and as such member he shall be subject to no disqualification.

11.3 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 to whom a commission is given under the hand of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board such commission shall be held to cover both his Presbyterial and Session certificates.

12. TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

Service under the Board may be terminated in the following ways and under the conditions specified:

12.1 By Call from Home Church: It shall be competent for a Presbytery in the home Church to moderate in a Call to a missionary on overseas service. The Presbytery shall notify the missionary concerned and shall transmit the Call to the Board who shall have powers of Presbytery in disposing of it. 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, e.g. 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.

12.2 By Resignation: In all cases of resignation the Board must be satisfied as to the reasons for resignation and have at least three months notice.

12.2.1 Resignation on completion of one or more full terms of service: On resignation after one full period of service the missionary shall be entitled to home-leave salary and allowances for six months or until 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.

12.2.2 Resignation during a period of service: If the missionary has rendered at least one half of the service qualifying for home-leave home-coming fares shall be met by the Board, provided that home-coming is within six weeks of resignation: otherwise home-coming fares will be the missionary's own responsibility.

12.2.3 In case of single lady missionaries resignation with a view to marriage: In as much as it is normal Board policy not to employ married ladies, lady missionaries will normally be required to resign on being married.

In special circumstances and where the work may suffer by insistence on the immediate resignation of the lady concerned these regulations may be waived to the extent of permitting the missionary to continue under the service of the Board for a specified period.

It may also be competent for a lady to continue in service after marriage by local agreement with the administrator of an institution which is the direct concern of the Board singly or in cooperation with other agencies: any such local agreement to be mutually acceptable to the institution and the Board. It shall also be competent for the Board to give financial assistance to the institution, where necessary, towards the missionary's salary.

For a lady resigning with a view to marriage during a term of service the terms of 12.2.2 above will apply.

For a lady resigning after a full period of service the terms of 12.2.1 above will apply.

12.3 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. In such cases there is no obligation on the Board to help with home-coming fares or pay a living allowance. At its discretion the Board may make "ex gratia" payments.

12.4 As a 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 home-leave payments for which the period of service rendered shall qualify. Where the resolution is on the grounds of such censurable conduct as require termination of service the provision of 12.3 above shall apply. The position in respect of fares and assistance of a missionary appealing to the Board for review, shall be as therein described.

12.3 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 for which the period of service rendered shall qualify.

13. RELATIONS WITH NATIONAL CHURCHES

The relationships of the Free Church of Scotland and its Board of Missions with national Churches are defined in specific agreements with those Churches in terms of which agreements missionaries are seconded to the national Churches.

14. 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 Mission 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.

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.

APPENDIX I: NORTH AMERICA

I. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BOARD AND THE CONGREGATIONS WHICH FORM THE SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

1.1 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 constitute the Synod of North America.

1.2 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 communications with the General Assembly. The Board are also authorised by the Assembly to appoint assessors to Presbytery and/or Synod as may be desirable.

1.3 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.

2. REGULATIONS GOVERNING A CALL FROM A NORTH AMERICAN CONGREGATION

2.1 When a Presbytery moderates in a Call from a North American 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 Presbytery at the bar of the Presbytery dealing with the Call or shall deal directly with the probationer or missionary.

If the Call is addressed to a missionary who is seconded to another Church in terms of 1.2 of the Board regulations that Church will be given the opportunity to express its mind and to be represented at the bar of the Presbytery dealing with the Call.

2.2 Before declaring themselves satisfied with the conditions of service referred to above, the Board shall approve of the minimum stipend, the range of expenses promised, health insurance coverage and accommodation to be provided, and shall be informed of the congregation's undertaking to review the stipend and expenses annually in relation to the cost of living in the place of service.

2.3 The congregation calling the minister shall be responsible for his outgoing travel costs, inclusive of the cost of the shipment of such goods as shall be itemised and agreed to by the congregation.

2.4 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 travel costs to his home country, including cost of shipment of such goods as shall be itemised and agreed to by the Board. In any case the Board shall not be obliged to contrive to make good the stipend deficit beyond this period.

2.3 Home-leave: The Board shall pay travel costs to his home country of a minister who has given a period of six years' service in the Synod of North America, it being understood that the Synod determine the length of home-leave and retain responsibility for stipend. The Board will pay an accommodation allowance.

3. REGULATIONS GOVERNING A CALL FROM A HOME CONGREGATION TO A MINISTER SERVING IN THE SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA

3.1 Call from a home congregation duly sustained by the Presbytery of the bounds shall be

transmitted to the North American 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 travel costs, as agreed in advance by the Board, shall be met by the Board in the proportion that the term of service given shall bear to six years: the remainder shall be a charge on the calling congregation. It shall be the responsibility of the minister under Call and the calling congregation to come to an understanding as to what costs the congregation are prepared to undertake with regard to shipment of goods.

4. REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CASE OF A MINISTER WHO HAVING COMPLETED SIX YEARS SERVICE IN THE SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA RESIGNS HIS CHARGE WITH A VIEW TO RETURNING TO HOME COUNTRY

4.1 The Board must be satisfied as to the reasons for resignation.

4.2 The minister shall be entitled to the payment of travel costs to his home country and also salary for a period of six months or until he is inducted to a home charge or takes up other permanent employment, whichever is sooner.

The cost of salary shall be charged equally to the Board and the North American congregation which was served. An accommodation allowance shall be paid by the Board up to a maximum of six months.

The Board will accept responsibility for shipment of only such goods as shall be itemized and agreed to by the Board.

5. TRAVEL COSTS

Ministers' travel costs referred to in 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.1 and 4.2 above include the travelling expenses of his wife and dependant children up to 18 years of age.

APPENDIX II

GENERAL PROCEDURE IN RELATION TO THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

1. Members of the Australian Church, resident in Australia, who desire to volunteer for work in Free Church of Scotland Missions, should apply, in the first instance, to their home Committee indicating the preferred sphere of labour. The Australian Committee would pass on this application, with its comments, to the Free Church of Scotland Foreign Missions Board.

2. When members of the Australian Church resident in Britain apply directly to the Free Church of Scotland Board for acceptance as missionaries, enquiry will be made by the Board forthwith as to whether they have any contractual obligations to the Australian Church. Where such a bond exists, even if of an informal nature, applicants will be instructed to direct their application via the Australian Church. Even where no such obligation exists the Board

will notify the Australian Church of the application and invite its comments.

3. In the case of a missionary candidate who has trained for the ministry in Scotland under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland it is competent for that Presbytery, if the Australian Church so wish, to licence the candidate. Ordination and induction or, in the case of unordained missionaries, the setting apart to the work, maybe decided in collaboration with the Australian Church in each particular case having regard to the desires of the candidates and the circumstances of appointment.

XXIII. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1990

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Wm. McKnight 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 Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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 a report from the Presbytery of Inverness regarding Rev. Robert Smith and the Greyfriars Congregation, Inverness, to review Mr Smith's stipend, and to consider further and determine such matters arising therefrom as require immediate resolution, 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, 25th May 1990

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday, 20th May 1991 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

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

MAY MCMXCI (1991)

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, 21st May 1991

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 1991, desire most respectfully to declare our unswerving allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. We are mindful of the heavy burden of statecraft which Your Majesty has to bear and we give the assurance that Your Majesty, His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and all members of Your Royal House are faithfully prayed for throughout our Church as our people gather for the public worship of God.

We rejoice that Your Majesty's throne remains firmly established in the loyalty and affections

of Your people, both in the United Kingdom and throughout the Commonwealth. This affection and obvious esteem are also seen among other nations which Your Majesty has visited in Your constant endeavours to promote the cause of peace and to consolidate good relations between our nation and other lands, endeavours which have justly caused Your Majesty to be called “freedom’s friend”.

We record with gratitude God’s protecting care over Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the many exacting journeys undertaken both overseas and within the United Kingdom, and we also express our gratitude that such care has attended the journeys of the other Members of Your House in the course of their service to our nation.

We record with profound gratitude to God the end of the war in the Persian Gulf region and, while we sincerely grieve with those who lost loved ones in that sad conflict, we also record our thankfulness that such casualties among Your Majesty’s forces were few. The manner in which Your Majesty’s forces carried out their dangerous and exacting duties deserve the admiration of us all. We continue to pray that the aftermath of the war may result in a lasting peace in the region and the awareness that unscrupulous dictators or nations cannot with impunity trample on the sovereign rights of weaker or smaller nations.

In an age when we, sadly, witness the erosion of Christian standards of morality, family life and the public recognition of the Commandments of our Sovereign God we rejoice in Your Majesty’s often-avowed trust in the living God and in Your adherence to the Christian ideals of home and family life. In this connection we would thank Your Majesty for the high tone of the messages which from time to time Your Majesty broadcasts to the nation and the Commonwealth.

We record our pleasure in Your Majesty’s continuing interest in Scottish life and affairs - an interest reflected also by other Members of Your Royal House.

It is with appreciation that we also record the active involvement of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in matters of deep public interest and concern regarding the environment and related issues, and the sympathetic and informed concern of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales for the disabled and disadvantaged in our communities. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal continues to draw our admiration for her work on behalf of the needy children ministered to by the Save the Children Fund.

Our respect and esteem for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother continues and we rejoice in her continued strength and good health.

May the blessing of Almighty God and the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon Your Majesty’s Person and Throne and upon His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and upon every member of Your Royal House.

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

II. - Act anent Occupation of Manses

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly endorse the principle that, in holding a charge, a minister is obliged to occupy the manse. They further ordain that authorisation for the sale of a manse on the grounds that a minister may wish to occupy his own house be refused.

III. - Act anent Grants and Loans by Church and Manse Building Fund

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly, considering that circumstances may arise in which already existing congregations wish to procure either replacement or additional buildings and that there has not been established any regular mechanism for the Church as a whole to assist in such cases, hereby authorise the Church and Manse Building Fund Committee to make grants and/or loans available subject to the following conditions:

- 1.1 The Deacons' Court of the Congregation shall submit a fully documented application in connection with each project to the presbytery of the bounds, whose support for the application is required before the matter can be considered by the Committee.
- 1.2 In considering an application the Committee shall have regard to the desirability of the project, the standards of the proposed building, the funds available to the congregation from its own resources and funds which may be available from other sources, and the congregation's capacity to meet the repayments involved and to contribute to Central Funds.
- 1.3 The Church and Manse Building Fund Committee shall report on each application which it decides to support to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, whose decision as to the availability of funds in excess of those already allocated to the Fund shall be final.
- 2.1 No funds shall be made available to the congregation until it has already gathered a minimum of one-third of the total projected cost of the project.
- 2.2 The Committee shall not allocate funds by way of grant in excess of one-third of the total cost of the project as originally approved.
- 2.3 The Committee in determining the level of assistance provided by the Fund shall have regard to the congregation's own resources and funds which may be available from other sources.
- 2.4 The Congregation shall be responsible for paying interest on any loan advanced by the Fund at a rate and in a manner specified by the Committee, and also for repaying the sum advanced over a specified period (not to exceed twenty years). The property

procured shall be considered as security for this loan.

3.1 All properties procured in this way shall be held under the Model Trust Deed.

3.2 Permission to sell property procured in this way may not be granted within twenty years without a supporting extract minute from the Committee, which may require, in recognition of the grant allocated, the payment of such a sum as shall not exceed the same proportion of the final selling price as the grant was of the original cost of the project.

4. Notwithstanding that the provisions of this Act are not retrospective, they shall be applied to projects at Fortrose and Kirkcaldy which are presently before the Committee.

IV. - Act anent Retired Ministers

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly in order to clarify the position of ministers who have retired from their charges in terms of Act I, 1981 or who have resiled their sessional rights as provided for in the said Act, enact and ordain as follows:

1. It shall be competent for a minister retired in terms of Act I, 1981 or who has resiled his sessional rights in the manner prescribed in the said Act to have his name included in the Communion Roll of the congregation which he regularly attends.

2. It shall be competent for such a minister to serve as an elder in the congregation in which he has membership but he may not be commissioned in that capacity to represent the Kirk Session in Presbytery and Synod, nor may he be commissioned as an elder to the General Assembly.

3. The retired minister remains for disciplinary purposes accountable to the Presbytery of which he is a member.

V. - Act anent Disposal of Surplus Properties and Monies Arising Therefrom

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

1. The General Assembly direct that all properties which are maintained centrally by the Church and are rented out should be assessed as to the need to retain them and any found to be surplus to requirements should be sold and the resulting proceeds put to work for the benefit of the Church as a whole.

2. The General Assembly direct Presbyteries as follows:

- 2.1 To continue to examine the possibility of linking congregations where this is feasible.
- 2.2 To assess the need to retain all properties within their bounds and where any properties are found to be surplus to requirements to urge the congregations to dispose of them and also to seek their agreement to using at least part of the proceeds for the wider work of the Church especially in areas where new buildings are required.
- 2.3 To identify areas where at considerable cost gospel ordinances are being maintained: to assess the measure of response and whether it is likely to justify continued effort: to report within 12 months to the Sustentation Committee if it appears that the resources involved would be more profitably employed elsewhere.
3. The General Assembly direct the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to establish a fund into which contributions from congregations, realised in terms of 2.2 above, shall be paid. Committees with special projects requiring finance may apply to this fund as need arises.

VI. - Act anent Negotiation of Congregational Targets and Related Matters
(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly recognising that the present targeting system has shortcomings which leave both the congregations and the Monthly Review Sub-committee with feelings of exasperation and frustration and that a radical revision of the method of raising funds from congregations is now appropriate direct the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee as follows:

1. To negotiate with each congregation whose regular income of a recurring nature exceeds 1.5 times the Equal Dividend to remit to Central Funds an agreed percentage of that income. The larger congregations will be expected to remit a higher percentage of regular income than the smaller congregations.
2. To negotiate with the remaining congregations to remit to Central Funds an amount to be agreed annually bearing in mind the income of these congregations and the effects of inflation on the central costs.
3. To urge ministers to explain the Church's needs at least once a year either by pulpit intimation or in the course of their preaching.
4. To provide information by way of a half-yearly bulletin showing how money flowing through Central Funds is being used. This bulletin should be supplemented by regular information in The Monthly Record highlighting areas where money is spent.
5. To arrange for an article to be written to promote Deeds of Covenant and to answer criticism of Deeds which seems to be based on a lack of understanding of the Establishment Principle.

6. To produce guidelines on ministerial expenses and guidelines on the completion of Statistical Schedules.

7. To provide information regarding suitable Cash Books which are available on the market and sample headings for Cash Book pages for both Receipts and Payments.

VII. - Act anent Reconstitution of Working Party on the Syllabus

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly continue the remit of the Working Party on the Syllabus and reconstitute it as follows:

The Convener and Vice-convener of the Welfare of Youth Committee, one representative of the Select Committee on Education, the Editor of The Instructor, Rev. Professor Donald Macleod, Rev. R.C. Christie, Rev. C. Matheson, Rev. Innes M. MacRae, Mr D. Gordon, Mr Colin MacDonald, Mr Evan Macdonald and Dr D. MacKenzie.

VIII. - Act anent Reconstitution of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly thank the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group for the work done so far and reconstitute the Group as follows:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. H.G. MacKay, Rev. Fergus Macdonald, Rev. Professor Alasdair I. Macleod, Rev. I.D. Campbell, Rev. J.A. MacLeod (Dingwall), Mr A. Finlay (Free North, Inverness), Mr D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr L. McDowell (Livingston), Mr D.G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars, Edinburgh), Mr G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr D.M. MacLeod (Aberdeen), and Mrs W.B. Scott (Dumfries).

IX. - Act anent Consolidation of Urquhart and Resolis Congregations

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Ross and grant its crave. They ordain that:

1. the Congregations of Urquhart and Resolis be linked together with separate Kirk Sessions and Deacons' Courts or Finance Committees, from the date of retirement of Rev. R.W. Josey;
2. there be at least three services held each Sabbath throughout the linked charge, and that the minister be authorised to have assistance with weekend supply, the expenses and fees of such

supply being a charge on the Sustentation Fund Committee in accordance with current supply arrangements;

3. Resolis Congregation be authorised to have resident supply annually for a maximum of three months for a period not exceeding three years from the date of a settlement;

4. Inasmuch as linkage, while not precluding the hope of both congregations being ultimately susceptible to redevelopment, would relieve Central Funds of the outlay of one minister's salary, the two congregations be assessed as one for target purposes, and that an equitable readjustment be made to the sum which each congregation is called on to remit, the position to be reviewed after three years from the date of a settlement and reported on to the General Assembly following consultation between the Congregations, the Presbytery and the Review Sub-committee;

5. the Kirk Session of Resolis be maintained at a strength similar to that required in a Redevelopment Charge;

6. the Finance Committees of the Congregations of Urquhart and Resolis shall maintain consultation with one another so as to secure an equitable sharing annually of congregational funds for joint local purposes.

X. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £10,000 from 1st January 1991, exclusive of premiums paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and approve the continuance of the other other categories of salary paid at a fixed proportion of the Equal Dividend.

XI. - Act anent Appointment of Minister to the Congregation of Mull

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly, noting the need and potential that exist in Mull, and considering that the circumstances of the Congregation there are not appropriately met by any existing legislation, authorise the Sustentation and Supply Committee to appoint, within two years, a minister to Mull on the analogy of the procedure for appointing a District Minister (Act XIX, 1983, as amended by Act XXIV, 1989); the appointment to be subject to the conditions set out in the above-noted legislation, and the Congregation being required to remit at least £3,000 initially, rising to a minimum of 60% of the Equal Dividend over five years.

XII. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Congregation of Shettleston

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly, noting with satisfaction the increased remittances of the Shettleston Congregation in 1990, instruct the Committee on Sustentation and Supply to continue the Congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform for a further year while they make a full assessment of the situation in consultation with the Glasgow Presbytery, the Committee to report to next General Assembly.

XIII. - Act anent Travelling Expenses of Supply

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly amend Act XV, 1972, Appendix II, B(1), as amended by Act XIII 1979, so that it now reads:

“(a) Congregations shall be responsible for meeting travelling expenses of Supply where these do not exceed £10.

(b) Where travelling expenses exceed £10, the Committee shall bear the additional expenditure to a maximum outlay by the Committee of £15.

These changes to come into effect from 1 January 1992”.

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

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly reappoint as a Trustee to the Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund the Rev. Principal-Emeritus C. Graham, M.A., B.D., who goes out of office at 30th May 1991.

XV. - Act anent Evangelism and Church Planting

(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly, conscious of the non-reference to a Probationer in the Act, amend Act XXVII, Class II, 1989 anent Evangelism and Church Planting paragraph 2 to read as follows: “When the Committee have agreed upon the area of operation they should seek the services of a minister or probationer deemed to have the gifts requisite for the enterprise and invite him to undertake it. 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. If he be settled in a charge the invitation will be processed through his Presbytery following the analogy of a Call”.

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

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Stornoway and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Lewis to take action to procure an appointment in terms of Act V 1986, and direct that the conditions of appointment be as stated in the said Act.

**XVII. - Act anent Appointment of Assistant Minister to Buccleuch and Greyfriars
Congregation**
(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to appoint an assistant minister to the Buccleuch and Greyfriars Congregation in terms of Act V, 1986.

XVIII. - Act anent Appointment of Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber
(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1991

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint Rev. H. Sliep as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XIX. - Act anent Sales of Properties
(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1991

1. Bracadale. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Bracadale Deacons' Court and grant its Crave. They authorise the sale of the manse, subject to a minute of waiver being received from the Superior. They instruct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees until required for the acquisition of a new manse, any interest accruing to be added to capital. Any surplus not required for the purchase of the new manse to be retained for behoof of the congregation and the interest thereon to be paid to the congregation. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents and the title of the new manse to be taken in terms of the Model Trust Deed.

2. Kiltearn. The General Assembly remit the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kiltearn to the Committee for further investigation and consideration in consultation with the Presbytery of Ross, the Committee to report to the Commission of General Assembly which shall dispose of the matter.

3. Duirinish. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Duirinish Congregation regarding the sale of Lusta Mission Hall, Waternish. Insofar as it is within their power they grant its crave and authorise the sale of the said Mission Hall subject to such conditions as

the titles impose. The proceeds of sale are to be invested with the General Trustees and interest accruing paid to congregational funds. The Deacons' Court are authorised to withdraw from the capital such money as may be needed for specific needs. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

4. Duirinish. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Duirinish Congregation with reference to Burnside Cottage, Waternish and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the cottage and direct that the proceeds of sale be invested with the General Trustees. The Deacons' Court of Duirinish are authorised to draw on the capital realised for necessary repairs to the Waternish Church. Interest on capital is to be paid to the Deacons' Court for the benefit of the Waternish section of the congregation. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

5. Burghead. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Burghead Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse at Burghead with retention of the adjoining garden site to be used for the erection of a new manse. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and released as required for the erection of a new manse, any interest accruing meantime to be added to capital and any excess capital to be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation and interest thereon paid to congregational funds. The transaction is to be carried out by or under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

6. Elgin. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Elgin Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of 95 square metres or thereby of the manse garden ground, the proceeds of sale to be made over to the congregational fabric fund. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

7. Greenock.

Edinburgh, 21st May 1991

7.1 The General Assembly, notwithstanding Act II, Class II, 1991, are prepared to entertain a Petition requesting permission for the sale of the present manse in Greenock for the special reasons adduced, but hereby declare that this can not be regarded as a precedent, and further declare that in any future purchase of a manse, any shortfall in invested capital, cannot be met by grant.

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1991

7.2 The General Assembly receive the Petition from Greenock Congregation and in the special circumstances ascertained grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at 255 Eldon Street, Greenock. The proceeds of sale are to be invested with the General Trustees partly for behoof of the Greenock section of the consolidated charge and the amount advanced by the Dunoon section to be held on their behalf. In each case interest accruing is to be added to capital pending the acquisition of a new manse. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents and the titles of the new manse taken out in terms of the Model Trust Deed.

8. Resolis. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Resolis Finance Committee

and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Resolis and its adjoining land. The funds realised are to be lodged with the General Trustees. That part of the Capital shall be released which is necessary to meet the cost of improvements to the amenities of the church at Resolis and improvements to the Manse at Urquhart which is to serve the linked charge of Urquhart and Resolis. The residue of the capital shall be held by the General Trustees for behoof of the Resolis section of the linked charge of Urquhart and Resolis and the income paid to the Resolis Finance Committee in order that they may meet their share of the commitments of the linked charge. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

XX. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1991

1. Coigach. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Coigach Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the General Trustees to release £1,000 of the capital held for behoof of the congregation for the purpose of defraying the cost of repairs to the church building.
2. Olig, Watten and Bower. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Olig, Watten and Bower Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the withdrawal from the capital held for behoof of Watten and Bower of a sum not exceeding £10,000, such sum to be applied to the cost of erection of the new manse of the consolidated charge.

XXI. - Act anent Medical Examination of Applicants for Admission to the Ministry

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1991

The General Assembly enact that before considering an application for admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee shall obtain a medical report from one of the Committee's panel of medical examiners, on the applicant's state of health and medical fitness for the ministry.

XXII. - Act anent Teaching of Ecclesiology and Missiology

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1991

1. The General Assembly repeal Act XXX (Class II) 1983, anent Teaching of Ecclesiology and Missiology.
2. The General Assembly amend Act XX (Class II) 1985, as amended by Act XIX, 1987 section II.7.4 (formerly numbered II.7.3) by the deletion of the words "and Missiology" following the words "Exit Examination in Church History."
3. The General Assembly authorise the transference of studies in missiology to the Professor

of Practical Theology and ordain that ecclesiology shall continue to be part of the studies in Church History.

XXIII. - Act anent Evangelistic Outreach Work by Students

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1991

The General Assembly enact that students training for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland should continue to engage in evangelistic outreach work as an essential part of their training, that this requirement be fulfilled between the conclusion of their first academic session and the beginning of their final session in the College, that this requirement should be under the Professor of Practical Theology, and that student co-operation in this scheme should count towards the fulfilment of their obligations in terms of Act XX, II(10), 1985.

XXIV. - Act anent Admission of Mr I.D. Wylie

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1991

The General Assembly receive the Application from Mr I.D. Wylie and admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland with effect from his signing the Formula. The Admissions Committee is charged to request the Southern Presbytery of the Free Church in Southern Africa to witness this signing. They instruct the Clerk of Assembly to include Mr Wylie's name on the Register of Ministers eligible for a call on receipt of an extract from the named Presbytery certifying that he has duly signed the Formula. Pension entitlement in this Church shall date from Mr Wylie's formal induction/appointment in the service of the Church subsequent to his being placed on the Register.

XXV. - Act anent Appointment of Sub-committee on Social Responsibility

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1991

1. The General Assembly instruct the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee to establish a Standing Sub-committee from amongst their members, to be known as the Sub-committee On Social Responsibility with membership and convener determined by the Public Questions Committee, and to co-opt persons with appropriate specialist knowledge and experience.
2. The General Assembly instruct that the Sub-committee monitor annual returns from Presbyteries of the work done by the Church to fulfil their social responsibility and that this appear as part of the Public Questions Report.
3. The General Assembly instruct the Public Questions Committee, that should it fail to form a Committee on Joint Church Action against Alcohol Abuse, it organise through this mechanism a series of seminars on alcohol problems and the interventions available.

4. The General Assembly instruct the Public Questions Committee to investigate in consultation with the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee and General Trustees the possibility of setting up a project in Edinburgh to relieve homelessness.

XXVI. - Act anent Appointment of Representative to Eastern Europe for Christ

(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1991

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Principal C. Graham, M.A., B.D., to be their representative on the Council of Eastern Europe for Christ for three years.

XXVII. - Act anent Discharge of Asian Outreach Committee

(No. 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1991

1. The General Assembly, recognising that the work hitherto undertaken by the Asian Outreach Committee under the Foreign and Overseas Missions' Board has developed into two parallel but distinct operations deem the time ripe to maximise the potential of each operation by disjoining them and assigning them to different Standing Committees. Having in mind that outreach to the immigrant population may result in the erection of new congregations they direct that this work be under the supervision of the Church Extension Committee in terms of an Act more fully detailed yet to be approved.

2. Recognising also that outreach to Overseas students aims at their conversion to Christ and so at their becoming Christian witnesses to their own countries upon their return they assign supervision of this work to the Foreign and Overseas Missions' Board, the operation to be in terms of an Act following.

3. As from the close of this Assembly the General Assembly discharge the Asian Outreach Committee and repeal the relevant Acts, viz: Act XXI, 1984, Act XXVI, 1988, Act XV, 1987 (Amending Act XXIII, 1982).

XXVIII. - Act anent Outreach to Overseas Students

(No. 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1991

1. The General Assembly charge the Foreign and Overseas Missions' Board to stimulate and encourage missions to overseas students in the various student centres of the country in the hope that those converted to Christ in God's grace may become witnesses to their own people upon their return to their native countries.

2. They direct that to this end the Board shall consult with Presbyteries within whose bounds are universities and colleges that attract overseas students, with a view to initiating such missions or encouraging the development of such missions as are already active.

3. The Board's ongoing responsibility will be mainly with regard to advising on a general policy, budgeting for the necessary financial support, and procuring such full time staff as may be deemed necessary. The more immediate matters of day-to-day supervision will be assigned to a Kirk Session agreed upon by Board and Presbytery.
4. When it appears that the work requires the full-time services of an ordained minister to act as chaplain to overseas students the responsible Kirk Session and Presbytery shall so report to the Board. If the Board agree with this decision they shall seek authority from the General Assembly to make such an appointment in consultation with the Presbytery concerned.
5. Appointment of a minister shall be, in the first instance, for five years and may be renewed by authority of the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Committee.
6. The minister appointed shall be ordained/inducted by the Presbytery of the bounds as chaplain to overseas students and as colleague to the minister of the superintending Kirk Session with responsibility only for mission to overseas students for which purpose he will have membership of the Kirk Session.
7. Induction will include a seat in Presbytery and the mission will rank as a charge both for purposes of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund and for the representation of Presbytery in the General Assembly.
8. The minister appointed shall be paid at the rate of the Equal Dividend and accommodation and reasonable expenses and annual contribution to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund will be paid by the Board.
9. The chaplain shall report to Presbytery as required and to the Board annually on the work.
10. In present circumstances and having regard to the services already rendered by Rev. Ian McKenzie the Assembly direct that he shall be regarded as already inducted as a chaplain to overseas students in the fourth year of his second term.

XXIX. - Act anent Mission to Immigrants

(No. 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1991

The General Assembly charge the Church Extension Committee with responsibility for the organisation, funding and staffing of Christian mission to resident immigrants and their families. They direct that:

1. The more immediate oversight of a particular project will be assigned by the Committee to a Kirk Session nominated by the Presbytery within whose bounds the work develops.
2. Where such a work requires, for its optimum development, the full-time services of an ordained minister, the responsible Kirk Session and Presbytery shall so report to the Committee upon whose recommendation the General Assembly may authorise the appointment by the Committee of a minister suitably gifted for the work.

3. Appointment of a minister shall be, in the first instance, for five years and may be renewed by authority of the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Committee. In making their recommendations the Committee will have regard to the financial implications of the work.
4. The minister appointed shall be ordained/inducted by the Presbytery of the bounds as Colleague to the minister of the overseeing Kirk Session and responsibility only for immigrant outreach. For this purpose he will have membership of the Kirk Session.
5. Induction will include induction to a seat in Presbytery, and the mission charge will rank as a charge for representation of the Presbytery in the General Assembly.
6. The minister appointed shall be paid at the rate of the current Equal Dividend and accommodation and reasonable expenses shall be paid by the Committee who shall also meet the relevant National Insurance charge and annual contribution to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. For purposes of this fund the mission will be declared to be a charge.
7. The minister appointed shall report to Presbytery as required and to the Committee annually on the progress of the work.
8. The Committee shall have authority to appoint necessary ancillary workers, committed to the Church's Confession, on a year to year basis as their funds allow.
9. In present circumstances and having regard to the services already rendered by Rev. Gurnam Singh the Assembly direct the Committee to appoint him to the mission in Glasgow and to arrange for his induction by that Presbytery. Having regard to the period of service already rendered this will be regarded as the commencement of the fourth year of first term as arranged above. Stipend and allowances will continue to be paid during the period of transition.

XXX. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1991

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay 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 Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 what shall be determined at one diet of the Commission 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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.

XXXI. - Act appointing next General Assembly

(No. 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh 3rd October 1990

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 18th May 1992 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

ACT OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act anent Sale of Killearnan Manse

Edinburgh 3rd October 1990

Killearnan. The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Killearnan congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Killearnan: the proceeds of sale are to be invested with the General Trustees and interest accruing added to capital, pending the procurement of a more suitable manse. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents. In the event of there being a surplus of funds finally resulting these will be held by the General Trustees and the interest

made available for congregational purposes.

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

MAY MCMXCII (1992)

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 19th May 1992

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 19th day of May 1992, desire most gladly to affirm our undiminished allegiance to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to Almighty God that He continues to bestow upon Your Majesty health and strength and so enables Your Majesty to bear the heavy burdens of state, and to fulfil so graciously the very demanding schedule of duties and responsibilities at home and abroad that belong to Your Majesty's Office.

We assure Your Majesty that You are regularly remembered before the Throne of the Most High God in the public and private prayers of our Church that the good hand of Almighty God may ever sustain You and that His protecting power may always surround You and the members of Your Royal House.

We give thanks to God for Your completion of forty years of devoted service and pray that in the good providence of God You may long continue to reign over this nation, and have the faithful support of Your Consort, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, and of all the other members of Your Royal Household.

We have no doubt that Your Majesty's recent visits to the countries of the Commonwealth, serve to strengthen bonds of loyalty and affection between the nations over which Your Majesty reigns.

We have heard with interest of Your Majesty's visit to the European Parliament and respond hopefully to the expectation of a greater bonding between the nations of Europe which will promote the prosperity of all.

We continue to deplore the unrest and violence that brings deep sorrow to so many of Your Majesty's subjects in Northern Ireland and we pray that counsels of reconciliation and peace may at last prevail there.

Before God we confess with sorrow the lowered moral standards which affect the life of our nation and bring distress and sadness to many homes and to which the highest are not immune. We pray to Almighty God for an outpouring of His Blessed Spirit in reviving the nation, being assured that this alone will ultimately make our people truly blessed. For that nation is blessed whose God is the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To his care and protection and love we commend Your Majesty and all the members of Your Royal Family.

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

II. - Act anent Fraternal Relations between Churches

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh 19th May 1992

The General Assembly approve and adopt the following statement regarding Inter-Church Relations:

FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHURCHES

There should be one simple rule to the following effect.

Fraternal Relations should exist between Churches that openly and practically profess the true faith of Christ as summarised in one or more of the classical Reformed symbols - ie the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgian Confession, the Canons of the Synod of Dort.

Certain duties and courtesies devolve upon Churches sustaining fraternal relations.

1. There should be a spirit of cordial love and trust as becomes brothers in the faith.
2. There should be an attitude of mutual helpfulness. Each should be willing to share problems and difficulties with the others. By the same token each should be allowed to exhort to more exact obedience any who appeared to relax faithfulness to their avowed confession. This should not invite to inquisitorial interference but to strengthening one another in love for Christ.
3. There should be willingness to accept certificates of communicant membership, normally without personal examination.
4. There should be in the highest courts of the Churches a cordial welcome to visiting delegates from other Churches recognised as in fraternal relationship. This need not amount to according membership in the court to the visiting delegate.
5. There should be willingness to allow ministers of one Church access to the pulpits of fraternal Churches as a matter of courtesy.

6. Churches should exchange copies of the Acts and Proceedings of their highest courts or at least inform one another of major decisions.

III. - Act anent Discharge of Education Committee
(amending Act XIII Class II 1987 and Standing Order VI 3.3)
(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1992

1. The General Assembly end the separate existence of the Education Committee and allot its purview to the Welfare of Youth Committee.
2. The General Assembly repeal paragraph 2, 2.3 of Act VIII, 1987, and grant permission to the Welfare of Youth Committee to co-opt individuals who may be consulted for the benefit of their expertise in educational issues.

IV. - Act anent Sales of Property and Release of Proceeds
(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1992

1. Knockbain. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Knockbain Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Hall in North Kessock - the proceeds to be applied to the erection of a more suitable place of worship and the transaction to be carried out by or under the oversight of the Church's Law Agents.
2. Creich, Kincardine and Croick. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Creich, Kincardine and Croick Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of a site in the corner of the manse glebe extending to 0.23 acres. The proceeds of sale are to be applied to improvements of congregational properties and any surplus to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregational fabric fund. The transaction is to be carried out by or under the oversight of the Church's Law Agents.
3. Maryburgh. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Maryburgh and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the specified piece of land amounting to 0.3 acres to the Thomas Chalmers Housing Association for the purpose of building sheltered type housing. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation to be used for property repairs if necessary, and the interest accruing paid to the Congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.
4. Nairn, Croy and Ardersier. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at Croy, the proceeds of sale to be invested with the General Trustees and made available as necessary to the congregations for repair and refurbishment of their properties. Interest accruing is to be added to the capital held by the General Trustees. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

5. Kilwinning and Saltcoats. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Kilwinning and Saltcoats and grant its crave. They amend the terms of Act V paragraph 5 1981, and authorise withdrawal of the sum still outstanding from the sale of the Stevenston Church. They also authorise withdrawal of the sum realised by the sale of the Saltcoats manse as together with the Stevenston funds will amount to not more than £30,000. The money withdrawn is to be applied to the repair of the Congregation's remaining properties.

6. Raasay. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Raasay congregation and grant its crave. They renew the authority already given to sell the manse at Raasay, the net proceeds to be invested with the General Trustees until required for the acquisition of more suitable premises, interest meantime to be added to capital: any surplus to remain invested and the interest applied to congregational funds. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

7. Bishopbriggs. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Bishopbriggs and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at 19 Lorne Crescent, Bishopbriggs, the proceeds of sale to be lodged with the General Trustees until required for the purchase of a more suitable manse. Interest accruing in the meantime to be added to capital. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

V. - Act anent Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1992

The General Assembly thank those involved in preparing supplementary versions of the Psalms, particularly the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group and reappoint the Psalmody Advisory Group as follows:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. F.A.J. Macdonald, Rev. I.D. Campbell, Rev. Dr D.M. MacDonald, Rev. J.A. MacLeod, Mr D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr L. McDowell (Livingston), Mr D.G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr D.M. MacLeod (Aberdeen), Mr R.A. Finlay (Inverness, Free North) and Mrs W.B. Scott (Dumfries), the Convener to be the Convener of the Select Committee on Psalmody.

VI. - Act anent Supplementary Versions of the Psalms

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1992

1. The General Assembly direct that it shall be part of the standing remit of the Select Committee on Psalmody that they prepare supplementary versions of the Psalms as need arises and that they bring to the attention of the Church suitable versions available from elsewhere. The General Assembly further authorise the Psalmody Committee to consult with any suitably qualified persons within the Church.

2.1 The General Assembly direct that before publishing or otherwise making generally available any supplementary version the Select Committee on Psalmody shall submit it to a Consultative Group (Psalmody) comprising the Convener of the Select Committee, another representative of the Select Committee and one representative from each Presbytery, nominated by the Presbytery. The Convener Of the Consultative Group to be the Convener of the Select Committee.

2.2 The Consultative Group shall scrutinise the versions brought before them, and make recommendations, as necessary, for changes.

2.3 A majority of the Consultative Group must approve a version before it is published.

2.4 The Consultative Group will ordinarily discharge their responsibilities by submitting written comments, but meetings may be arranged at the discretion of the Convener.

VII. - Act anent Constitution of Committee on Eventide Homes

(amending Act VII, Class II, 1987)

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1992

The General Assembly amend Act VIII, 1987 in paragraph 5.2.2(b), second sentence, by substituting 'persons' for 'men' so that the sentence now reads:

“This Home Board shall consist of 9 persons - i.e. 2 ministers, 4 other persons of whom at least 3 must be elders or deacons, 2 ladies and a medical practitioner.”

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

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1992

The General Assembly reappoint as Trustee to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund for four years Mr Iain D. Gill, CA., ATII., who goes out of office at 30th May 1992.

IX. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh 20th May 1992

1. The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £10,450 paid as from 1st January 1992 exclusive of the premiums paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. This figure is based on the variation in the Equal Dividend permitted by Act XII, 1989.

2. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the Equal Dividend.

X. - Act Designating Dundee a Redevelopment Charge
(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1992

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth regarding Dundee, and grant its crave. Having noted the recommendation of the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance they confer the status of Redevelopment Charge on the Congregation of Dundee under the provisions of Act XXXIV, 1988.

XI. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Glenelg and Arnisdale
(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1992

The General Assembly direct that Arnisdale and Glenelg be continued on the Equal Dividend Platform for a further five years on the understanding that the congregation will continue to do its best in contributing to the Central Funds of the Church.

XII. - Act anent Supply Fees - (amending Act XV, 1972)
(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1992

The General Assembly direct that Act XV, 1972, be amended by the addition of the following as paragraph 6 of Section A:

6. Where supply involves the conduct of only one service on the Lord's Day, the fee to be paid shall be at half the level that would otherwise obtain.

XIII. - Act anent Appointment of Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber
(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1992

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint the Rev. H. Slied as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XIV. - Act anent Redevelopment Charges
(amending Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988)
(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1992

The General Assembly receive the Overture of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and direct that:

(1) Paragraph 1.3 of Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988, be amended to read:

“1.3 a petition from the Presbytery of the bounds seeking redevelopment status is presented to the Assembly through the Sustentation Committee along with the Committee’s recommendation thereanent”.

(2) There be added to the end of paragraph 2.5, Act XXXIV, 1988 “this Petition being incorporated in the Committee’s Report to the Assembly, along with an appropriate deliverance.”

XV. - Act anent Deposition of Minister

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1992

The General Assembly had under their consideration a Reference from the Presbytery of Inverness bearing on the confession of Mr R.R. Kilpatrick, sometime minister at Kiltarlity and Kirkhill, that he is no longer in sympathy with the doctrine and practice of the Free Church and informing the Assembly that the said R.R. Kilpatrick had refused to respond to three separate citations to appear before the Presbytery and is therefore in contumacy. Therefore the General Assembly did, by their vote, depose the said R.R. Kilpatrick, like as they hereby do, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the alone King and Head of His Church, and by virtue of the power and authority committed by Him to them, depose the said R.R. Kilpatrick from the office of the holy ministry: prohibiting and discharging him to exercise the same, or any part thereof, in all time coming, under pain of the highest censure of the Church.

XVI. - Act anent Exemption from Hebrew Language Study

(amending Act XX, Class II, 1985 and Act XIX, Class II, 1987)

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1992

The General Assembly amend Act XX, 1985 as amended by Act XIX, 1987, by adding at the end of Section II.5.7 the following:

“Notwithstanding 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6 & 5.8 it shall be competent for the Training of the Ministry Committee, where thought appropriate, to grant to mature students (ie students who will have attained 30 years of age at the time of proposed entry to the College) complete exemption from the study of the Hebrew Language”.

XVII. - Act anent Appointment of Special Quinquennial Visitation Committee to the College

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1992

(1) The General Assembly, recognising the load of ordinary business dealt with by the

Training of the Ministry Committee and the fact that a quinquennial visitation of the College is due in the coming Session, resolve to waive on this occasion the requirements of Act XX, Class II, 1985 (amending Act V, 1979) Section V, Paragraph 1.3 and to appoint a Special Quinquennial Visitation Committee for the College. They further charge the Visitation Committee to take over the investigation of the College's curriculum and assessment, and direct the Training of the Ministry Committee to furnish the Visitation Committee with all relevant information and presbytery returns already gathered. The Visitation Committee shall report to next Assembly.

(2) In accordance with its previous resolution the Assembly proceeded to appoint a Special Quinquennial Visitation Committee for the College. The Special Quinquennial Visitation Committee shall consist of:

Rev. I.D. Campbell, Mr J. Fraser, Rev. M. Roberts, Rev. M.A. MacLeod, Dr. Iain MacDonald, Rev. D. Robertson and Rev. C. Matheson. Rev. M.A. MacLeod to be Convener.

XVIII. - Act anent Appointment of Special Assessors to the Presbytery of Skye and Uist
(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1992

In accordance with its previous resolution the Assembly proceeded to appoint Special Assessors to the Presbytery of Skye and Uist.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that they be as follows:

Mr Donald Matheson, Mr A. MacLeod (Laxay), Mr W. Wyllie, Rev. Neil MacDonald and Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay.

XIX. - Act appointing Commission of Assembly
(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1992

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Principal-Emeritus C. 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 last Wednesday of September and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 of 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, to receive and fully dispose of Petitions from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, forwarded to them through the Sustentation Committee, regarding congregational realignments and redevelopment status in connection with the Free Church congregations in Fife, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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 receive and fully dispose of any Petition in regular form that may be forwarded to them through the Committee on Custody of Titles for authority to sell the Church property in Vancouver provided the Petition be supported by the Overseas Missions' Board, 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.

XX. - Act Appointing next General Assembly

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1992

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday, 17th May 1993 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sales of Property

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1991

1. Kiltarn. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of

Kiltearn and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Manse at Kiltearn, the proceeds to be lodged with the General Trustees pending the erection or purchase of a more suitable residence, any interest accruing to be added to capital. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

2. Creich, Kincardine and Croick. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Creich, Kincardine and Croick and grant its crave to the following extent. They authorise the sale of the Church at Kincardine subject to the Congregation obtaining the necessary waiver from the Superiors of the relevant prohibitions in the titles; the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees and drawn upon as required by the Congregation for maintenance and improvements of the congregation's other buildings. Such capital sums as are not so required will be invested and the proceeds paid to the congregational funds. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

II. - Act anent Sale of Property

Edinburgh, 4th March 1992

East Kilbride. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of East Kilbride and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse: the proceeds of the sale are to be applied to the acquisition of a more suitable manse and any balance accruing to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation and interest resulting to be applied to congregational funds. The transaction is to be carried out by or under the oversight of the Church's Law Agents.

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

MAY MCMXCIII (1993)

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 18th May 1993

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 18th day of May 1993 desire as one of our first acts to reaffirm the loyalty of this Church to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We are deeply conscious that those are days fraught with tension, distress and strain in our nation due, in no small measure, to the abandonment of Divinely prescribed moral standards the observance of which used to preserve the wellbeing of our people. Like the prophet Daniel in ancient days we humble ourselves before Almighty God and confess "To us belongs shame and confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes and to our fathers, because

we have sinned. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses". We pray that where there has been offence there will be repentance and forgiveness, where there has been hurt there will be healing, and where there has been alienation there will be reconciliation, so that the health and prosperity of our nation may be restored.

We recognise with gratitude the diligence and devotion to the duties of your high calling which distinguish Your Majesty year by year and we pray that God's gift of strength and endurance may be yours in abundance.

We continue to pray for the attainment of just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland as we share the grief of those who suffer because of man's inhumanity to man.

Yet amidst the difficulties and stresses of the times, we rejoice in that our God rules over all nations and to His grace and wisdom and blessing we commit Your Majesty's Person and Family. Please be assured of our love and loyalty in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

II. - Act anent Resignation of Principal Clerk and Appointment of Successor
(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 17th May 1993

The General Assembly accept the resignation of Principal Clement Graham from the clerkship of Assembly from 30th November 1993. They appoint Rev. Professor John L. Mackay, M.A., M.Litt., B.D., as Principal Clerk as from 1st December 1993.

III. - Act anent Ecclesiastical Fellowship with Canadian Reformed Churches
(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1993

The General Assembly gladly accept a relationship of Ecclesiastical Fellowship with the Canadian Reformed Churches, in terms of the Rules for such fellowship agreed by both denominations.

IV. - Act anent Sales of Property
(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1993

1. Carloway. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Carloway congregation. They authorise the sale of two plots of land extending in whole to 1323 square metres or thereby to the Western Isles Council. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation's fabric Fund, with access to capital by the congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

2. Mull. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Mull congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of a piece of manse ground sufficient to give access to a new housing development. The proceeds of sale are to be deposited with the General Trustees and to be available for congregational use. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

3. Kiltearn. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kiltearn and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of a piece of the manse ground bordering the road to Glenglass to a width not exceeding 4 metres. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for manse improvements. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

V. - Act anent Personnel of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1993

The General Assembly thank those involved in preparing supplementary versions of the Psalms, particularly the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group and reappoint the Psalmody Advisory Group as follows:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. F.A.J. Macdonald, Rev. I.D. Campbell, Rev. Dr D.M. MacDonald, Rev. J.A. MacLeod, Mr D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr D.G. MacKay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr R.A. Finlay (Inverness, Free North), Mrs W.B. Scott (Dumfries), Mr D.M. Macleod (Aberdeen) and Mr L. McDowell (Livingston), the Convener to be Convener of the Select Committee on Psalmody.

VI. - Act anent Anniversary of Disruption

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1993

The General Assembly, being met on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Disruption, an event which gave a new beginning to the Church of Scotland - Free, gratefully acknowledge the debt owed to those who at such great cost maintained the spiritual integrity and freedom of the Church on that occasion. The Assembly recall that the Church of 1843 continued in undiminished loyalty to the creed of the Reformation Church as articulated in the Westminster Confession of Faith and they see fit, at this time, to reiterate the adherence of the Church to the doctrines therein expressed. The Assembly, being persuaded that this Confession fairly and clearly summarises the faith once for all delivered to the saints, commit the Church anew to the propagation of this faith in co-operation with all of like mind, in the hope that by God's grace Scotland will experience a new Spirit-inspired Reformation and a new impetus to missionary zeal which will reach out to all nations.

VII. - Act anent Thomas Guthrie Memorial Fund

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1993

The General Assembly authorise the setting up of a fund, to be known as the Thomas Guthrie Memorial Fund, for the purpose of assisting with the social work of the Free Church, in the first instance amongst homeless people in Scotland.

VIII. - Act anent Renaming Welfare of Youth Committee
(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1993

The General Assembly approve the change of name from “The Welfare of Youth Committee” to “The Youth Committee.”

IX. - Act anent Appointment of Trustee to Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund
(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1993

The General Assembly reappoint as a Trustee of the Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund Rev. Professor John L. Mackay for a period of four years, or until earlier discharge.

X. - Act anent Winding up of Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund
(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1993

1. The General Assembly concur in the proposed winding up of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund and the proposed arrangements for the transfer of assets and responsibilities to the pension funds of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland.
2. The General Assembly approve the continuance in office of those Trustees of the Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund appointed by this Church until all transfers have been made and proper discharges granted and await the final report to the General Assembly in 1994.

XI. - Act anent Dundee Asian Project
(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1993

The General Assembly, recognising that the conditions existing for work among the Asian community in Dundee appear very favourable, authorise the Committee on Church Extension to appoint a full-time worker to lead the Dundee Asian Project on the following terms:

- (1) The Dundee Asian Project will be under the oversight of the Dundee Kirk Session.
- (2) The appointment shall be for a period of five years with the possibility of renewal at the

end of that period on existing or revised terms.

(3) Notwithstanding (2) above, review shall be possible at an earlier date than five years if circumstances indicate the desirability of such earlier review.

(4) If the person appointed is not an ordained minister then the following shall apply:

4.1 he/she must be a member of the Free Church of Scotland and willing to sign a statement to the effect that the Westminster Confession of Faith represents his/her understanding of Biblical teaching;

4.2 salary shall be at the level of that of a resident lay missionary with relevant expenses and accommodation provided;

4.3 if the appointment is not continued at the end of the five-year period, the Committee shall both provide him/her with accommodation and pay him/her at the salary then current for a resident lay missionary for a period of six months from the date of the expiry of the appointment.

(5) If the person appointed is an ordained minister then the following shall apply:

5.1 he will be paid at the rate of the current Equal Dividend and accommodation and reasonable expenses shall be paid by the Committee who shall also meet the relevant National Insurance charge and annual contribution to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. For purposes of this Fund the Project will be declared to be a charge;

5.2 he shall be ordained/inducted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth as Colleague to the minister of Dundee Free Church with responsibility for Asian Outreach; he will have membership of the Dundee Kirk Session; and he will be granted a seat on the Edinburgh and Perth Presbytery.

5.3 if the appointment is not continued at the end of the five-year period, he shall be treated as a minister without charge. In such circumstances the Presbytery shall inform the Assembly Clerk so that his name may be included on the Register of Ministers without Charge and the Committee shall both provide him with accommodation and pay him at the rate of the then current Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is the sooner.

(6) The person appointed shall report to Presbytery as required and to the Committee annually on the progress of the work.

XII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £10,850 from 1st April 1993, exclusive of the premiums paid to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. This figure is based on the variation

in Equal Dividend permitted by Act XII, 1989. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the Equal Dividend.

XIII. - Act anent Appointments to District Ministry Charges

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly amend Act XIX, 1983, as amended by Act XXV, 1989, so that the first two sentences of Section 12 of the Act now read:

During the five years of a minister's initial appointment to a District Ministry Charge, no Presbytery shall sustain a call to him without the prior agreement of the Sustentation Committee. Thereafter, he may be reappointed for further periods of five years, during which he shall be eligible for call to another charge in the usual way.

XIV. - Act anent Appointments to Redevelopment Charges

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly amend Act XXXIV, 1988, so that Section 3.9 of the Act now reads:

During the five years of a minister's initial appointment to a Redevelopment Charge, no Presbytery shall sustain a call to him without the prior agreement of the Sustentation Committee. If his appointment is extended beyond the initial five-year period, he shall be eligible for call to another charge in the usual way.

XV. - Act anent Shettleston and the Equal Dividend Platform

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly place Shettleston on the Equal Dividend Platform for three years, with a review of the situation to be conducted by the Sustentation Committee in consultation with the Presbytery of Glasgow before the 1996 Assembly.

XVI. - Act anent Assistantship at Rosskeen

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Rosskeen Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise an extension of the Rosskeen Assistantship in terms of Act V, Class II, 1986.
2. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Rosskeen Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise that the provisions of paragraph 4, Act V, 1986, be waived and grant authority

for the reappointment for a further three years of Rev. Derek Lamont as assistant minister, such appointment in other details to conform to the conditions of Act V, 1986.

XVII. - Act anent Assistant Minister to Free North Congregation, Inverness

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Inverness Free North Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Inverness to appoint an assistant minister to the Inverness Free North Congregation in terms of Act V, Class II, 1986.

XVIII. - Act anent Uniting Deacons' Courts of Wick and Keiss

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Congregation of Wick and Keiss and grant its crave. They unite the Deacons' Court/ Finance Committee of Wick with that of Keiss to form one Deacons' Court/Finance Committee for the consolidated charge of Wick and Keiss.

XIX. - Act anent Amalgamation of Kirk Sessions of Urquhart and Resolis

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Ross and grant its crave. They ordain that Act IX, 1991 be amended to the extent that from the rising of this General Assembly, the Kirk Session of Urquhart and the Kirk Session of Resolis be amalgamated as the Kirk Session of Urquhart and Resolis.

XX. - Act anent Appointment of Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly receive the petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint the Rev. H. Slied as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XXI. - Act anent Assistant Minister, Central Charge, Prince Edward Island

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island and, in the circumstances prevailing in North America, grant its crave to the following effect and on the following conditions.

1. They authorise the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island to appoint an assistant to the minister of the Central Charge - such assistant to be available also to help out as directed by the Presbytery in the other charges;
2. The assistant, if a probationer, will be taken on trials for and ordained if these trials be sustained by Presbytery;
3. The assistant shall have a seat in the Presbytery;
4. The costs of the appointment shall be borne by the Presbytery and as agreed between Synod and Overseas Missions Board, from funds at their disposal;
5. The appointment shall in the first instance be for a three year period.

XXII. - Act anent Church Extension Status for Falkirk

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. They authorise the Committee on Church Extension to release Rev. Robert Macleod from his obligation under Act XXVIII, 1989 anent Evangelism and Church Planting; they designate Falkirk a Church Extension Charge in terms of Act XXVII, 1989, and authorise the Committee on Church Extension in agreement with the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to appoint a suitable Minister to the Charge.

XXIII. - Act anent Reappointment of Rev. I.J. McKenzie

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1993

The General Assembly, in terms of Act XXVIII, Class II 1991, reappoint Rev. Ian McKenzie for a further five years as a chaplain to overseas students.

XXIV. - Act anent Power of the Training of the Ministry Committee

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1993

The General Assembly recognising that in terms of Act VI, 1979 the Committee on Training of the Ministry “reserving the rights of parties, . . . 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” further confer upon the Committee powers of citation in carrying out this task. If a party do not appear after a thrice repeated citation, the Committee shall report this to the relevant Church Court.

XXV. - Act anent Appointment of Special Assessors to the Training of the Ministry Committee

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1993

1. The General Assembly agreed to appoint special advisers from whom the Committee could seek advice.
2. The General Assembly now proceeded to appoint additional members to the Training of the Ministry Committee in terms of its earlier finding.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the additional members should be Mr W. S. Wyllie, Dr E. Mackay, Mr D. Matheson, Mr J. MacKenzie and Rev. R.C. Christie.

XXVI. - Act anent Standing Order VI.11

(No. 26 Of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1993

The General Assembly amend Standing Order VI. 11 so that it reads:

When a minister who represents a Presbytery on either Group of Standing Committees is translated to another charge in a different Presbytery and the Presbytery he has left is thereby without representation on that Group, the Presbytery he has left is permitted to appoint one of their number in his place, in which case the minister loses his membership of the Standing Committees. If the Presbytery decide not to avail themselves of this permission, they should inform the Clerk of the Nominations Committee accordingly, and the minister remains a member of that Group until the Assembly following his translation.

XXVII. - Act Appointing Assistant Clerk of Assembly

(No. 27 Of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1993

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Professor H.M. Cartwright, MA., 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 Commissions 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 1st December 1993.

XXVIII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1993

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay 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 Wednesday of October and the second Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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.

XXIX. - Act Appointing next General Assembly

(No. 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1993

The General appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 23rd May 1994 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sales of Property

Edinburgh, 30th September 1992

1. Aberfeldy. The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Aberfeldy, Glenlyon and Pitlochry for the sale of the manse at Aberfeldy and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the said manse, the capital realised to be applied to the purchase of a manse in Pitlochry and any surplus remaining to be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the congregation and the income to be applied by the congregation to increase their contribution to central funds. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

2. London. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of London (Cole Abbey) for the sale of their manse and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse at 13 Woodley Road, Orpington, Kent, the capital realised to be applied to the purchase of a more suitable manse: any surplus remaining to be invested by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation. The transaction is to be carried out under the general oversight of the Church's Law Agents.

3. Vancouver. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Vancouver Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Highland Church Building in Vancouver and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the Synod of North America to be invested for behoof of work within the bounds of the Synod: such work to be subject to agreement between the Synod and the Overseas Board of the Free Church of Scotland. A statement of accounts shall be submitted to Synod and Board annually.

4. Applecross. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Applecross Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Mission House subject to obtaining the Superior's consent to change of use, the proceeds to be invested with the General Trustees until required for the purchase or erection of a manse any interest accruing meanwhile to be added to capital: the transaction to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

II. - Act Uniting Islay and Jura with Tarbert

Edinburgh, 30th September 1992

The Commission of Assembly receive the petition forwarded from the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They unite the congregations of Islay and Jura and the congregation of Tarbert under the name of Tarbert and Islay Free Church of Scotland with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court or Finance Committee. They direct that public worship be conducted at Islay by the minister of the consolidated charge on a regular basis as may be expedient.

III. - Act anent Re-alignment of Congregations in Fife

Edinburgh, 30th September 1992

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. They declare:

(1) that Glenrothes is no longer part of the Consolidated Charge in Fife, which shall in future be known as Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie;

(2) that the Consolidated Charge of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie shall have one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court;

(3) that the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth are authorised to designate Glenrothes a Preaching Station;

(4) that the existing arrangements for supply for Fife be modified so that the Committee on Supply shall meet the cost of regular supply for Glenrothes, this arrangement to be reviewed after five years.

IV. - Act anent Redevelopment Status for Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie

Edinburgh, 30th September 1992

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. Having noted the recommendation of the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance they confer the Status of Redevelopment Charge on the Congregation of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie under the provisions of Act XXXIV, 1988.

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MAY MCMXCIV (1994)

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, 24th May 1994

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,

As always in past years, we, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland, met in General Assembly this 24th day of May 1994, convey our continuing loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne. There abides in our Church a sincere concern for Your Majesty - that you may be enabled to carry the heavy burdens of your Royal Office. This finds expression in persevering private and public prayers. At the Highest of all Thrones, we plead that the Spirit of Glory may rest upon you.

In a very troubled world we give thanks that we, your subjects, enjoy the precious blessings of Peace and Freedom of Speech and Worship. At the same time we grieve for departure from Biblical norms which fortified us and made us in the past, in others' eyes, as a city set on a hill. We pray that Your Majesty will continue to exhibit your wonted standards of dignity and conduct. In recent days this city witnessed a poignant reminder of our mortality and also of the worth to society of leaders of high integrity.

It is with sadness we view the failure yet again of sincere efforts to resolve the distressing situation in Ireland.

We express gratitude to God for the measure of peace prevailing at the recent historic change of government in South Africa, and hope that the presence there of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, may prove to have been a token of future friendly relations between our two countries. We commend Your Majesty and the Royal House to the love and kindness of our common Saviour, King of kings and Lord of lords.

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

II. - Act anent Inter-Church Relations with Reformed Churches in the Netherlands

(Liberated)

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1994

The General Assembly gladly accept a sister church relationship with the Reformed Churches (Liberated) in the Netherlands, in terms of the rules for such a relationship agreed by both denominations.

III. - Act anent Financial Appeals by Grant-receiving Congregations

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1994

The General Assembly decree that congregations in receipt of grants from the Church and Manse Building Fund for major projects shall not make appeals to the Church at large without the express approval of the Presbytery of the bounds and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

IV. - Act anent Leave of Absence

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1994

The General Assembly enact as follows:

Leave of Absence

Absence from duty is designated 'leave' and 2 categories are recognised:

1. Sick Leave.
2. Leave for reasons other than illness.

1. Sick Leave for ministers in pastoral charges.

1.1. All illness in excess of 3 consecutive days shall be reported to the General Treasurer, by certificate furnished by the minister. If the illness exceeds 7 days a medical certificate must be submitted to the General Treasurer.

1.2 If the illness is expected to exceed 4 weeks, the General Treasurer shall copy the medical certificate to the Clerk of Presbytery and if deemed necessary, the Presbytery shall appoint an Interim-Moderator.

1.3.1 Illness allowance shall be paid at the rate of full salary for 6 months and, if further leave be granted, at the rate of half salary until the minister returns to duty or is loosed from his charge.

1.3.2 If the illness is expected to exceed 6 months, the Presbytery shall report the case to the Committee on Sustentation at the end of the 5th month and the Committee shall obtain an independent medical report as to the nature and likely extent of the illness.

1.4 Pension rights shall be conserved as long as leave extends.

1.5 A minister unable to fulfil his duties for more than 6 months shall come under the terms of the appropriate Act of Assembly (Act XXXV 1994).

1.6 A minister on leave of absence may not attend a court or committee of the Church.

1.7 The above regulations will not debar any minister applying at any time for Disability

Pension under the Church's Pension Scheme.

1.8 A minister who resigns or is loosed from his charge under these regulations or under Act XXXV 1994 may be eligible for a grant from the Invalid Ministers' etc Fund.

1.9 A minister's salary shall cease from the day after the date of his resignation or the date of being loosed from his charge.

2. Leave of Absence for ministers in pastoral charges for reasons other than illness

Leave of absence may be granted to a minister by the Presbytery under the following conditions:

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

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

2.3 Holiday leave shall not exceed 42 days of which only 6 may be Sundays, in any one calendar year. Any one holiday period shall not exceed 28 successive days without the minister informing the Presbytery of his proposed arrangements. All holiday entitlement shall be taken up before 31st December or extended to 28th February of the following year with the agreement of the Presbytery.

2.4 Compassionate leave on grounds of family illness or other exceptional circumstances may be granted by the Presbytery.

2.5.1 A minister may apply for sabbatical leave for study, writing or extra-denominational work.

2.5.2 Such leave may be granted where the minister has served at least 7 years in his present charge and 10 years in the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland.

2.5.3 Such leave of absence, on full stipend, may be granted up to a maximum of 6 months for a period not exceeding 2 weeks for every year in which the minister has not exceeded 4 weeks' holiday while in his present charge; otherwise sabbatical leave shall be unpaid. The Congregation and the Committee on Sustentation shall have the right of appeal.

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

2.7 Ministers in Church Extension, Redevelopment Charges and Church Planting appointments (cf Acts XXXIV 1988, XXVII 1989 and XXVIII 1989) are precluded from

leave of absence under the above paras. 2.1, 2.2 and 2.5.

2.8 A minister may not effect an exchange of pulpit with a minister of another denomination with which the Free Church of Scotland has no inter-church relations, without the consent of Presbytery.

2.9 Pension rights shall be conserved as long as paid leave extends.

3. Sick leave for Professors in the Free Church College:

3.1 All illness in excess of 3 or more consecutive days shall be reported to the General Treasurer, by certificate furnished by the professor himself. If the illness exceeds 7 days a medical certificate must be submitted to the General Treasurer.

3.2 The professor, failing whom the Principal, should ensure short term arrangements during illness. The Senatus is responsible for interim arrangements when a professor is ill for a prolonged period (Act IV, V.7 1979).

3.3.1 Illness allowance shall be paid at the rate of full salary for 6 months, and if further leave be granted at the rate of half salary until the professor returns to duty or is loosed from his charge.

3.3.2 If the illness is likely to exceed 6 months the Senatus shall report the case to the Committee on Training of the Ministry at the end of the 5th month, and the Committee shall obtain an independent medical report.

3.4 Pension rights shall be conserved as long as leave extends.

3.5 A professor unable to fulfil his duties for more than 6 months shall come under the terms of the appropriate Act of Assembly (Act XXXV 1994).

3.6 A professor on leave of absence may not attend a court or committee of the Church.

3.7 The above regulations will not debar any professor applying at any time for Disability Pension under the Church's Pension Scheme.

3.8 A professor who resigns or is loosed from his charge under these regulations may be eligible for a grant from the Invalid Ministers' etc Fund.

3.9 A professor's salary shall cease as from the day after the date of his resignation or the date of being loosed from his chair.

4. Leave of Absence for professors in Free Church College for reasons other than illness

4.1 A professor's primary responsibility is to the College and this should be recognised by all who seek his services for other work in the Church. Every effort should, therefore, be made so that disturbance to the work of the College is kept to a minimum.

4.2 Interchange has always played an important and useful role in the academic world and, while it is to be encouraged, primary consideration must be given to the work of the College.

4.3 A professor may not, without the permission of the Senatus and the concurrence of the Committee on Training of the Ministry, undertake any engagements during teaching term time which would preclude him from his professorial responsibilities in the College.

4.4 A professor may be granted leave of absence, outwith teaching term time, by the Senatus, at the specific request of a department of the Church.

4.5 A professor may be granted leave of absence, at any time, by the Senatus, to undertake academic work at the specific request of another College. The total cost of such leave would require to be borne by those making the request, unless there were reciprocal arrangements agreeable to the Senatus.

4.6 Holiday leave may not exceed 42 days in any one calendar year and may not be taken during teaching term time. All holiday entitlement shall be taken up before 31st December. Any one holiday period shall not exceed 28 successive days without the consent of the Senatus. A professor on holiday leave is obligated to carry out his examination and other College commitments.

4.7 Compassionate leave on grounds of family illness or other exceptional circumstances may be granted by the Senatus.

4.8 Pension rights shall be conserved as long as paid leave extends.

5. Leave of Absence for Foreign Missionaries

Leave of Absence for foreign missionaries shall be granted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board, except in so far as here an ordained missionary unable to fulfil his duties for more than 6 months shall come under the terms of the appropriate Act of Assembly (Act XXXV 1994).

6. Leave of Absence for Resident Home Missionaries

Leave of Absence for resident home missionaries shall be the same as for ministers in pastoral charges.

7. General Regulations

In order to facilitate the foregoing regulations the Committees on Sustentation and Training of the Ministry should revise their standing orders to empower the Convener, as occasion may arise, to act on behalf of the Committee.

V. - Act anent Discharge of Trustees of Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund (No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1994

The General Assembly note the position with regard to the winding up of the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund and discharge the Trustees thereof appointed by the Free Church of Scotland, Mr. Iain D. Gill, Rev. Principal C. Graham, Mr. Alastair Macdonald and Rev. Professor John L. Mackay and thank them for their diligent work.

VI. - Act anent Establishment of Widows' Fund

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1994

The General Assembly authorise the establishment of a fund, to be called the Widows' Fund and to be administered by, and at the discretion of, the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, for the benefit of widows in necessitous circumstances of Ministers, Professors, Missionaries and Lay Agents of the Church, the cost to be met from the income from capital being transferred from the Churches and Universities (Scotland) Widows' and Orphans' Fund and from any further capital acquired or donated for this purpose, with any shortfall being met by the Church by way of budget allocation.

VII. - Act anent Church's Pension Fund

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1994

1. The General Assembly enact that members of the Church's Pension Scheme in receipt of salary and pension shall have their salary paid at the appropriate rate reduced by the amount of gross pension paid by the Pension Scheme as calculated prior to commutation.
2. The General Assembly agree that the Church's Pension Scheme shall provide that, with effect from 1 January 1994, the normal retirement age for males and females be 65 but that present members may retire at any time on or after age 60, with the consent of the Church, with benefits based on pensionable service to date of retirement without reduction on account of early retirement.
3. The General Assembly hereby repeal paragraph 7 of Act X, 1990.

VIII. - Act anent the Practice - Supplement to Chapter on Discipline

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1994

The General Assembly instruct that there be added to the chapter of "The Practice" on Discipline the following

SUPPLEMENT TO CHAPTER ON DISCIPLINE

Evidence of Persons unable to attend a Church Court

A witness whose evidence is deemed likely to be material may not be able to attend the Church Court dealing with a case of discipline. Inability to attend may be due to illness, old age, or great distance - eg residence overseas. Where illness is the cause of non-attendance, medical certification is required.

Where inability to attend is due to distance, evidence may be taken on Commission.

The relevant Court appoints a responsible person as its Commissioner to take the evidence of the witness in writing (possibly also with a tape-recording of the proceedings). This Commissioner is resident in the locality of the witness. Where distance precludes parties from being present at the Commission and so having opportunity to question and cross-question the witness, the following procedure is adopted.

1. A list of numbered questions is prepared on behalf of the party who wishes the witness interviewed.
2. This list is then submitted to the other party who prepares cross-questions to be put to the witness on his behalf. The preparation of this list of cross-questions cannot be postponed until the answers to the first list have been lodged.
3. The list of cross-questions is then submitted to the first party and both parties try to agree the terms of both documents.
4. The lists are then submitted to the clerk of the Court concerned and parties are duly cited to appear before the Court for the adjustment, if necessary, of the documents submitted and for their approval.
5. The documents are then passed on to the appointed Commissioner who duly meets with the witness in a formal manner. At this meeting the Commissioner reads the questions separately to the witness and his replies to each question are numbered and recorded. The Commissioner may put further questions to the witness and require him to make such additions and explanations as he thinks necessary.
6. The document recording the witness's answers and explanations should be read over by him or to him and duly signed by him.
7. The documents are then returned to the clerk of the Court which authorised the Commission.

The foregoing is the best procedure which has been devised especially where the witness resides outside the United Kingdom. But these procedures, although satisfactory for obtaining certain types of evidence are a very inadequate and sometimes wholly unsuccessful expedient for testing the evidence of a witness whose credibility and reliability are likely to be serious issues. For interviewing a witness who though at a distance is within the United Kingdom a different procedure may therefore be adopted. This procedure dispenses with the preparation of written lists of questions and cross-questions and adopts what is called an

“open Commission”.

In an open Commission, the Commissioner effectively holds court at the location of the witness and parties attend and put questions as they would normally do and the Commissioner records the questions and answers in writing as given in the course of examination, cross-examination and re-examination, possibly with the support of a tape-recording of the proceedings. In his report of the evidence the Commissioner may remark upon the demeanour of the witness and his impressions as to credibility and reliability.

A circumstance to be noted is that at an early stage when proceedings are only being contemplated, a party may seek to obtain immediately the evidence of a witness where the evidence is in danger of being lost. The danger usually arises from the witness's old age or dangerous sickness, so that he is in danger of early death, or from the fact that he is obliged to go abroad. In that event the evidence is taken to lie in retentis, that is to be held back or laid aside until the proper time arrives for adducing it.

IX. - Act anent Constitution and Management of Maxwell House

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1994

The General Assembly approve of the proposals for the Constitution of Maxwell House and the Remit for the Board of Management as contained in Appendices I and II to the Report. To the extent to which these provisions supersede those of Act XII, Class II, 1965, that Act is repealed.

APPENDIX I

CONSTITUTION OF MAXWELL HOUSE

Name: MAXWELL HOUSE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND EVENTIDE HOME

Address: 35 Maxwell Drive, Pollokshields, Glasgow G41 5DT

Head Office: 15 North Bank Street, Edinburgh EH1 2LS

Ownership: The Free Church of Scotland

Introduction

The Constitution of Maxwell House was first encapsulated in Act XII, Class II, 1965, ‘Act anent Eventide Home’ of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in which it is stated inter alia that “Admission to the Home shall be open to persons in social need and over sixty years of age”. Since that time and periodically thereafter, it has been necessary, due to governmental legislation, to redefine social need and the conditions of admission.

Objectives

- 1.To provide a caring cheerful home for the elderly ambulant.
- 2.To provide support and enrichment in practical and distinctively Christian ways for every resident.

Conditions of Admission

- 1.Admission to the Home shall be open to persons of either sex.
- 2.An application for admission form shall be completed in respect of all applicants and submitted to the Clerk to the Board of Management.
- 3.The decision of the Board of Management with reference to applications shall in all cases be regarded as final.

Administration

The Home is administered by an Eventide Home Board of Management consisting of nine members of the Free Church of Scotland namely, two Ministers, four other persons, of whom at least three must be elders or deacons, two ladies and a Medical Practitioner Rotation of membership becomes effective by the resignation of two members each year, beginning with the first Board Meeting after the General Assembly of 1987.

Appointments to the Board are made by the Free Presbytery of Glasgow. The Board appoints (a) its own Chairman who must be resident in the Glasgow area and (b) its own Clerk who also acts as Clerk to the Eventide Home Committee (see below). The Board meets as required.

The Board reports each February to the Eventide Home Committee appointed by the General Assembly to which it in turn reports annually in May. In terms of Act VIII, Class II, 1987 of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland the Eventide Home Committee has a membership of 11 inclusive of at least 3 ministers and the Convener of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee (or his deputy). The rules for representation, term of service and terms of reference of the Committee are contained in that Act.

Annual Report

Reports are made annually to the February General Meeting of the Committee. The chairman of the Board gives a report outlining the work and progress of the previous year. This forms the basis of the Committee's report to the General Assembly of the Church published each May.

Financial Accounts

All financial transactions are recorded in the records of the Free Church of Scotland at the offices of the Church, at 15 North Bank Street in Edinburgh. Transactions relevant to the Eventide Home are extracted from these entries and a detailed income/expenditure account is prepared.

Social Work and Charities legislation is complied with.

The Free Church annual accounts are audited annually by Ernst & Young, CA, and they comply with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1992.

The financial year follows that of the Free Church of Scotland and ends on 31 December.

The Church's Charity number is SC012925.

The Maxwell House Inland Revenue File number is EDCR 18841.

APPENDIX II

REMIT FOR BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

(a) The Board shall have power to appoint its own Chairman and Vice Chairman, both of whom shall be resident in Glasgow. The Board shall be responsible for the administration of the Home.

(b) The Board of Management shall consist of persons nominated by the Presbytery of Glasgow, and shall meet monthly, or more frequently if required. At ordinary monthly meetings the Board shall hear a report from the Officer-in-Charge, receive a financial statement, consider applications for admission and deal with all matters brought before it pertaining to the efficient running of the Home.

(c) The Officer-in-Charge shall in no circumstances be a member of the Board and shall attend its meetings only to submit a report and answer relevant questions.

(d) The Board of Management shall, through the Clerk, be responsible for the keeping of adequate and correct minutes of each meeting. The Minute Book shall be made available to the Eventide Home Committee for inspection at its annual meeting in February and for Visitation of Records by the Glasgow Presbytery also in February. The Board shall also submit an annual report of its main transactions to this meeting of the Eventide Home Committee for submission to the General Assembly.

(e) Extraordinary meetings of the Eventide Home Committee can be requested by the Eventide Home Board of Management.

(f) The Board of Management shall have power to appoint and dismiss senior staff but may grant discretionary powers in the engaging or dismissal of domestic staff to the Officer-in-Charge.

(g) Salaries and wages shall in all cases be as fixed by the Board with due regard to national scales of pay operating.

X. - Act anent Sales of Property

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1994

1. Coulter. The General Assembly receive the Petition from Coulter Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the properties pertaining to the Coulter Congregation, namely, the church, a cottage and stables with grounds attached. The proceeds of sale together with interest thereon are to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Special Projects Fund setup by paragraph 3 of Act V, 1991. Upon application through the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee funds may be released toward the provision of a church in Falkirk, and any residue for other such projects in terms of paragraph 3 of Act V, 1991. The transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.
2. Plockton and Kyle. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Plockton and Kyle and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church and Manse at Plockton subject to the right of pre-emption by the Superior and/or the necessity to obtain a Minute of Waiver. The transaction is to be carried out by or under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and to be made available for the purchase or erection of a more suitable manse with any surplus being held for behoof of the congregation, with interest paid to congregational funds.
3. Aberfeldy. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Aberfeldy, Glenlyon and Pitlochry Congregation, and grant its crave. Subject to the approval of the Superior, if necessary, they authorise the sale of the church building in Aberfeldy, with the transaction being carried out by, or under the supervision of, the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees, and the income is to be made available to the congregation for congregational purposes.

XI. - Act anent Quinquennial Returns on Social Responsibility

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1994

1. The General Assembly direct the Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance Committee to include in the visitation schedules prepared in terms of Act XXX, 1988, questions prepared by the Social Responsibility Sub-committee of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee.
2. The General Assembly direct Presbyteries to forward a copy of the answers given by congregations to the above questions on social responsibility to the Clerk of the PQRM Committee, with any comments they wish to make thereon.
3. The General Assembly amend Act XXV, 1991 in paragraph 2, by substituting "quinquennial" for "annual".

XII. - Act anent Reappointment of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh 25th May 1994

The General Assembly thank those involved in preparing supplementary versions of the Psalms, particularly the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group and reappoint the Group as follows:-

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. F.A.J. Macdonald, Rev. A.J. MacDonald, Rev. Dr. D.M. MacDonald, Rev. J.A. MacLeod, Rev. I.D. Campbell, Mr D. Gordon (Fortose), Mr D.G MacKay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr R.A. Finlay (Inverness, Free North), Mrs. W.B. Scott (Dumfries), Mr D.M. Macleod (Aberdeen) and Mr L. McDowall (Livingston), the Convener to be the Convener of the Select Committee on Psalmody.

XIII. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £11,250 from 1st April 1994, this figure being based on the variation in Equal Dividend permitted by Act XII, 1989. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the Equal Dividend.

XIV. - Act anent Financial Grouping of Congregations

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly, desiring that the financial contribution of each Congregation may be related to the situation of the Church as a whole, and that Congregational categories and groups reflect expenditure by the Church on stipends, Employer's National Insurance, and pension provision, direct as follows:

1. There shall be four descriptive categories:

Group I: aid-giving charges

Group II: self-supporting charges

Group III: subsidised charges

Group IV: other congregations.

2. A charge shall be placed in Group I if in any year its remittances to Central Funds exceed the result of dividing the net expenditure met out of congregational remittances (or which should be so met) by the number of sanctioned charges at the year end excluding charges in Group IV.

3. A charge shall be placed in Group II if its remittances exceed 120 per cent of the Equal Dividend in any year, but not to such an extent as to permit it to be placed in Group I.

4. Group III shall consist of charges which have a minister or resident lay preacher, or which are deemed under current legislation to have the right to obtain one, but which remit less than 120 per cent of the Equal Dividend.

5. Group IV shall consist of Congregations which do not have a minister or resident lay preacher, and which are not deemed under present legislation to have the right to obtain one.

6. The General Assembly repeal the second and third sections of Act XVIII, 1978, Amending Act XII, 1977, from the words, "In order to maintain the emphasis upon ..." to the end.

XV. - Act anent Admission to Equal Dividend Platform

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

The General Assembly, desiring that arrangements regarding the Sustentation Fund be clarified and updated, ordain as follows:

1. Congregations

1.1 A Schedule drawn up by the Sustentation Committee shall be filled up on behalf of each congregation seeking to be admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform.

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

1.3 The Schedule shall require the Congregation to promise that in the event of a settlement it shall, as a minimum, remit to Central Funds either a fixed sum or a fixed percentage of the Equal Dividend. If a fixed sum is promised, it must exceed the Equal Dividend obtaining at the time the Schedule is approved of by the Presbytery. If the commitment is expressed in terms of a percentage of the Equal Dividend, it must be greater than 100 per cent of the Equal Dividend. The promise should be adequate in relation to the Congregation's resources and prospects.

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

2. Presbyteries

2.1 Each Schedule shall be submitted to the Presbytery of the bounds for approval.

2.2 In the light of its knowledge of local circumstances the Presbytery shall be asked if it considers the financial commitment promised and the proposals made to be adequate in the light of the Congregation's resources and prospects.

- 2.3 When a Congregation's commitment lies between 100 and 120 per cent of the prevailing Equal Dividend, the Presbytery shall be required to report to the Committee on why the Congregation should be admitted to the Platform, and to state what steps have been taken, or are proposed, to increase the Congregation's remittances to 120 per cent of the Equal Dividend.
- 2.4 A Presbytery shall not moderate in a call until the Sustentation Committee have intimated that the Congregation has been placed on the Equal Dividend Platform.

3. The Sustentation Committee

- 3.1 The Committee shall not consider a Schedule until it has been approved by the Presbytery of the bounds.
- 3.2 The Committee shall scrutinise each schedule to ensure that the requirements of 1.3 above are met, and that the responses given in terms of 1.4 and 2.3 are satisfactory. The Committee may only approve Schedules which have been validly completed in all these respects.
- 3.3 If a congregation promising to remit the full Equal Dividend has not done so in the current financial year, or in the two preceding years, or if the circumstances of a congregation promising to remit the full Equal Dividend are such that the Committee consider the situation requires further assessment, then the Committee may admit the congregation to the Equal Dividend Platform provisionally, and the situation in the congregation will be reviewed at the end of three years following the date of a settlement. At that time the Congregation will be required to submit a fresh Schedule.
- 3.4 If when a congregation submits a fresh schedule in terms of the above, it is unable to meet the qualifying conditions, then the Presbytery shall carry out a visitation of the Congregation and submit to the Committee, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the Congregation. 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 from the beginning of June following upon the meetings of the General Assembly, the minister be paid a stipend equal to the congregation's remittances to Central Funds so long as the congregation's remittances remain below the level of the Equal Dividend.
- 3.5 When a Congregation admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform fails to remit in accordance with the promise made on admission to the Platform, then the Sustentation Committee shall draw the attention of the Congregation and Presbytery to this fact, and the Presbytery shall report to the Committee what steps are being taken to rectify the situation. The Committee shall report to the General Assembly annually which congregations, if any, failed to meet their commitment in the previous year.
- 3.6 When a Congregation admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform fails to remit an amount to Central Funds equal to the Equal Dividend, then the Sustentation Committee shall draw the attention of the Congregation and Presbytery to this fact, and the Presbytery

shall report to the Committee what steps are being taken to rectify the situation. If such notice is given in three out of any four successive years, then the Sustentation Committee shall report this to the General Assembly, and unless the Assembly are satisfied that circumstances meriting special consideration exist, the Committee shall authorise that from the beginning of June following upon the meetings of the General Assembly, the minister be paid a stipend equal to the congregation's remittances to Central Funds for so long as the congregation's remittances remain below the level of the Equal Dividend.

4. Union of Neighbouring Congregations

4.1 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.

5. Special Arrangements

5.1 Notwithstanding the above regulations, 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.

5.2 Each such case passed by the Assembly shall be reviewed every five years.

5.3 The Schedule submitted by such a congregation must express its financial commitment as a percentage of the Equal Dividend in terms of 1.3 above, and its remittances shall be monitored by the Committee in terms of 3.5 above.

5.4 Before a Presbytery gives its approval to a Schedule seeking admission to the Platform in terms of special consideration, the Presbytery shall carry out a visitation of the Congregation and submit to the Committee, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the Congregation.

6. The General Assembly repeal Act XII, 1984.

XVI. Act anent Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly amend Act XIII, 1990 by the addition of the following as paragraph 4 with renumbering of subsequent paragraphs:

4. In the case of ministers seconded by an Assembly Committee to work which does not

involve membership of a Presbytery of this Church, the following rules shall apply in so far as they accord with the terms of the secondment.

4.1 The minister's name shall be included in the Register of Ministers without Charge (available for Call) upon notification to the Clerk of Assembly by the clerk of the seconding Committee.

4.2 In normal circumstances the name shall remain on the Register during the period of secondment and for three years thereafter or until induction to a charge, whichever is earlier.

4.3 For purposes of pastoral care and discipline the minister shall be assigned to the Presbytery of which he was last a member, or to the Presbytery by which he was ordained if he has not been inducted to a Presbytery. In the case of a minister admitted by authority of the General Assembly, the relevant Presbytery shall be that under whose supervision he signs the formula.

XVII. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Dumfries Congregation

(No. 17 Of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

The General Assembly approve that the congregation of Dumfries be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform under Special Arrangements (namely that they remit to Central Funds at least 80% of the Equal Dividend each year) for a period of five years in terms of Act XII 1984, as modified by Act XXVI, 1989.

XVIII. - Act anent Ministers' Car Expenses

(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly approve the following arrangements as regards Ministers' Car Expenses:

1. The minimum rate at which ministers' car expenses shall be met is 15p per mile. A congregation may pay at a higher rate if they so desire. The cost of ferry travel and bridge tolls shall be met in addition where appropriate.

2. A minister shall be remunerated in respect of all valid car expenses incurred on church business. All expenses incurred on congregational travel shall in normal circumstances be reimbursed by the congregation in accordance with Act XV, 1983. Such expenses shall include: home visits, hospital visits, travel for church services and meetings, weddings and funerals (where expenses are not otherwise met).

3. Car expenses incurred in respect of travel to church courts or committees shall be met by the Presbytery or committee concerned.

4. Ministers whose total annual mileage in respect of travel covered by paragraphs [2] and [3]

above exceeds 12,000 miles per annum shall be entitled to receive the excess mileage over 12,000 at an enhanced rate of 25p per mile.

5. Each minister shall submit to his Deacons' Court annually particulars of his total mileage in the designated categories for the year, and the Court shall be responsible for meeting these expenses in accordance with the rates set in [1] and [4] above.

6. Each Deacons' Court shall report their diligence in this matter to the Presbytery not later than 31st January of the following year.

7. While Deacons' Courts are required to review their minister's expenses annually, these expenses may be met monthly, quarterly or on another basis agreed locally with the minister.

8. Presbyteries shall scrutinise each report to ensure that expenses are being met fully, and investigate discrepancies.

9. Where congregations are unable to meet their obligations as outlined above from their funds, and Presbytery are satisfied after due inquiry that their financial situation and other commitments genuinely preclude their doing so, then the Presbytery shall transmit a certified application to the Sustentation Committee not later than 31st May each year for the balance of the expenses.

10. The Sustentation Committee shall consider such expenses at their June meeting, and if so resolved, shall pay the appropriate sums to the ministers concerned. Due budgetary allowance shall be made for this each year.

11. The Scheme shall be known as the Ministers' Car Expenses Scheme. The present Home Mission Grant Scheme shall be superseded, and any interest on capital allocated to Home Mission Grants shall be made available for this purpose.

12. In the case of vacant congregations, ministers acting as Interim Moderators shall be eligible for the repayment of their expenses which relate to the vacant congregation by that congregation and the same procedure outlined above shall be followed *mutatis mutandis*.

13. Where a Resident Lay Preacher is appointed to a Congregation, he shall be eligible for repayment of car expenses under the scheme, and the same procedure outlined above shall be followed *mutatis mutandis*.

14. Ministers in Church Extension and church planting appointments shall receive their grants, where necessary, from the Church Extension Committee.

15. Nothing in the above legislation is to be construed as relieving congregations of their obligation to meet ministers' other expenses besides that of travelling.

16. Home Mission Grants shall be paid for the last time in March 1995 in respect of expenditure incurred up to 31st December 1994. The above scheme shall come into operation in respect of mileage incurred from 1st January 1995, and the first payments are to be scheduled to be made in June 1996.

XIX. - Act anent Consolidation of Milton and St. Vincent Street, Glasgow

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. The General Assembly direct that the congregations of St. Vincent Street and Milton Free Churches be united in one congregation, with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court under the pastorate of the Rev. John A.M. MacKay.

XX. - Act anent Consolidation of Gairloch and Kinlochewe

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

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

1. They consolidate the congregation of Kinlochewe and the congregation of Gairloch as a single charge to be known as the congregation of Gairloch and Kinlochewe.
2. They enact that the congregation shall have one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court with responsibility for the finances of the consolidated charge, the union of Kirk Sessions and Deacons' Courts to take effect immediately upon the close of this Assembly.
3. They enact that the present minister of Gairloch become minister of the consolidated charge of Gairloch and Kinlochewe.

XXI. - Act anent Raising of Lennoxton to Status of Fully Sanctioned Charge

(No.21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly declare that the congregation of Lennoxton be constituted a fully sanctioned charge and be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform in terms of Act XII, 1984, Section (1).

XXII. - Act anent Status of Minister at Lennoxton

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly remove the restriction on the duration of Rev. I. Beaton's induction and declare him to be minister at Lennoxton ad vitam aut culpam.

XXIII. - Act anent Raising Drumchapel to the Status of Fully Sanctioned Charge

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly declare that the congregation of Drumchapel is raised to fully sanctioned charge status and placed on the Equal Dividend Platform under Special Arrangements in accordance with Act XII, 1984, Section (4).

XXIV. - Act anent Status of Minister at Drumchapel

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly declare that the present restrictions on the duration of Rev. A. MacDonald's induction are removed and he is minister at Drumchapel ad vitam aut culpam.

XXV. - Act anent Status of Minister at Dumfries

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. The General Assembly remove the present restriction on the duration of the tenure by the Rev. William B. Scott of the charge of Dumfries Free Church, and declare him to be minister of the charge ad vitam aut culpam.

XXVI. - Act anent Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint Rev. H. Sliep as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XXVII. - Act anent Seat of Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They declare Oban the seat of the Presbytery and remove the proviso in Act VIII A (2)(ii) 1983 for the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber to meet within the bounds of the former Presbytery of Inveraray.

XXVIII. - Act anent College Examinations

(No. 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

The General Assembly rescind Section 7 of Act XX 1985, and replace with the following:

1. Class Examinations - Class examinations shall consist of a maximum of four hours (written) for each subject, in each academic year

1.1 The administration and allocation of the class examinations throughout the various subjects shall be at the discretion of the Senate. The Senate shall at the beginning of each session publish details of examinations for each session.

2. Exit Examinations - The system of exit examinations shall be discontinued, except for exit examinations in Scripture.

2.1 The Training of the Ministry shall continue to appoint external examiners.

2.2 The examination scripts submitted in the class examinations shall be forwarded to external examiners appointed by the Training of the Ministry Committee, who will inspect them and award a mark, and who shall report their findings to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

2.3 The exit examinations in Scripture shall be retained. The responsibility for setting and marking these shall continue to be that of the Training of the Ministry Committee. A system shall be followed eliminating overlap between the Scripture passages set for examination by Presbyteries, and those set for entrance and exit examinations. Every Presbytery shall, notwithstanding, retain the right to examine students on any portions of Scripture they may wish to allocate.

XXIX. - Act anent Duration of College Session

(No. 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly rescind Section 11.1 of Act XX 1985, and replace with the following:

1. The General Assembly ordain that the College Session shall be of two semesters, each of fifteen weeks duration, with a mid-semester break of one week in each as the Senatus may decide. The College Session shall ordinarily be completed before the commencement of the General Assembly.

1.2 The General Assembly instruct the Senatus to make arrangements to implement the new two-semester session in the academic year 1995-96.

XXX. - Act anent Placement of Students

(No. 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh 26th May 1994

The General Assembly instruct the Training of the Ministry Committee to implement a Placement of Students Scheme in the following terms:

1. Ordinarily placement of students will be at the end of the first year of three year course and at the end of the second year of four year course. In the case of individual students there may be reasons for modifying the arrangements.
2. Placement shall be for a period of six weeks.
3. Placement will be made with experienced ministers in non vacant congregations where the likelihood of gaining experience of practical and pastoral situations is best. The Training of the Ministry Committee will invite Presbyteries to submit names of suitable congregations, the names to be in the hands of the Clerk to the Training of the Ministry Committee by 31 January 1995, and by 31 January for each subsequent year. The Professor of Practical Theology shall be responsible for the placement of students.
4. The programme for the student's placement will be set out by the minister in consultation with the Kirk Session. General guidelines will be issued to the Training of the Ministry Committee as outlined in the Report.
5. The General Assembly instruct the Training of the Ministry Committee to implement the scheme by the close of 1994/95 Academic Year, the Training of the Ministry Committee to review the scheme and report on its implementation to the 1998 General Assembly.
6. The minister and Kirk Session will submit reports on the student's ability, attitude, progress, etc to the Professor of Practical Theology. These reports will become part of the student's overall assessment.
7. The student will be required to keep a daily record of his work and submit this, together with a written report, in a format provided by the Training of the Ministry Committee, to the Professor of Practical Theology.
8. The Professor will pass on all written reports to the Training of the Ministry Committee who in turn will pass them on to the student's home Presbytery.
9. The student will meet at least weekly with the minister to discuss the work undertaken and the progress made.
10. During placement the student's remuneration, where required, will become the responsibility of the Training of the Ministry Committee. He will be paid a weekly amount equivalent to the current residential supply expenses for students.
11. The congregation in which the student is to be placed must provide suitable accommodation if necessary, and meet the cost thereof.
12. The ministers exercising the oversight will not receive remuneration for this work.
13. The implementation of the scheme hereby repeals Act XXIII 1991: Act Anent

Evangelistic Outreach Work by Students, as from the close of the 1995 General Assembly.

XXXI. - Act anent entry of Rev. D.I. MacDonald on Register of Ministers without Charge

(No. 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1994

The General Assembly, overlooking the insufficiency in the Extract Minute of the Presbytery of Glasgow, receive the Petition from Rev. D.I. MacDonald and grant its crave.

They authorise the Principal Clerk to place his name on the Register of Ministers without Charge in terms of Act XIII, 1990.

XXXII. - Act anent Grants to Students

(No. 32 of Class II)

Edinburgh 27th May 1994

The General Assembly empower the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee (i) to make available to the Free Church candidates for the ministry not eligible for a government-sponsored student loan a sum by way of grant equal to the total of that which such a student would have received by way of grant and loan had he been eligible for a student loan and (ii) to provide for unmarried Free Church candidates for the ministry of a means-tested sum equivalent to that which the student would have received had he been eligible for housing benefit.

XXXIII. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh 27th May 1994

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay 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 Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, to deal with any petition forwarded by the Presbytery of Glasgow regarding a union of congregations involving the Grant Street congregation and the status of any minister or ministers therein, to consider a Petition for Redevelopment Status for Kiltearn with powers to dispose favourably of the same only in the light of a favourable report by the Committee on Sustentation, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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, 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.

**XXXIV. - Act Appointing next General Assembly
(No. 34 of Class II)**

Edinburgh, 27th May 1994

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 22nd May 1995 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

**XXXV. - Act ad interim anent Ministers, Professors and Ordained Missionaries unable
to fulfil Duties**

(No. 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1994

The General Assembly hereby transmit the undernoted proposals as an Overture to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act, and further the General Assembly adopt these proposals ad interim:

1. A minister unable to fulfil his duties for more than 6 months shall be loosed from his charge by the Presbytery, unless the Presbytery, with concurrence of Congregation and the Committee on Sustentation, are satisfied, on medical advice, that there is prospect of a return

to work by the end of the following 6 months.

2. Where a professor is unable to fulfil his duties for more than 6 months, the Committee on Training of the Ministry shall report the case to the General Assembly, with the recommendation that the professor, if unfit for duty by the beginning of the next College session, be loosed from his chair.

3. Where an ordained missionary is unable to fulfil his duties for more than 6 months he shall be loosed from his charge by the Presbytery which ordained him, unless the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board are satisfied, on medical advice, that there is a prospect of a return to work by the end of the following 6 months.

4. Act I, Class 1, 1936 is hereby repealed.

XXXVI. - Act Ad interim anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches

(No. 36 of Class II)

Edinburgh 27th May 1994

The General Assembly hereby transmit the undernoted proposals as an Overture to Presbyteries in terms of the Barrier Act, and further the General Assembly adopt these proposals ad interim:

Whereas it is desirable that the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other denominations or churches should be effected by the General Assembly, it is hereby enacted and ordained that:

1. No minister or probationer of another denomination or church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without an unqualified subscription of the Formula.

2. No minister or probationer of another denomination or church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without the authority of the General Assembly.

3. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant has his ordinary residence; or, if the applicant's residence be not within a Presbytery of this Church, it shall be made to a Presbytery to whose members the applicant is well known.

4. Every presbytery to which an application is made to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of the Free Church of Scotland shall transmit it to the General Assembly through the Admissions Committee by means of a fully completed Application Schedule.

5. The Admissions Committee shall prepare a twofold Application Schedule, one part to be completed by the Applicant and the other by the Presbytery and attested by their Clerk. As

well as containing requests for such information from the applicant and the presbytery as the Admissions Committee deem appropriate, this schedule shall require that (a) the applicant indicate his willingness to subscribe to the questions put to licentiates, these questions being incorporated in full in the Schedule; and (b) the Presbytery state that they are satisfied as to the knowledge they have of the applicant's religion, theological views, character, background and gifts, and that they recommend his application to the favourable consideration of the General Assembly.

6. Before considering an application for admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, the Admissions Committee shall obtain a report from one of the Committee's panel of medical examiners on the applicant's state of health and medical fitness for the ministry.

7. The Admissions Committee shall consider the application and medical report and shall forward to the Assembly Clerk the Application Form together with an extract minute detailing the Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly in relation to the application.

8. The General Assembly repeal Act I, Class I, 1941, Act I, Class I, 1980 and Act XXI, Class II, 1991.

ACT OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sale of Helmsdale Manse

Edinburgh, 6th October 1993

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Finance Committee of Helmsdale Congregation and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse in Helmsdale, the proceeds of sale to be lodged with the General Trustees until required to meet the costs of building or acquiring a more suitable manse. Interest accruing in the interval is to be added to capital and any capital remaining after completion of the transaction to be held for behoof of the congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

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

MAY MCMXCV (1995)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

I. - Act anent Ministers, Professors and Ordained Missionaries unable to fulfil duties

(No. 1 of Class I)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1995

The General Assembly, with consent of the majority of Presbyteries, enact that:

1. A minister unable to fulfil his duties for more than six months shall be loosed from his charge by the Presbytery, unless the Presbytery, with concurrence of Congregation and the Committee on Sustentation, are satisfied, on medical advice, that there is prospect of a return to work by the end of the following six months.
2. Where a professor is unable to fulfil his duties for more than six months, the Committee on Training of the Ministry shall report the case to the General Assembly, with the recommendation that the professor, if unfit for duty by the beginning of the next College

session, be loosed from his chair.

3. Where an ordained missionary is unable to fulfil his duties for more than six months he shall be loosed from his charge by the Presbytery which ordained him, unless the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board are satisfied, on medical advice, that there is a prospect of a return to work by the end of the following six months.

4. Act I, Class I, 1936 is hereby repealed.

II. - Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Denominations or Churches

(No. 2 of Class I)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly, with consent of a majority of Presbyteries, enact and ordain that:

Whereas it is desirable that the Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other denominations or churches should be effected by the General Assembly, it is hereby enacted and ordained that:

1. No minister or probationer of another denomination or church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without an unqualified subscription of the Formula.
2. No minister or probationer of another denomination or church shall be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church without the authority of the General Assembly.
3. Every application to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of this Church shall be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant has his ordinary residence; or, if the applicant's residence be not within a Presbytery of this Church, it shall be made to a Presbytery to whose members the applicant is well known.
4. Every presbytery to which an application is made to be received to the standing of a minister or probationer of the Free Church of Scotland shall transmit it to the General Assembly through the Admissions Committee by means of a fully completed Application Schedule.
5. The Admissions Committee shall prepare a twofold Application Schedule, one part to be completed by the Applicant and the other by the Presbytery and attested by their Clerk. As well as containing requests for such information from the applicant and the Presbytery as the Admissions Committee deem appropriate, this schedule shall require that (a) the applicant indicate his willingness to subscribe to the questions put to licentiates, these questions being incorporated in full in the Schedule; and (b) the Presbytery state that they are satisfied as to the knowledge they have of the applicant's religion, theological views, character, background and gifts, and that they recommend his application to the favourable consideration of the General Assembly.

6. Before considering an application for admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, the Admissions Committee shall obtain a report from one of the Committee's panel of medical examiners on the applicant's state of health and medical fitness for the ministry.

7. The Admissions Committee shall consider the application and medical report and shall forward to the Assembly Clerk the Application Form together with an extract minute detailing the Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly in relation to the application.

8. The General Assembly repeal Act I, Class I, 1941, Act I, Class I, 1980 and Act XXI, Class II, 1991

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

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

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1995

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 23rd day of May 1995, convey our continuing loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to God that He continues to bestow upon Your Majesty the needed health and strength that sustains Your Majesty in fulfilling so graciously the many duties that devolve upon Your Majesty's Office. The prayer of your loyal subjects of the Free Church of Scotland is that Your Majesty may continue to be so blessed for these arduous duties.

In a world of constant change we give thanks for the stability of our Monarchy and Throne. We gratefully acknowledge the debt which, in the providence of our Lord, we owe to Your Majesty for this.

We deplore the lowering moral standards in the life of our nation, both private and public, and pray to God that, as the country's stability and prosperity are based upon obedience to the revealed will of God, we may witness a return to the honoured traditions which are bound up inseparably with loving submission to His word,

We rejoiced, with Your Majesty and the other members of the Royal Household as the nation entered so heartily into the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Victory in Europe. It was particularly gratifying to witness the presence of Her Majesty the Queen Mother sharing with the other members of the Royal Household in the various activities and services of that day. The name and example of Her Majesty the Queen Mother and of Your Majesty's late father,

will always be associated with the heroic efforts of the nation to resist, and, under God, to overcome the forces of evil during these years of conflict. We ask leave, through Your Majesty, to pay our respects to the Queen Mother.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks to Almighty God, Her Majesty's Government's initiative in bringing peace to bear on the troubled land of Northern Ireland. We pray that the ensuing peace process will result in the restoration of a lasting peace amongst the subjects of Her Majesty in Northern Ireland.

May the blessing of divine grace rest on Your Majesty's Person and all 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.A. Macleod, Moderator

IV. - Act anent addition of Associated Presbyterian Churches to list of Corresponding Churches and Societies

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1995

The General Assembly note with interest the continued contacts between the Committee and representatives of the Associated Presbyterian Churches. They add the Associated Presbyterian Churches to the list of churches and organisations with whom the Free Church can exchange delegates and letters of greeting.

V. - Act anent appointment of Editor to Teenage Magazine

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1995

The General Assembly appoint Mr. Calum Ferguson to the post of Editor of the Teenage Magazine, in accordance with the terms specified for the Editor of The Instructor, under Act III, Class II, 1973.

VI. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly direct that the Equal Dividend of £11,250 be continued at present in terms of the variation permitted by Act XII, 1989. They authorise that the Equal Dividend be increased to a level up to, but not exceeding, £12,050 when the finances of the Church permit this without causing a deterioration in the Church's overall financial situation.

VII. - Act anent Extension of Redevelopment Charge Status of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness regarding an extension of Redevelopment Status for the congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier, and, noting the recommendations of the Sustentation Committee, grant its crave to the extent that they extend the Redevelopment status of the congregation for a further period in terms of Act XXXIV, 1988, except that they authorise the Committee to take steps towards an appointment only after the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee have informed them of such an improvement in the overall financial situation of the church as to permit the Committee to proceed with expenditure currently under embargo, and that for the purposes of para 2.9 of the said Act the two year period mentioned therein shall not commence until the Sustentation Committee have been so advised and have resolved to take steps towards an appointment.

VIII. - Act anent Extension of Redevelopment Charge Status of Tarbat

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Ross regarding the extension of Redevelopment status for the congregation of Tarbat, and noting the recommendations of the Sustentation Committee, they grant its crave. They extend the period of Redevelopment status of the congregation of Tarbat until the General Assembly of 2000 in terms of Act XXXIV, 1988.

IX. - Act anent Grant of Redevelopment Charge Status to Elgin and Forres

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Inverness regarding Redevelopment status for the congregation of Elgin and Forres, and, noting the recommendations of the Sustentation Committee, they grant its crave to the extent that they accord Redevelopment status to the congregation of Elgin and Forres in terms of Act XXXIV, 1988, with the modifications that the Committee shall not take steps towards an appointment until the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee have informed them of such an improvement in the overall financial situation of the church as to permit the Committee to proceed with expenditure currently under embargo, and that for the purposes of para 2.9 of the said Act the two year period mentioned therein shall not commence until the Sustentation Committee have been so advised and have resolved to take steps towards an appointment.

X. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Uig

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly approve that the congregation of Uig be continued on the Equal Dividend Platform under Special Arrangements (namely that they continue to remit to Central Funds at least £6,300 each year) for a period of five years in terms of Act XV, 1994.

XI. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Sleat

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly grant permission to the Sustentation Committee to place the congregation of Sleat on the Equal Dividend Platform under Special Arrangements (namely that they remit to Central Funds at least 50% of the Equal Dividend each year) for a period of five years from the date of an induction, and they further direct that this permission shall not be acted upon until the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee have informed the Committee of such an improvement in the overall financial situation of the Church as to permit the Committee to proceed with expenditure currently under embargo.

XII. - Act anent Supply Travelling Expenses (Amending Act IX 1985)

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly amend Act XV, 1972, appendix II.B. 2(b), as amended by Act XVI, 1980 and Act IX, 1985, so that it reads:

“Where such transport is not available and suitable, a refund shall be allowed at the rate of twelve pence (12p) per mile up to a maximum of one hundred (100) miles each way, except that in the case of students and probationers the rate of refund shall be fifteen pence (15p) per mile, subject to the same maximum”.

This change to be effective from 1st January 1996.

XIII. - Act anent Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1995

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint Rev. H. Sliep as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XIV. - Act anent granting of seat in Glasgow Presbytery to Rev. A. Cowie

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh. 24th May 1995

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They ordain that, in terms of

Act XII, 1990, paragraph 1.2, Rev. Alex. Cowie be granted a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow for as long as he remains seconded to Christian Witness to Israel and is resident within the bounds of the Presbytery.

XV. - Act anent change of name of Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada
(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

The General Assembly receive the Petition and grant its crave. They direct that the name of the Presbytery of Ontario and Western Canada be altered to the Great Lakes and Western Canada Presbytery.

XVI. - Act anent Institution of College Board
(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1995

1. The General Assembly appoint a College Board to become functional immediately after the 1996 General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly declare the membership of The College Board shall be as follows:-
 - 2.1 The College Board will consist of twelve members and will be constituted as follows:
 - 2.1.1 three ministers in pastoral charges, appointed by the General Assembly on a synodical basis and on the basis of Presbytery returns to the Nominations Committee;
 - 2.1.2 three elders, having relevant qualifications or experience in education, preferably tertiary education, or in the administration and promotion of education. These elders shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the basis of Presbytery returns;
 - 2.1.3 the Principal of the College ex officio;
 - 2.1.4 two members of the Senatus, other than the Principal, appointed annually by the Senatus;
 - 2.1.5 one of the General Trustees nominated as their representative; and
 - 2.1.6 the Convener and the Vice-Convener of the Training of the Ministry Committee.
 - 2.2 The Chairman of the Board and the Clerk will be appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee from amongst the membership of the Board. Members of the Senatus are excluded from both posts. No honorarium will be payable.
 - 2.3 The normal period of service for members appointed in terms of 3.1 will be four years, renewable for a further four years. Initially, the appointees in these categories will have their

length of appointment determined by lot by the Nominations Committee so that no more than two fall to be replaced after any one of the first four years.

2.4 Statutory meetings of the Board will be held twice yearly, with a full day being allocated to the business on each occasion. Other meetings may be held as required.

3. The General Assembly declare that the remit of the College Board be as follows:-

3.1 The College Board will be expected to exercise a large discretion in all matters assigned to them by the General Assembly, these to include:

3.1.1 promoting the interests of the College within and outwith the Free Church; implementing a strategy designed to heighten awareness of the status of the Free Church College as a centre of Biblical and Reformed teaching;

3.1.2 maintaining and improving the fabric and furnishings of the College;

3.1.3 maintaining and improving the facilities and resources of the College Library;

3.1.4 fostering the personal and spiritual welfare of staff and students, especially in areas of staff/student interaction;

3.1.5 assessing general student and staff performance through reviewing statistics on pass, failure, attendance, student drop-out and course satisfaction rates and on class size;

3.1.6 determining the starting and closing dates of College sessions, giving due notice of any change in the pattern thereof;

3.1.7 adjudicating with regard to disciplinary or disputed matters affecting College non-Senatus staff, both full-time and part-time;

3.1.8 considering any failure by a member of the Senatus to comply with academic duties, as brought to it by the Senatus, and referring this, if unresolved, to the General Assembly for their attention;

3.1.9 determining the terms and conditions of employment of all non-Senatus staff (including casual), other than as determined by Act of Assembly;

3.1.10 keeping the salaries of Professors under regular review and, if necessary, bringing proposals thereanent to the attention of the Assembly. To this end, they direct the Board to fulfil the role previously carried out by the Training Committee, in terms of Act XXI 1967, Act XXII 1971 and Act XXI 1988;

3.1.11 receiving intimation for transmission to the General Assembly of a professor's proposed retiral and, thereafter, being responsible for submitting to the General Assembly (following consultation with Presbyteries and Synods) a report which will include at least two nominations for the appointment to a College Chair as it becomes vacant; and

3.1.12 administering the finances of the College (always excepting income from donations or bequests placed by donors or legatees at the disposal of the Senatus); preparing the College Budget and submitting it to the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

4. The General Assembly declare that the College Board will report annually to the General Assembly. This report will include, as an item, the Principal's report.

5. The General Assembly declare that the continuing remit of the Training of the Ministry Committee shall be:

5.1 To receive and process all applications of candidates for the Free Church Ministry.

5.2 To interview all candidates applying for the Free Church Ministry.

5.3 To advise all pre-College recognised students for the Free Church Ministry of the subjects which should be studied during their pre-College course(s).

5.4 To examine and assess students' College work through the appointment of examiners, responsible to and reporting to, the Training of the Ministry Committee.

5.5 To administer the scheme for the placement of students.

5.6 To administer the applications for, and allocations of, grants/bursaries to students.

5.7 To deal with accusations of heresy or immorality on the part of any of the Professors at the Free Church College.

6. The General Assembly, to this end, amend and repeal the following Acts effective from the close of the 1996 General Assembly:-

6.1 Act I - Class I 1936. The General Assembly now declare that the powers under the Training of the Ministry in part III shall hereafter be undertaken by the College Board.

6.2 Act IV - Class II 1894 (amended as cited in Act VI, Class II, 1979, paragraph 6), repeal "The Committee on Training of the Ministry are authorised to undertake the general administration of College property and finances".

6.3 Act XXI - Class II 1967 (and as cited in Act VI, Class II 1979, paragraphs 10 and 13) for "Training of the Ministry" read "College Board" and for "the Committee" read "the Board".

6.4 Act XIV - Class II 1974 (as cited in Act VI, Class II 1979, paragraph 22 on page 31) for "Training of the Ministry" read "College Board".

6.5 Act XV - Class II 1974 (as amended by Act XXXV, Class II 1977, paragraph 18 and its subsections), replace "Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee" with "The College Board".

6.6 Act XVII - Class II 1978 (as cited in Act VI, Class II 1979, paragraph 20), amend the sentence “In these circumstances the Training of the Ministry Committee shall” to read “In these circumstances, the Senatus shall, with the concurrence of the new Professor and the College Board, invite the retiring Professor to take charge of the senior class for one year only, with the status of Visiting Professor, who shall be associated with the Senatus (with voice but not vote)”.

6.7 Act IV - Class II 1979 IV2, add at close of this section “The Principal is ex officio a member of the College Board”; V3, second sentence, replace “the Committee designated by the Assembly to supervise the training of the Ministry” with “the Training of the Ministry Committee and the College Board”.

6.8 Act VII - Class II 1979 (as amended by Act XX, Class II, 1987), paragraph 2, repeal.

6.9 Act X - Class II 1979, paragraph 1, amend by omitting “and the College”, paragraph 2, amend by omitting “and the library”. Final paragraph - amend by adding between “the Clerks of” and “the Committee on Sustentation” “the College Board and of”.

6.10 Act XXIX - Class II 1982 (amending Act XXIII, 1970, with regard to the College Library) repealed in toto.

6.11 Act XX - Class II 1985, repeal paragraph II.1 (as amended by Act XVIII, 1988). Amend V.1.3 to read, “To arrange jointly with the College Board for (1) Quinquennial Visitations of the College, (2) special visitation should unusual circumstances render that desirable, and (3) to review, as occasion arises, the adequacy of the number of Chairs and their respective areas of teaching”. Repeal V.1.4. Amend V.1.5 to read, “To administer finances as needed to support Free Church students in their studies at the College and in such other study as the Committee approves of”.

6.12 Act XX - Class II 1986, third sentence, for “Training of the Ministry Committee” substitute “College Board”.

6.13 Act XX - Class II 1987, repealed in toto.

6.14 Act XVIII - Class II 1988, repealed in toto, also see mention above in Act XX, Class II 1985, paragraph II.1.

6.15 Act XXI - Class II 1988, paragraph 1.2.1 for “Training of the Ministry Committee” substitute “College Board”.

6.16 Act IV - Class II 1994, paragraphs 3.3.2; 4.3 and 7, amend to read “College Board” instead of “Training of the Ministry Committee”.

XVII. - Act anent Sales of Property

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

1. Bower. The General Assembly note and approve the permission given by the Commission of Assembly of October 1994 regarding the sale of the Bower Manse.

The General Assembly reiterate the terms of Act II, 1968, namely:

The General Assembly remind Congregations that, where the authority of the Assembly to the sale of a property is required, any negotiations prior to the granting of such authority is ultra vires. The General Assembly warn Congregations that property should not be advertised for sale, nor should Missives of Sale be entered into, before the authority of the General Assembly, where required, has been obtained.

2. St. Vincent Street/Milton. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of St. Vincent Street/Milton Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the vacant site of the former Milton Free Church at Rose Street/West Graham Street, Glasgow. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and may be made available for the purchase of an alternative site or the procurement of a church building, interest in the meantime to be added to capital.

3. Arran. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the congregation of Arran Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the church and ground at Corrie, subject to the Superior's consent to change of use. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and the interest made available for congregational purposes.

4. Kiltarn. The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Deacons' Court of Kiltarn Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of that part of the manse ground for which outline planning permission has been obtained. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for improving the existing manse, interest in the meantime to be added to capital.

XVIII. - Act anent Release of Monies (No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1995

1. Nairn, Croy and Ardersier. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier and grant its crave. They ordain that the Deacons' Court be granted access to the interest, or part of the interest, on the capital from the sale of the former Croy Free Church Manse for the purpose of helping the congregation achieve the Equal Dividend Platform.

2. Wick and Keiss. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Wick and Keiss Finance Committee and grant its crave. They authorise the reallocation of the capital already held by the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation and they amend the terms of Act III, Class II, paragraph 7, 1985, to allow access to 75% of the capital realised by the sale of the Keiss Manse in order to refurbish and extend the manse of the consolidated Charge, the

remaining quarter to be available to be drawn upon by the Congregation for maintenance of the Keiss Church building.

XIX. - Act anent Reappointment of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 25th May 1995

The General Assembly thank those who have contributed to the work of preparing Supplementary Versions of the Metrical Psalms, particularly the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group, and reappoint the Group with the following membership:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. F.A.J. Macdonald, Rev. A.J. MacDonald, Rev. Dr. D.M. MacDonald, Rev. I.D. Campbell, Mr. D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr. D.G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr. G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr. R.A. Finlay (Inverness, Free North), Mrs. W.B. Scott (Dumfries), Mr. D.M. MacLeod (Aberdeen) and Mr. L. MacDowell (Livingston), the Convener to be the Convener of the Select Committee on Psalmody.

XX. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1995

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. A.G. Ross, 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 third Wednesday of June and the day following, the first Wednesday of October and the second Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by

the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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, 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. The Commission are further hereby empowered to cognosce and finally determine the following matters remitted to them by the General Assembly, viz: the reference from the Southern Synod in connection with the Aberdeen congregation; the reference from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth made on 25th April 1995; the appeal by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth against the decision of the Southern Synod; and the reference from the Western Synod and the petition from Mr. D.C. Macleod thereanent. 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.

XXI. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 26th May 1995

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday, 20th May 1996 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Grant of Redevelopment Charge Status to Kiltearn

Edinburgh, 5th October 1994

In terms of Act XXXIII, 1994, the Commission receive the Report from the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance and grant the Congregation of Kiltearn Redevelopment Status in accordance with Act XXXIV, 1988.

II. - Act anent Sale of Tarbert Manse

Edinburgh, 5th October 1994

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

They authorise the sale of the Manse at Tarbert, the proceeds of the sale to be invested with the General Trustees until they are required for the purchase or erection of a more suitable

building, the income in the meantime to be accumulated with the Capital until required for the new manse. The transaction is to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents.

III. - Act anent Union of Grant Street and Govan Congregations

Edinburgh, 1st March 1995

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Presbytery of Glasgow for the proposed union of Grant Street and Govan Free Churches and grant its crave.

They unite the congregations of Grant Street and Govan Free Churches into one congregation with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court under the pastorate of Rev. D.N. MacLeod.

IV. - Act anent Transfer of Oversight of Service to Overseas Students

Edinburgh, 1st March 1995

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Free Presbytery of Glasgow and grant its crave.

They ordain that the oversight of Rev. Ian McKenzie's work in Service to Overseas Students cease to be the responsibility of Grant Street Kirk Session and become the responsibility of St. Vincent Street/Milton Kirk Session.

In accordance with the terms of Act XXVIII, 1991, Rev. Ian McKenzie shall be regarded as chaplain to overseas students and as colleague to the minister of St. Vincent Street/Milton Free Church with responsibility only for mission to overseas students for which purpose he will have membership of the Kirk Session of St. Vincent Street/Milton Free Church.

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

MAY MCMXCVI (1996)

CLASS I. - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

NONE

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

I. - Act anent Meeting of Committee on Bills and Overtures

(amending Standing Order III.1)

(No. 1 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1996

The General Assembly amend Standing Order III.1 by the deletion of the words “half-an-hour”, so that it now reads: “That the Committee on Bills and Overtures appointed by the General Assembly at their first diet, shall meet at the close of the first sederunt that day, and again if necessary on the following day before the meeting of Assembly.”

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

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1996

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 1996, desire to express the loyalty of this Church to Your Majesty’s Person and Throne.

We join with many others in offering congratulations to Your Majesty on attaining Your 70th Birthday and as we give thanks for the commitment shown over many years in the performance of Your Royal duties, we pray for all necessary resources of strength and wisdom for Your Majesty’s future reign.

The lessening of violence in Northern Ireland has brought a sense of relief throughout that long-troubled province and further afield. It is our prayer that the efforts being made to secure a just and permanent peace will be successful.

We note with satisfaction the welcome extended to Your Majesty by the peoples of the Polish and Czech Republics, whom You recently visited.

It gives us great pleasure to receive a visit from the Princess Royal, Your Majesty’s Commissioner to this year’s General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

We continue to commend Your Majesty’s Person and Family to the care, direction and blessing of Almighty God, “by whom Kings reign and Princes decree justice”.

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

III. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of Free as ex officio Member of Youth Committee

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1996

The General Assembly appoint the Editor of Free a member of the Youth Committee, ex officio.

IV. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of Monthly Record

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1996

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Iain D. Campbell, MA., BD., to the post of Editor of The Monthly Record, in accordance with current legislation, and in the first instance for seven years.

V. - Act anent Reappointment of Psalmody Advisory Group

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1996

The General Assembly thank those who have contributed to the work of preparing Supplementary Versions of the Metrical Psalms, particularly the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group, and reappoint the Group with the following membership:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. F. A. J. Macdonald, Rev. A.J. MacDonald, Rev. Dr D.M. MacDonald, Rev. D. Wilkie, Rev. A. Wilson, Mr D. Gordon (Fortrose), Mr. D.G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr. R.A. Finlay (Inverness, Free North), Dr Elizabeth Finlayson (Olig, Watten and Bower), Mr. D.M. Macleod (Aberdeen), Mr. L. MacDowell (Livingston) and Mrs. W.B. Scott (Dumfries), the Convener to be the Convener of the Select Committee on Psalmody.

VI. - Act anent Grant of Exceptional Church Extension Status to Dunblane Free Church

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1996

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Glasgow requesting Exceptional Church Extension Status in respect of Dunblane for a further five years in terms of Act XXVII 1989, para 4.7 and grant the Church Extension Committee leave to maintain a ministerial appointment there for a further five years.

VII. - Act anent Evangelist/Church Planter for the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1996

The General Assembly acknowledge that there are a large number of communities without a Reformed witness within the bounds of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth. They also acknowledge that there are particular opportunities within Fife and Tayside for Church planting. The General Assembly therefore authorise the Committee on Church Extension, in consultation with the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to appoint an Evangelist/Church Planter for a period of five years in terms of Act XXVIII, Class II, 1989, provided funds are

available.

Act VIII. - Act anent Sales of Property
(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1996

1. Smithton-Culloden. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Congregation of Smithton-Culloden Free Church of Scotland and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse building, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available to the Congregation for the erection of a more suitable manse. Although the title to the Manse is in the name of the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, the General Assembly direct that the Church's Law Agents may take instructions from the office bearers of the Smithton-Culloden Free Church of Scotland regarding the sale and conveyance, the titles to the new manse to conform wholly to the Model Trust Deed.

2. Leith. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Free Elder Memorial Church, Leith, and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse at 11 Rosslyn Terrace, Leith, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for the purchase of a more suitable manse.

3. Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of the Congregation of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the church building in Kinglassie, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and may be drawn on by the Congregation in connection with expenditure on buildings elsewhere in the congregation, interest in the meantime to be added to capital.

4. Campbeltown. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Campbeltown Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse in Campbeltown, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees, but the Deacons' Court may draw on sufficient of these funds as to finance a 50% share in a replacement Manse in Tarbert for the proposed Consolidated Charge. The remainder of the proceeds are to be held for behoof of the Campbeltown Congregation, with the interest accruing to be paid to the Campbeltown Deacons' Court.

5. Bracadale. The General Assembly receive the petition of the Deacons' Court of Bracadale Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the property known as The Old Schoolhouse, or The Haven, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees, and made available to Bracadale Deacons' Court for the purpose of maintaining the remaining property of the congregation, the interest in the meantime to be added to the capital.

6. Sleat. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of Sleat Free

Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the present manse at Sleat, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The Superior will require to waive his right of pre-emption and consent to change of use. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for the provision of a more suitable manse.

7. Sleat. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of Sleat Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Tarskavaig Church, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The Superior will require to waive his right of pre-emption and consent to change of use. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for the provision of a manse.

IX. - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly declare an Equal Dividend of £12,000 from 1st April 1996, this figure being based on the variation in the level of the Equal Dividend permitted by Act XII, 1989. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the Equal Dividend.

X. - Act anent Special Arrangements for Shettleston

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly place Shettleston on the Equal Dividend Platform for three years, with a review of the situation to be conducted by the Sustentation Committee in consultation with the Presbytery of Glasgow before the 1999 Assembly.

XI. - Act anent Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint Rev. H. Slipe as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XII. - Act anent Consolidation of the Congregations of Campbeltown and Tarbert and Islay

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Free Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They declare that:

1. as from a date specified by the Free Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber, not later than 31 October 1996, the Congregations of Campbeltown and Tarbert and Islay be consolidated to form one Pastoral Charge with two Kirk Sessions and two Deacons' Courts/Finance Committees under the pastorate of Rev. A. Howat;

2. supply be made available each week from the Supply Department in terms of current supply arrangements to assist in the maintenance of gospel ordinances within the Consolidated Charge.

XIII. - Act anent Release of Congregational Monies

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

Tarbert and Islay. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Tarbert and Islay Finance Committee and grant its crave.

They amend Act II of the Commission of Assembly of October 1994 to release sufficient of the proceeds of the sale of the former manse in Tarbert as will finance a 50% share in a replacement manse in Tarbert for the proposed new consolidated charge, the remainder to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Congregation at Tarbert with the interest accruing being paid to the Finance Committee of Tarbert and Islay Free Church.

XIV. - Act anent Assistantship at Rosskeen

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Rosskeen Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Ross to appoint an assistant minister to Rosskeen Congregation in terms of Act V, Class II, 1986.

XV. - Act anent Recognition of Candidates for the Ministry

(modifying Act XX, Class II, 1985, Section 1)

(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly modify Act XX, Class II, 1985, Section 1, by adding the following paragraph as 1.3.5: No applicant should be granted recognition as a candidate for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland unless he has had a minimum association with the Free Church of Scotland or a sister Church of not less than two years.

XVI. - Act anent Eligibility for Trials for Licence

(modifying Act XX, Class II, 1985, Section 4)

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly modify Act XX, Class II, 1985, Section 4, by adding the following paragraph as 3.5: No candidate for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland should be granted licence unless he has studied for a period of at least one year under the supervision of a presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland.

XVII. - Act anent Trials for Licence
(modifying Act XX, Class II, 1985, Section 4)
(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly revise paragraph 4, Section IV, Act XX, Class II, 1985, as amended by Act XIX, Class II, 1988, by amending the first sentence to read: 4. The General Assembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the student, 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 have produced to the presbytery a certificate from the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee certifying that he has completed his course of studies at the Free Church College and has satisfied the requirements of the Training of the Ministry and Admissions Committee.

XVIII. - Act anent Appointment of Editor of The Instructor
(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly note their finding of 1995 that appointments to the editorship of The Instructor and of the teenage magazine are from that date to be made in the following terms:

1. The editor must be a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland, but not necessarily a minister or other office-bearer, or even a male member. If the editor is an office-bearer he will be ex officio a member of the Youth Committee (which acts in an advisory capacity). If the editor is not an office-bearer he/she will be a consultant to the Committee and invited to attend all their meetings. The editor must be a person of some maturity in the Christian life, with wide experience of life. The editor must show (a) a marked interest in young people, both within and outwith the Free Church, and (b) have experience of practical involvement with young people. The editor should have expertise either in the area of writing/publishing or in administration. The editor will not be expected to write the whole magazine. He/she will be expected to gather a team of gifted writers, illustrators, photographers, etc. to contribute to the magazine. He/she will be responsible for overseeing the printing, publication and distribution of the magazine by the due date. The term of office will be five years, with eligibility for reappointment.

2. The General Assembly repeal Act XIII, 1973, in so far as it refers to the editor of The Instructor and also any other previous Acts inconsistent with the foregoing.

3. The General Assembly appoint Mrs. Irene Howat to the post of editor of The Instructor, in

accordance with the terms specified and agreed by the 1995 General Assembly.

XIX. - Act anent Tripartite Agreement with the Reformed Missions League of the Netherlands (RML) and the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Peru (IEPRP)

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly approve of the Tripartite Agreement drawn up by the Free Church of Scotland, the RML and the IEPRI, covering co-operation in Peruvian mission work for the next five years.

XX. - Act anent Staffing and Salaries for Colegio San Andres

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly direct that from 1998 the School will be responsible for the payment of missionary teachers' salaries, accommodation and expenses. The Free Church will continue to recruit teachers of English as required and to pay their furlough expenses and pension contributions, and the teachers concerned will be viewed as seconded to the School. The Free Church will guarantee their salary at the equal dividend level. The headmaster's salary and expenses will continue to be paid by the Free Church.

XXI. - Act anent Appointment to Service to Overseas Students

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly note the significance of the work of the Service to Overseas Students and give the Board authority to appoint, in terms of Act XXVIII, Class II, 1991, a successor to Rev. Ian McKenzie as Chaplain in Glasgow for a period of five years and instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow to induct the successor to the charge.

XXII. - Act anent Amendments to Regulations for Missionaries

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly endorse the following amendments to the Regulations for Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland:

1. Regulation 8.5: Separation Allowance: The last sentence of this section is deleted and the following added:

This provision shall apply to children up to the age of 21 who are in full-time undergraduate education or in training for a trade, profession etc., but who are not full-time wage earners in

permanent employment. Costs will be met for international air travel and internal surface travel in both the UK and the destination country. Internal air travel costs will only be met if there is no suitable surface transport or if surface travel is inadvisable for safety reasons. The Secretary must be consulted before arrangements are undertaken.

2. Regulation 12.2.3: Termination of Employment: The whole section is deleted and the following added as 12.6:

In the case of a missionary (male or female), single at the time of appointment, a review of the appointment will be undertaken on the notification of the missionary's intention to marry. Should the review lead to the termination of the appointment the terms of Section 12.2.1 or Section 12.2.2 shall apply as appropriate.

XXIII. - Act anent Regulations for Appointments on behalf of Sister Churches or Institutions

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh 23rd May 1996

The General Assembly endorse the following regulations for facilitating appointments on behalf of sister churches or institutions:

The Free Church of Scotland through its Foreign Overseas and Jewish Missions Board, may on behalf of sister churches or institutions overseas facilitate the appointment to clearly defined posts of persons who are not members of the Free Church of Scotland, but who the Board feel able to recommend to the sister churches or institutions overseas for the posts specified.

The persons concerned in this arrangement will be members of small denominations or independent congregations sympathetic to the theological position of the Free Church of Scotland, but who do not have the wherewithal to arrange and administer the sending out of missionary candidates. The appointments will be made by the sister churches or institutions concerned.

The sending and receiving churches and institutions will agree that the appointments will be made under the current regulations governing the appointment of Free Church missionaries, where relevant and with the following modifications:

All outlays on salaries, travel, transit of goods, medical expenses, accommodation on the field and during home leave will be met by the sending church. However, the Free Church of Scotland will undertake the administrative arrangements, processing of salary payments, etc without charge.

XXIV. - Act anent Procedures in relation to Calls

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh 24th May 1996

The General Assembly receive the Overture and grant its Crave. They reaffirm (1) the utility of the stated procedures in regard to the disposing of a call and (2) the Biblical principles that lie behind them.

They call the attention of the courts of the Church to a more exact observance of these procedures and to a greater respect for the principles of corporate decision-making which they enshrine.

XXV. - Act Appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1996

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Professor J.L. Mackay 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 Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 to do everything contained in and conform to the instructions 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 or 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 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andres, 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, and to receive any references and appeals 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. Further, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Commission, the General Assembly empower the Commission at their earliest practicable meeting to cognosce and finally determine the following matters remitted to them by the General Assembly, viz: the Reference from the Presbytery of Inverness in terms of Act I, Class I, 1990; the Reference from the Northern Synod regarding a Dissent and

Complaint by Rev. John W. Keddie against a decision of the Presbytery of Inverness; and a Dissent and Complaint by Rev. John W. Keddie against a decision of the Presbytery of Inverness made on 26th September 1995. 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, in and for all their actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by, next General Assembly, as they shall see cause. Furthermore, notwithstanding anything stated heretofore, the General Assembly do hereby empower their Commission at any of their stated diets or at a special meeting (called with due notice to all members of the Commission by the most recent Moderator of the General Assembly either at his own initiative or at the requisition of a relevant Court or Committee of the Church or of at least fifteen members of the Commission) to deal with and dispose of finally as the General Assembly would, any reports, references, overtures, complaints or appeals which may be brought before them in accordance with the law and practice of the Church in connection with any question related to their duty to advert the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which they can prevent. And this Commission shall continue and endure until another Commission is appointed. And members are required to attend the diets of the said Commission.

XXVI. - Act Appointing Next General Assembly
(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 1996

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 19 May 1997 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I. - Act anent Sale of Ardersier Church

Edinburgh, 4th October 1995

The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition from the Congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier and grant its crave to the extent that they authorise the sale of the church building in Ardersier, subject to appropriate clearance of the titles, the proceeds of the sale to be lodged with the General Trustees until required to acquire suitable premises for worship in Ardersier Interest accruing in the interval is to be made available to the Congregation. The transaction is to be carried out by the Church's Law Agents.

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

MAY MCMXCVII

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, 20th May 1997

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 1997, desire to express the loyalty of this Church to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We note with pleasure that the Princess Royal, who was Your Majesty's Representative at last year's General Assembly, is to be made a Lady of the Order of the Thistle.

In this year of the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the arrival of St. Ninian in Scotland and the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Columba we are reminded of the long history of Christianity in these islands. We are thankful for Your Majesty's continued allegiance to the Christian faith. We pray that God's Word would guide the nation, enabling us to practise the righteousness which exalts a nation, and delivering us from sin which is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34).

We deplore the re-emergence of terrorism in connection with Northern Ireland. We pray that God's blessing would rest on the efforts being made to achieve a just and lasting peace there.

We continue to pray that the Blessing of Almighty God would rest upon Your Majesty's Person and Family and that He would grant all needed grace, wisdom and strength in the future.

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

II - Act Appointing Delegates to the Assembly of the ICRC

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1997

The General Assembly look forward to the meetings of the Fourth Assembly of the International Conference of Reformed Churches in Seoul, Korea, from 14-24 October 1997. They pray for divine blessing on the meetings and approve the appointment of the following delegation:

Rev. J.A. MacLeod, Rev. Principal C. Graham as voting delegates; and Mr. Peter Morrison and Rev. D.C. Meredith as non-voting delegates.

III - Act Appointing Special Committee re the Commemoration of Events of 1900 and the Celebration of the new Millenium

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1997

The General Assembly agree to the appointment of a Special Committee to prepare for the commemoration of the events of 1900 and for the celebration of the new millenium. The Assembly direct that the Committee shall consist of the Principal Clerk of Assembly (who shall also be Convener), the Professor of Church History in the Free Church College, one representative of each Presbytery in Scotland, to be named by the Presbytery and communicated to the Principal Clerk by 30th September 1997 (it being understood that Presbytery representatives may be subsequently changed as necessary), and two others to be appointed by this Assembly.

IV - Act anent Select Committees

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1997

The General Assembly accept the Committee's proposals in respect of membership of Select Committees and the Chairman of the College Board and enact as follows:

The General Assembly amend Act VIII, 1987 in the following respects:

(1) in paragraph 1.4, first sentence, insert "the Chairman of the College Board before "the General Trustees"

(2) in paragraph 5 heading, and at the beginning of the first sentence of para 5.1, replace "Special Committees" with "Select Committees"

(3) replace paragraph 5.2.1 with: "Appointments to Select Committees will normally be for a period not exceeding four years with eligibility for a second term after which there shall be no immediate return. The Nominations Committee are hereby instructed to make the necessary arrangements for phasing-in of this change"

(4) insert as paragraph 5.2.2: "In the event of a member of a Select Committee not completing his four-year term of office a replacement shall be made by the Nominations Committee and reported on to the ensuing General Assembly. To effect such replacements speedily the Nominations Committee shall authorise their Convener and some others of their number to make such replacements when necessary"

(5) renumber paragraphs 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 as 5.2.3 and 5.2.4 respectively.

V - Act Reappointing Psalmody Advisory Group
(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1997

The General Assembly thank those who have contributed to the work of preparing Supplementary Versions of the Metrical Psalms, particularly the members of the Psalmody Advisory Group, and reappoint the Group with the following membership:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. A.C. Cowie, Rev. I.D. Glover, Rev. A.J. MacDonald, Rev. Dr. D.M. MacDonald, Rev. D. Wilkie, Rev. A. Wilson, Mr. C. Bailey (Ayr), Dr. D.G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr. G.F. MacLean (Smithton/Culloden), Mr. R.A. Finlay (Inverness, Free North), Dr. Elizabeth Finlayson (Olig, Watten and Bower) and Mrs. W.B. Scott (Dumfries), the Convener to be the Convener of the Select Committee on Psalmody.

VI - Act anent Theonomy
(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1997

The General Assembly declare that the teachings commonly known as Theonomy or Reconstructionism contradict our subordinate standard, the Confession of Faith and are inconsistent with our supreme standard, the Bible, particularly on the question of the expiry of the judicial laws. They further declare that these teachings are contrary to the Church's understanding of the powers of the civil magistrate as expressed in Act XII 1846. They direct that this declaration be sent to all Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries, together with the relevant part of the Report.

VII - Act anent Outreach to Overseas Students and related projects
(repealing Act XXVIII Class II 1991, Act XXIX Class II 1991 and XI Class II 1993)
(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 1997

The General Assembly wishing to stimulate and encourage missionary work among overseas students and the resident international community throughout Scotland, charge the Church Extension Committee with responsibility for the development, organisation, funding and staffing of this work. They direct that:

1.1 The Outreach to Overseas students hitherto under the supervision of the Foreign and Overseas Missions' Board be assigned to the Church Extension Committee.

1.2 The Church Extension Committee shall be responsible for the Outreach to Overseas Students, the Glasgow Asian Outreach and the Dundee International Project.

2.1 When the Committee wish to initiate a project in an area they shall first obtain the support of the Presbytery of the bounds.

2.2 The more immediate oversight of a particular project will be assigned by the Committee to a Kirk Session nominated by the Presbytery within whose bounds the work develops.

2.3 If for the optimum development of the project the employment of full time worker(s) is required the Committee shall bring proposals to the General Assembly specifying how many personnel may be appointed to the project.

2.4 If no appointment has been made by the Committee within two years of the General Assembly granting approval, permission to employ personnel shall lapse and the Committee shall approach the General Assembly for it to be renewed.

3. Any appointment will be for a period of five years from the date of appointment and may be renewed by authority of the General Assembly upon recommendation by the Committee. In making their recommendation the Committee will have regard to the financial implications of the work.

4. If the person appointed is an ordained minister or a probationer the following shall apply:

4.1 He will be ordained/inducted by the Presbytery of the bounds as Colleague to the minister of the overseeing Kirk Session and with responsibility only for outreach to overseas students and/or the resident international community. For this purpose he will have membership of the Kirk Session.

4.2 Induction will include admission to a seat in Presbytery and the charge will rank as a charge for representation of the Presbytery in the General Assembly.

4.3 The minister appointed will be paid at the rate of the current Equal Dividend by the Committee who will also pay accommodation and reasonable expenses and meet the relevant National Insurance charge.

4.4 The minister will report in writing by 31 December annually and at other times in person, as appropriate, to meetings of his Presbytery and through the Presbytery will report by 14 February each year to the Church Extension Committee on progress of the work.

4.5 If the appointment is not continued at the end of any five-year period, he shall be treated as a minister without charge. In such circumstances the Presbytery shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly so that his name may be included in the Register of Ministers without Charge and the Committee will pay him at the rate of the then current Equal Dividend and provide him with accommodation for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner.

4.6 During the first five year term of an appointment a call may not be addressed to a minister appointed to the work without the approval of the Church Extension Committee.

4.7 If for any reason an appointment terminates before the end of a five year period, the Committee must seek the approval of the General Assembly for a new appointment to be made.

5. If the person appointed is not an ordained minister or a probationer then the following will apply:

5.1 He/she must be a member of the Free Church of Scotland and must sign a statement in the same terms as the formula which office-bearers sign.

5.2 He/she will be paid a salary at the rate current for a resident lay preacher by the Committee who will also pay accommodation and reasonable expenses and meet the relevant National Insurance charge.

5.3 He/she will be eligible for membership of the ministers'/lay missionaries' Pension Scheme.

5.4 If the appointment is not continued at the end of any five year period the Committee will pay him/her at the rate of the then current resident lay preacher's salary and provide him/her with accommodation for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment.

6. In present circumstances the General Assembly direct that the appointment to Outreach to Overseas Students (SOS) shall be treated as in the fifth year of a third five year term and the appointment to the Dundee International Project be treated as in the fifth year of a first five year term and both appointments require to be extended by the 1998 General Assembly.

7. The General Assembly hereby repeal Act XXVIII, 1991; Act XXIX, 1991 and Act XI, 1993.

Act VIII - Act anent Sales of Property and related Proceeds

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

1. Nairn, Croy and Ardersier. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of the Congregation of Nairn, Croy and Ardersier and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church Cottage at Culcharry, Cawdor, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the Congregation, and interest on the proceeds is to be made available to the Congregation for the maintenance of the Ardersier Church building, and access to the capital sum in the event of the Ardersier Church building being replaced.

2. Rothesay. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of the Congregation of Rothesay and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church in Rothesay, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation, and interest on the proceeds to be made available to the Congregation for the hiring of premises for public worship and access to the capital sum being permitted in the event that replacement property is purchased.

3. Kilwinning and Saltcoats. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of the Congregation of Kilwinning and Saltcoats and grant its crave to the extent that:

1. They authorise the sale of the Saltcoats Free Church, the transaction to be carried out by, or under the supervision of, the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation and the interest on the proceeds to be made available to the Congregation for repair and improvement of properties belonging to the congregation, and access to the capital sum being permitted to provide church hall facilities at Kilwinning;

2. The General Assembly amend Act V, paragraph 5, 1981 and Act IV, paragraph 5, 1992, to the extent that the interest on existing funds held be the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation may be made available for repair and improvement of properties belonging to the congregation, and access to the capital sum being permitted to provide church hall facilities at Kilwinning.

4. Tarbert and Islay. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of Tarbert and Islay Free Church and grant its crave to the extent that they authorise the sale of the Tarbert Free Church, the transaction to be carried out by, or under the supervision of, the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation and the interest on the proceeds to be made available to the Congregation for repair and improvement of properties belonging to the congregation, and access to the capital sum being permitted to assist in the erection or purchase of a church building at Tarbert.

IX - Act anent Leave of Absence (amending Act IV, Class II 1994)

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly amend Act IV, 1994, in section 1.3.1 by adding at the end of that section, "Exceptionally, where there exist adequate medical grounds for believing that a minister will be able to resume work between the sixth and ninth months of sick leave, the Sustentation Committee may resolve to continue to pay him at the rate of full salary for an additional three months".

X - Act anent Special Arrangements for Uig (Bernera)

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly approve in terms of Act XV, 1994, that the congregation of Uig (Bernera) be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform under special arrangements (namely that they continue to remit to Central Funds at least 60% of the Equal Dividend) for a period of five years from the date of a settlement, such a settlement to occur before the 1999 General Assembly.

XI - Act anent Special Arrangements for Glenelg and Arnisdale

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly approve in terms of Act XV, 1994 that the congregation of Glenelg and Arnisdale be continued on the Equal Dividend Platform under special arrangements (namely that they continue to remit to Central Funds at least 65% of the Equal Dividend) for a period of five years.

XII - Act anent Scale of Preaching Fees
(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly approve the following Scale of Preaching Fees to be effective from 1st January 1998, replacing those listed in Act IX, 1985 and Act XIV, 1988:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Resident Supply by Students and Probationers to be negotiated with the Supply Committee | |
| Other Resident Supply | £20 per week |
| Weekend Supply - Probationers | £30 |
| Weekend Supply - Students and Unemployed | £25 |
| Weekend Supply - Others | £15. |

**XIII - Act uniting Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside Deacons Courts/Finance Committees
(amending Act I, Commission of Assembly, 1975)**
(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Kirk Session of Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside and grant its crave. They authorise the emendation of Act I of the Commission of Assembly, 1975 and appoint one Deacons' Court or Finance Committee as appropriate to administer the temporal affairs of the united charge.

XIV - Act Consolidating Congregations of Mull and Coll
(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They declare that:

(1) the congregations of Mull and Coll be consolidated under two Kirk Sessions and two Deacons' Courts or Finance Committees as appropriate;

(2) additionally supply be made available each week from the Supply Department in terms of current supply arrangements to assist in the maintenance of gospel ordinances within the consolidated charge, that supply being resident in the summer.

XV - Act anent Alternative Ministry for Mull and Coll
(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave.

They authorise the appointment of a minister to a consolidated charge of Mull and Coll under the following terms:

1. The General Assembly waive the terms of Section 1.3 of Act XV 1994 in so far as it requires the remittance to be greater than 100% of the equal dividend platform and require that the consolidated charge of Mull and Coll submit a schedule to the Sustentation Committee for consideration promising to remit 50% of the equal dividend, and authorise the Sustentation Committee to approve such a schedule subject to the other schedule provisions being met.
2. After the approval of the schedule, the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber be empowered to propose to the congregations the name of a minister or probationer eligible for call, and, when the congregations have expressed their approval, to proceed to a call.
3. The appointment be for the period of five years renewable by the General Assembly at the request of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and the Kirk Sessions of the consolidated congregations, with the agreement of the Sustentation Committee. During the five years of his initial appointment, the minister appointed would not be eligible for call by another congregation, after which he would be eligible in the normal manner.
4. The minister devote at least half his time to the work of the ministry and be permitted to engage in other employment, provided and as long as the Presbytery in consultation with the Kirk Sessions are satisfied that such employment will in no way hinder or conflict with the duties he is expected to undertake in his ministerial capacity. At the discretion of the Presbytery, a degree of flexibility in work patterns would be allowed to take account of such factors as seasonal employment, but the basic pastoral commitment would require to be undertaken consistently as would the timeous provision of Gospel ordinances.
5. The annual stipend be paid at the rate of 50% of the equal dividend each year and be borne by the Committee on Sustentation.
6. The congregations pay a sum for his travelling and other expenses to be paid proportionately to the means of the two congregations and in accordance with the relevant Acts of Assembly, and to be reviewed annually by the Presbytery.
7. The minister be expected to preach each Lord's day in Lochdon, or otherwise as directed by the Presbytery (except as in 8 below).
8. The minister preach in Coll as directed by the Presbytery and provide pastoral care to Coll.
9. Supply be made available each week from the Supply Department in terms of current

supply arrangements to assist in the maintenance of Gospel ordinances within the consolidated charge, that supply being resident in the summer.

10. The minister report regularly to the Presbytery at their discretion.

11. The minister be entitled to a seat on the Presbytery and be moderator of the Kirk Sessions.

12. The Presbytery ensure that the Kirk Sessions of the congregations are sufficiently strong, and, in consultation with the Kirk Sessions record each year what it considers to be the priorities for ministry in the following twelve months.

13. In the event of a vacancy, the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber be entitled to proceed to fill the vacancy subject to the satisfactory completion of a sustentation schedule undertaking to remit to central funds at least 50% of the equal dividend.

14. In the event of the Presbytery not having proceeded to fill the charge within two years from permission being granted, the Presbytery be required to apply to the General Assembly for renewal of permission to appoint a minister to the charge.

15. In the event of the congregation becoming vacant and not being filled within two years, the Presbytery be required to apply to the General Assembly for renewal of permission to appoint a minister to the charge.

16. If the pastoral situation in the congregation justify, and if the financial circumstances of the congregations improve, the Sustentation Committee may consider and approve a request from the Presbytery, made with the agreement of the congregations and of the minister, that the proportion of equal dividend paid to the minister be increased beyond the 50% level commensurately with an increased proportion of the minister's time being spent on pastoral duties, this being subject to the requirement that the increased stipend be met by proportionately increased remittances by the congregations to central funds.

17. If the congregations' circumstances sufficiently improve, then the Sustentation Committee may place the congregations on the Equal Dividend Platform.

XVI - Act anent Assessor to Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber and grant its crave. They reappoint Rev. H. Sliep as a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber.

XVII - Act granting Rev. W.D. Graham a seat in Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth

(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. The General Assembly grant to Rev. W.D. Graham a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth as long as he remains Manager of the Free Church Bookshop, assured as they are that this will contribute to the maximisation of the usefulness to the Church.

XVIII - Act authorising Appointment of Assistant Minister to London Free Church
(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the London Free Church Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to appoint an assistant minister to the London Free Church congregation in terms of Act V, Class II, 1986.

XIX - Act authorising Appointment of Assistantship Minister to Inverness Free North Church

(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition from Inverness Free North Kirk Session and grant its crave. They authorise the Presbytery of Inverness to appoint an assistant minister to the Inverness Free North Congregation in terms of Act V, Class II, 1986.

XX - Act anent Constitution of Coatbridge and related matters

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petitions of the Presbytery of Glasgow and grant their craves. They declare that the congregation of Coatbridge is a fully sanctioned charge and place it on the Equal Dividend Platform in terms of Act XV, 1994. Further they remove the restriction on the duration of Rev. Dr. D. Ford's induction and declare him to be minister at Coatbridge *ad vitam aut culpam*.

XXI - Act linking Congregation of Coulter with Congregation of Livingston

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. The General Assembly ordain that the Congregation of Coulter Free Church be united with the Congregation of Livingston Free Church, the united Charge to have on Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court.

XXII - Act anent Status of Dundee Congregation and related matters

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. The General Assembly ordain that:

(1) the Congregation of St. Peter's Free Church, Dundee be placed on the Equal Dividend Platform in terms of the three year review procedure of Act XV, 1994; and

(2) the restriction on Rev. David A. Robertson's induction to the said Congregation be removed, and the General Assembly declare him to be Minister of the said Congregation *ad septuagesimum annum aetatis aut ad culpam*.

XXIII - Act anent Constitution of Glenrothes

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. The General Assembly ordain that the Preaching Station of Glenrothes be raised to the status of a fully sanctioned charge.

XXIV - Act anent Induction of Rev. Finlay MacKenzie to Service to Overseas Students

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1997

The General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow to induct Rev. Finlay MacKenzie to the work of Service to Overseas Students in Glasgow in terms of Act XXVIII, 1991 and Act IV Commission of Assembly 1 March 1995, and following induction to give him a seat on the Presbytery.

XXV - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1997

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. A.G. Ross 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 Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 to do everything contained in, and conform to the instructions 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 or 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 Commission with relation to private causes, shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andrés, 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, and to receive any references and appeals 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, in 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.

XXVI - Act Appointing Next General Assembly

(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 1997

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 18 May 1998 at 6.00 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I - Act anent Dissolution of Pastoral Tie in Congregation of Burghead

Edinburgh, 28th August 1997

The Commission dismiss the Dissent and Complaint of Rev. John Keddie and uphold the decision of the Presbytery of Inverness “to refer the whole matter directly to the General Assembly with the recommendation that the pastoral tie be dissolved in terms of Act I, Class I, 1990”.

They further accept the recommendation and instruct the Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral

tie in terms of Act I, Class I, 1990, and direct that the name of Rev. J.W. Keddie be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge, Mr. Keddie to continue to receive salary at the rate of the Equal Dividend for a period of 6 months from the date of dissolution or until Mr. Keddie is inducted to another pastoral charge, whichever date is sooner.

The Commission request the Deacons' Court of Burghead to allow Mr. Keddie to remain in the manse for this 6 month period.

II - Act anent Release of Monies from Sales of Properties (Arran-Corrie)

Edinburgh, 2nd October 1996

The Commission of Assembly noting the unusual circumstances that have arisen in connection with the access of the Arran congregation to the funds realised by the sale of the Corrie Church receive the Petition of the Arran Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the General Treasurer to release up to £20,000 of the capital realised by the sale of the Corrie Church in order to improve the condition of the Church building in Brodick.

III - Act anent Validity of Commission

Edinburgh, 31st October 1996

The Commission of Assembly in terms of Act XXV 1996 acknowledge that this is a validly called meeting of Commission.

Act rescinding Finding of Commission of 2nd October 1996 and urging Reconciliation, Healing and Forgiveness

Edinburgh, 31st October 1997

1. In terms of the Act of last General Assembly appointing this Commission, the Commission of Assembly receive the Report of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.
2. The Commission of Assembly rescind the finding of the Commission on 2nd October 1996 on the Report of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee which was issued as a Public Statement.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct Presbyteries to afford to all ministers and office-bearers in their bounds an opportunity to commit themselves to reconciliation, healing and forgiveness among one another and to commit themselves to promote reconciliation, healing and forgiveness in their congregations.
4. The Commission of Assembly recognise that as a Church we have failed in our attempts to deal in a God glorifying way with the problems facing the Church. We were found unprepared. Therefore the Commission of Assembly call office-bearers and members to seek earnestly a true spirit of humility and repentance before the Lord.

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I - Act anent Representation of Presbyteries

(No. 1 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1998

The General Assembly note the provisions of Act II (Class I) 1867 have been superseded by those of Act I (Class I) 1942 and declare that Act I (Class I) 1942 has effectively repealed the former Act.

II - Act anent Disposal of Routine Petitions

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1998

The General Assembly direct that the Business Committee shall in their Report indicate such petitions as are of routine nature. Motions and amendments regarding such

petitions shall be handed in and read by the Clerk before the first adjournment on the day before they are intended to be moved. If at the time of consideration of such a Petition there is no objection to it being classified as of a routine nature, the motion regarding it will be formally moved and seconded.

III - Act anent Assistant Clerkship of the General Assembly
(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 18th May 1998

1. The General Assembly receive the resignation of Rev. Professor Hugh M. Cartwright as Assistant Clerk of Assembly.

2. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Angus J. Howat to the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. His duties shall be generally to assist in the preliminary work connected with the preparation of business of the Assembly, to take the minutes of the General Assembly and their Commissions, 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 soon as is practicable and not later than the close of this Assembly.

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

Edinburgh, 19th May 1998

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 19th day of May 1998 wish to express the continuing loyalty of this Church to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We join with many others in offering warm congratulations to Your Majesty and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, in celebrating 50 years of married life and we pray for many more happy years together.

We mourned with the nation at the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and offer our sincere condolences to the whole Royal Family - especially the Princes William and Harry.

We rejoiced at the recovery of the Queen Mother from her accident and of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret, from her illness. We wish them both continuing good health and the blessing of The Most High.

The emergence of the Peace Agreement in Northern Ireland has given cause for hope and encouragement and we pray that a permanent state of peace will prevail in that troubled Province.

The continuing lowering of moral and spiritual standards in the Nation is a cause of deep concern and we join with many of Your subjects in praying for a revival of true Christ-centred religion in the land.

We regularly commend Your Majesty's Person and Family to the care, direction and blessing of Almighty God, "by whom kings reign and princes decree justice".

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

V - Act anent Fraternal Relations with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1998

The General Assembly gladly establish a fraternal relationship with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales, in terms of the rules regarding such a relationship agreed by both denominations.

VI - Act anent Appointment of General Trustee

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1998

The General Assembly appoint Mr. John Murdo Graham, Stornoway a General Trustee.

VII - Act anent Child Protection Guidelines and Practice

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1998

The General Assembly approve the Child Protection Guidelines and Practice together with Forms and Declarations. They instruct all Kirk Sessions to implement the policy in Sabbath Schools and every other work under their jurisdiction involving children and young people. The General Assembly direct the Youth Committee to appoint two Care Coordinators for the policy, one for the North of Scotland and the other for the South of Scotland. All Allegation of Abuse Forms shall in the first instance be forwarded to the Assembly Clerk, who shall communicate with the appropriate Coordinator forthwith.

VIII - Act anent Appointment of Camps Supervisor

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 1998

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Derek Lamont to the position of Camps Supervisor.

IX - Act Appointing the Scottish Parliament Sub-committee of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly, recognising the need for the Church to monitor the setting up of a devolved Scottish Parliament operative by the year 2000, and, if possible to contribute to the relevant discussions instruct the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee to establish a standing Sub-committee from amongst their own members, to be known as the Scottish Parliament Sub-committee with membership and convener determined by the Public Questions Committee, and with powers to co-opt persons with specialist knowledge and experience. The Sub-committee's remit is to monitor and safeguard the Church's interests relative to the new Scottish Parliament. The Sub-committee are to report annually to the Assembly through the Public Questions Committee.

X - Act anent Church Extension Charge of Falkirk

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant the Church Extension Committee leave to maintain a ministerial appointment there for a further five years in terms of Act XXII, Class II, 1989, para 4.7.

XI - Act reconstituting the Psalmody Advisory Committee

(No. 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly reconstituted the Psalmody Advisory Committee as follows:

All the members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. I.D. Campbell, Rev. A. Cowie, Rev. I.D. Glover, Rev. A.J. MacDonald, Professor D.M. MacDonald, Rev. D. MacKeddie, Rev. D. Wilkie, Rev. A. Wilson, Mr. C. Bailey, Mr. A.

Finlay, Dr. E. Finlayson, Mr. D. Gordon, Dr. D.G. Mackay, Mr. G.F. MacLean and Mrs. W.B. Scott.

XII - Act anent Sale of Property and related Proceeds

(No. 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of the Strontian Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Church at Strontian, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation and interest on the proceeds to be made available to the congregation.

XIII - Act anent release of Congregational Monies

(No. 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly amend Act III (Class II), 1990, so as to release funds lodged with the General Trustees from the proceeds of the sale of the Mission House in Uig and to lodge them with the Treasurer of the Congregation of Snizort.

XIV - Act anent Assistantship for Stornoway Free Church

(No. 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly authorise the Presbytery of Lewis to take action to procure the appointment of an assistant minister in terms of Act V, 1986, and direct that the conditions of appointment be as stated in the Act.

XV - Act anent Date of Meeting of Western Synod

(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 1998

The General Assembly ordain that the second Tuesday in April be the statutory date for the ordinary meeting of the Western Synod.

XVI - Act appointing Special Commission to seek Reconciliation

(No. 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

The General Assembly receive the Overtures from the Presbytery of Caithness & Sutherland and from the floor of the Assembly and grant their craves to the extent that the General Assembly take their respective premises into consideration and in view of the Biblical injunction to pursue unity in love and the call of the General Assembly to all in the Church to seek reconciliation and peace, and appoint a Special Commission to confer with all parties whom they deem it wise to consult and to do so with all diligence and speed.

They also empower the Special Commission to receive representations in writing from others in the Church but remind them of the embargo imposed by the Deliverance of the 1995 Assembly.

The General Assembly further instruct all Church Courts and Committees to co-operate with the Special Commission in the fulfilment of its remit and require any member of the Church to attend any meeting to which they may be invited by the Special Commission to enable it to mature proposals to promote reconciliation.

The Special Commission will consist of Assembly Clerks and Presbytery Clerks with the Moderator of the General Assembly as the convening Chairman. The General Assembly charge these and all others to pray together, discuss freely and actively seek peace and, while this period of reflection and discussion is taking place, the General Assembly earnestly implore all of our people to refrain from further public utterances and meetings in connection with those issues under consideration.

The General Assembly overture Presbyteries that the terms of Act I, Class 1, 1942 be suspended with respect to the proportion of congregations or chairs determining Assembly representation, so that a Plenary Assembly may be held to which Presbyteries may send as many ministers as Commissioners as there are congregations or professorial chairs within their bounds and a like number of *bona fide* acting elders, with Presbytery returns to be submitted to the Commission of Assembly in October 1998. The General Assembly empower the Commission of Assembly to call for a Plenary Assembly to be convened not later than the end of December 1998, and, if possible, to meet in Inverness. The aim of the Plenary Assembly shall be to effect an honourable reconciliation between estranged sections of our Church and thus enable us unitedly to prosecute the Great Commission.

XVII - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries
(No. 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £12,500 from 1st April 1998, this figure being based on the variation in the level of the stipend permitted by Act XII, 1989. The General Assembly approve the continuance of other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

XVIII - Act anent Sustentation Fund
(No. 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

The General Assembly desiring that arrangements regarding the Sustentation Fund be clarified and updated ordain as follows:

1. *Congregations*

1.1 A Schedule drawn up by the Sustentation Committee shall be filled up on behalf of each congregation seeking to be given permission to call a minister.

1.2 It shall be the duty of the interimmoderator of a vacant congregation in consultation with the Kirk Session, the Deacons' Court and Congregation to fill up the Schedule and submit it to the Sustentation Committee through the Presbytery of the bounds.

1.3 The Schedule shall require the Congregation to promise that in the event of a settlement it shall, as a minimum, remit to Central Funds a fixed percentage of the stipend. The minimum percentage promised shall be 100 per cent of the stipend. The promise should be adequate in relation to the Congregation's resources and prospects. Consideration shall also be taken of the percentage of its ordinary income a congregation has been remitting to Central Funds.

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

2. *Presbyteries*

2.1 Each Schedule shall be submitted to the Presbytery of the bounds for approval.

2.2 In the light of its knowledge of local circumstances the Presbytery shall be asked if it considers the financial commitment promised and the proposals made to be adequate in the light of the Congregation's resources and prospects.

2.3 When a Congregation's commitment lies between 100 and 120 per cent of the stipend in effect when the Presbytery gives consideration to the Schedule, the Presbytery shall be required to report to the Committee on why the Congregation should be given permission to call a minister, and to state what steps have been taken, or are proposed, to increase the Congregation's remittances to 120 per cent of the stipend.

2.4 A Presbytery shall not moderate in a call until the Sustentation Committee have intimated that the Congregation has been given permission to call a minister.

3. *The Sustentation Committee*

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

3.2 The Committee shall scrutinise each schedule to ensure that the requirements of 1.3 above are met, and that the responses given in terms of 1.4 and 2.3 are satisfactory. The Committee may only approve Schedules which have been validly completed in all these respects.

3.3 If a Congregation has promised to remit at least 120% of the stipend, and if the Committee is satisfied with the responses given to the other questions asked in the Sustentation Schedule, then the Congregation will be given permission to call a minister without further restriction, but subject to the requirements of Act XIII, 1984.

3.4 If a Congregation undertakes to remit between 100% and 120% of the stipend, and if the Committee is satisfied with the responses given to the other questions asked in the Sustentation Schedule, then the Committee may give restricted permission to call a minister (subject to the requirements of Act XIII, 1984). In these circumstances, a minister inducted to the charge shall be on a fiveyear renewable appointment, and a review of the congregation's situation shall take place four years after an appointment has been made.

3.5 When the congregation's remittances to Central Funds as a percentage of the stipend are reviewed four years after an appointment is made, the Congregation shall submit a fresh Schedule through the Presbytery of the bounds.

3.6 If when a fresh Schedule is submitted the Congregation promise to remit at least 120% of the current stipend and if the Committee are satisfied with the Schedule in other respects, then the Congregation may be placed on the Equal Dividend platform without restriction (as in 3.3). The Committee will report on the matter to the next ensuing General Assembly and the minister's induction to the charge shall be declared to be free of time-restriction.

3.7 If when a fresh Schedule is submitted the Congregation promise to remit between 100% and 120% of the stipend and if the Committee are satisfied with the Schedule in other respects, then the Committee may extend the minister's appointment for a further five years from the date of termination of the original appointment. A review similar to that of 3.5 shall be carried out nine years after the appointment to the charge was made, and every five years thereafter.

3.8 If at the time of a review a Congregation is unable to promise to remit at least 100% of the stipend, or if the Committee adjudge the congregation's promised commitment to be unrealistic, the Committee shall report this to the next General Assembly, and unless exceptional circumstances are shown to exist, the Committee shall recommend that the minister's appointment be not renewed at the end of his current appointment.

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

3.10 When any Congregation given permission to call a minister (whether with or without restriction) fails to remit the percentage of the Equal Dividend as promised on admission to the Platform, then the Sustentation Committee shall draw the attention of the Congregation and Presbytery to this fact, and the Presbytery shall report to the Committee what steps are being taken to rectify the situation. The Committee shall report to the General Assembly annually which congregations, if any, failed to meet their commitment in the previous year.

4. *Union of Neighbouring Congregations*

4.1 Where the main church buildings of two vacant congregations or a vacant congregation and a settled charge, one or both of these congregations not remitting at least 120% of the stipend, are not more than 15 miles apart, the Presbytery shall be required to take all possible steps to bring about a linkage.

5. *Special Arrangements*

5.1 Notwithstanding the above regulations, the Committee may recommend to the General Assembly that in special circumstances congregations be given permission to call a minister on conditions to be submitted by the 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.

5.2 Each such case passed by the Assembly shall be reviewed every five years.

5.3 The Schedule submitted by such a congregation must express its financial commitment as a percentage of the stipend in terms of 1.3 above, and its remittances shall be monitored by the Committee in terms of 3.10 above.

5.4 Before a Presbytery gives its approval to a Schedule seeking permission to call a minister in terms of special consideration, the Presbytery shall carry out a visitation of the Congregation and submit to the Committee, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the Congregation.

6. *Scope of this Act*

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

6.2 Where a Schedule has already been forwarded by the Presbytery of the bounds to the Committee, the Schedule shall be approved in terms of the regulations in force at the time when the Presbytery agreed to pass the Schedule on to the Committee.

6.3 Settlements that have taken place under previous regulations shall continue to be monitored in terms of the then prevailing regulations, but a congregation with the consent of its minister and of the Presbytery may apply to come under the provisions of this Act.

XIX - Act anent Appointment of College Professors
(No. 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the appointment of Professors to the Free Church of Scotland College, the regulations to become effective from the date of validation of the Free Church College Diploma in Theology course.

(a) All those appointed to College Chairs must be either ministers or probationers of the Free Church of Scotland or a Church with which the Free Church of Scotland has mutual eligibility. A minister appointed to a Chair will be inducted by the local Presbytery. A probationer appointed to a Chair will be *ordained* and inducted.

(b) A professor who is due to retire or who intends to retire or resign shall intimate this fact to the College Board not later than 31 December prior to the General Assembly from which the retiral or resignation will take effect.

(c) When a professor receives a Call to a pastoral charge, and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, recognising that it is beyond their competence to loose a professor from his charge, refer the matter to the General Assembly, the Presbytery shall immediately inform the College Board of this fact.

(d) The College Board will inform all presbyteries of any imminent or possible vacancy at the College not later than 31 January prior to the Assembly at which an appointment is to be made.

(e) The College Board will also intimate the impending vacancy to the Dean of the Faculty of Divinity, the University of Edinburgh, inviting the Faculty to nominate a representative to be associated with the Board in making a new appointment.

(f) Each presbytery has the right to nominate two candidates to fill the vacancy. These nominations must be intimated to the College Board by 31 March prior to the Assembly at which an appointment is to be made.

(g) The College Board, having received the returns from presbyteries, will invite all nominees to submit *curricula vitae* and to confirm their willingness to accept the appointment if elected.

(h) The Board will invite for interview all nominees who have indicated their willingness to accept the appointment.

(i) The Board will collate the returns from presbyteries, the *curricula vitae* and the indications of availability and submit them to the General Assembly in a Supplementary Report.

(j) The Board, having ascertained the availability of candidates, reviewed the returns from presbyteries and interviewed candidates, will propose in its Supplementary Report one

nominee for the vacant Chair.

(k) Any member of the General Assembly will have the right to propose an alternative name from the list of those nominated by presbyteries and interviewed by the College Board.

(l) The representative of the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Edinburgh will have full access to all papers relating to appointments, be present at all interviews and participate with voice, but not vote, in the determination of the Board's nominee.

(m) Prior to the preparation of his Supplementary Report the Chairman of the Board will ascertain from the Dean of the Faculty of Divinity whether, in the light of their representative's report, the Board's nominee is acceptable to the University. He will also ascertain whether all or any of the other interviewed candidates are acceptable to the University. The Chairman will include this information in his Supplementary Report.

XX - Act anent filling of College Chairs

(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

Since the existence of the College Board now requires the updating of the process for the filling of professorial vacancies, the General Assembly approve the following regulations with immediate effect.

(a) All those appointed to College Chairs must be either ministers or probationers of the Free Church of Scotland or a Church with which the Free Church of Scotland has mutual eligibility. A minister appointed to a Chair will be inducted by the local Presbytery. A probationer appointed to a Chair will be *ordained* and inducted.

(b) A professor who is due to retire or who intends to retire or resign shall intimate this fact to the College Board not later than 31 December prior to the General Assembly from which the retiral or resignation will take effect.

(c) When a professor receives a Call to a pastoral charge, and the Presbytery of Edinburgh, recognising that it is beyond their competence to loose a professor from his charge, refer the matter to the General Assembly, the Presbytery shall immediately inform the College Board of this fact.

(d) The College Board will inform all presbyteries of any imminent or possible vacancy at the College not later than 31 January prior to the Assembly at which an appointment is to be made.

(e) Each presbytery has the right to nominate two candidates to fill the vacancy. These nominations must be intimated to the College Board by 31 March prior to the Assembly at which an appointment is to be made.

(f) The College Board, having received the returns from presbyteries, will invite all nominees to submit *curricula vitae* and to confirm their willingness to accept the appointment if elected.

(g) The Board will invite for interview all nominees who have indicated their willingness to accept the appointment.

(h) The Board will collate the returns from presbyteries, the *curricula vitae* and the indications of availability and submit them to the General Assembly in a Supplementary Report.

(i) The Board, having ascertained the availability of candidates, reviewed the returns from presbyteries and interviewed candidates, will propose in its Supplementary Report one nominee for the vacant Chair.

(j) Any member of the General Assembly will have the right to propose an alternative name from the list of those nominated by presbyteries and interviewed by the College Board.

XXI - Act anent Chair of Church History

(No. 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

1. The General Assembly hereby accept the resignation of Rev. Professor Hugh M. Cartwright as Professor of Church History and Church Principles in the Free Church College, and direct that his name be added to the Roll of Resigned Ministers.

2. The General Assembly note the nominations sought for the filling of the Chair of Church History and Church Principles and direct that the Supplementary Report of the College Board be held *in retentis*.

3. The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the College Board that the Chair be not filled on a permanent basis this year, that the Senate after consultation with the Board set in place arrangements that would ensure that over the three year course students would not be disadvantaged, and direct that the Board review the position prior to the 1999 General Assembly and bring proposals to that Assembly, leaving it to the Board's discretion whether or not to ask for further nominations.

XXII - Act anent transfer of ownership of the building of the Colegio San Andrés

(No. 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

The General Assembly authorise the transfer of ownership of the buildings occupied by the Colegio San Andrés together with the other properties, inclusive of the residential flats which comprise the Edificio San Andrés, situated on Avenida du Petit Thouars 179, Lima, to

the Reformed Educational Association, San Andres, when formed: this authorisation being given conditional upon an investigation into who holds title to the properties and what the legal requirements are to authorise the title holder to transfer title: and, conditional on the Law Agent's advice, after the result of the investigations, that the procedures for transfer of title are appropriate.

XXIII - Act admitting Rev. John de la Haye as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland

(No. 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 1998

The General Assembly receive the application of Rev. John de la Haye and grant its request. With effect from the signing of the Formula to be arranged by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, they admit him to the status of a minister of the Free Church, and direct that his name be then added to the Register of Ministers available for call.

XXIV - Act anent Purity of Worship

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1998

The General Assembly affirm:

1. the commitment of this Church to purity of worship as presently practised in this Church;
2. the commitment of this Church to evangelism which does not compromise the principles of this Church regarding public worship;
3. the duty of presbyteries to be vigilant in requiring conformity on the part of office-bearers and congregations to the purity of worship as presently practised in this Church.

XXV - Act appointing Commission of Assembly

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1998

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor J.L. Mackay, 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 Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 to do everything contained in, and conform to the instructions 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 or 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 process be determined except at the stated diets, and that what shall be determined at one diet of Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive returns from Presbyteries on the Overture remitted to them by this General Assembly regarding the suspension of the terms of Act I, Class I, 1942 so that a Plenary Assembly may be convened, and if that Overture be supported by a majority of Presbyteries, the said Commission are empowered, if they see fit, to convene such a Plenary Assembly not later than the end of December 1998. 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andrés, to receive from the Foreign Missions Board a proposed Constitution for the Reformed Educational Association, San Andrés, to make final determination regarding the same, and if granting approval, to take such further steps as are required to set up the said Association, 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, and to receive any references and appeals 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, in 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.

XXVI - Act appointing next General Assembly

(No. 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 1998

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 10th May 1999 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

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CLASS I - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

I. Act anent Representation in General Assembly of 2000

(No. 1 of Class I)

Edinburgh 10th May, 1999

With consent of a majority of Presbyteries, the General Assembly hereby enact and ordain that whereas it is desirable that the commemoration of the events of 1900 and the celebration of the new millennium be marked by increased representation in the General Assembly of 2000, wherefore in the first numbered paragraph of Act I (Class 1) 1942 the words “one-third” be replaced by “one-half” in respect of representation in the 2000 General Assembly only.

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

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

(No. 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

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 11th day of May 1999 convey our continuing loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne.

We give thanks to God that He continues to sustain Your Majesty's person so that your Majesty is able to fulfil with such grace and dignity the numerous and arduous duties that devolve upon Your Majesty's Office.

The prayer of Your loyal subjects of the Free Church of Scotland is that together Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh may long continue to enjoy the health and strength needed for Your Majesty's wellbeing to undertake the many onerous duties pertaining to the Throne and the public domain.

In this historic year of political change for Scotland with its own devolved parliament we anticipate with gratitude the presence of Your Majesty and their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales at the State opening of the same in July.

We pray that the Crown will continue to be the stable and unifying influence that it has been in the past for the several parts of the United Kingdom. In the pluralistic society in which we live, it is our prayer and earnest desire that the Crown shall continue to maintain its specific Christian character as the Defender of the Faith which was 'once and for all delivered to the saints'.

We commend Your Majesty's government on its initiative in and perseverance with the Peace Accord and pray that a lasting settlement will soon be achieved in Northern Ireland. We also prayerfully remember those of Your Majesty's Armed Forces at present engaged in combat in the Serbia-Kosovo region.

The Church cannot but deplore the lowering moral standards of our day and we pray that Your Majesty's government will ever recognise that Righteousness and Truth sought in humble submission to the Infallible Word of God is the only way our Nation can achieve greatness and recover its religious social and moral integrity.

We rejoiced with Your Majesty and the Royal Household this past year in celebrating the 50th birthday of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and we pray God's blessing on Prince Edward's forthcoming marriage to Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones.

We also give thanks for the continuing good health of Her Majesty The Queen Mother and ask leave through Your Majesty to pay our respects to Her Majesty The Queen Mother whose graciousness and stamina has so endeared her to generations of the public of the British Isles and the Commonwealth.

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

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

III - Act establishing Fraternal Relations with the Free Reformed Churches of North America

(No. 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly gladly establish a fraternal relationship with the Free Reformed Churches of North America in terms of the rules regarding such a relationship agreed by both denominations.

IV - Act anent Equal Dividend and Related Salaries

(No. 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £13,000 from 1st April 1999, this figure being based on the variation in the level of the stipend permitted by Act XII, 1989. The General Assembly approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

V - Act anent Consolidation and Status of Fife Congregations

(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly unite the congregation of Glenrothes with the congregation of Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court, the united charge to be known as Kirkcaldy, Kinglassie and Glenrothes. The General Assembly note the recommendations of the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance with respect to Kirkcaldy and Kinglassie and enact that an extended period of Redevelopment

Status be granted to the united charge until the General Assembly of 2004 in terms of Act XXIV 1988.

VI - Act anent Special Arrangements for Drumchapel Free Church

(No. 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly approve in terms of Act XVIII, 1998, that subject to the Presbytery of Glasgow giving further consideration to alternative ministerial arrangements and submitting their proposals to the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance, and the Committee approving them, Drumchapel be given permission to call a minister under special arrangements, namely that they remit £10,500 to Central Funds, i.e. 85% of Stipend.

VII - Act anent Special Arrangements for Dumfries Free Church

(No. 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly approve in terms of Act XVIII, 1998, that special arrangements be continued for a further five years for Dumfries, provided they remit £11,250 to Central Funds, i.e. 90% of Stipend.

VIII - Act anent Special Arrangements for Shettleston Free Church

(No. 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly direct that the congregation of Shettleston be continued on the Equal Dividend Platform under Special Arrangements (namely that they remit £8,125 to Central Funds, i.e. 65% of Stipend) for one in accordance with Act XVIII, 1998, the situation to be reviewed by the Committee on Sustentation, Supply and Buildings Maintenance in consultation with the Presbytery of Glasgow, and report made to the General Assembly of 2000.

Act IX - Act anent Child Protection Policy

(No. 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly remind the Church of the importance of the Child Protection policy approved by the 1998 General Assembly, and call on every Kirk Session to ensure that the policy is fully applied in their own congregation. The General Assembly direct the Sustentation Committee to include a relevant section on the Child Protection Policy at their next review of the Forms used in quinquennial visitations. The General Assembly require Presbyteries to ask at their quinquennial visitation of congregations whether the Child Protection Policy is in force.

Act X - Act anent Supply Mileage Allowance

(amending Act XII, Class II, 1995)

(No. 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly approve the following adjustments to the Supply Regulations and amend Act XII, 1995, to read as follows:

Where such transport is not available and suitable, a refund shall be allowed at the rate of 17p per mile up to a maximum of 125 miles each way; except that in the case of students and probationers and ministers without charge the rate of refund shall be 20p per mile, subject to the same maximum. This change to be effective from 1st January 2000.

Act XI - Act reconstituting the Psalmody Advisory Committee
(No. 11 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly reconstitute the Psalmody Advisory Committee with the following membership:

All members of the Select Committee on Psalmody with the addition of Rev. I. D. Campbell, Rev. A. C. Cowie, Rev. I. D. Glover, Rev. A. J. MacDonald, Professor D. M. Macdonald, Rev. D. MacKeddie, Rev. D. Wilkie, Rev. A. Wilson, Mr. C. Bailey (Ayr), Mr A. Finlay (Free North, Inverness), Dr E. Finlayson (Olrig, Watten and Bower), Mr. D. Gordon (Fortrose), Dr D. G. Mackay (Buccleuch and Greyfriars), Mr. G. F. MacLean (Smithton-Culloden), Mrs. W. B. Scott (Dumfries).

Act XII - Act authorising the appointment of an Assistant Minister for the Congregation of Buccleuch and Greyfriars, Edinburgh
(No. 12 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly authorise the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take action to procure an appointment in terms of Act V, 1986, and direct that the conditions of appointment be as stated in the Act.

Act XIII - Act granting a seat in Presbytery to Rev. William M. Mackay
(No. 13 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly grant the Rev. W. M. Mackay a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth in accordance with Act XII, Class 2, 1990, paragraph 1.1.2.

Act XIV - Act retaining the Rev. D.W. Maclean on the Register of Probationers
(No. 14 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly instruct the Clerk of Assembly to retain the name of Rev. Donald W. MacLean on the Register of Probationers eligible for call in accordance with Act XXIX, 1988.

Act XV - Act appointing Council of Reference for Grant Aid Schemes
(No. 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 11th May 1999

The General Assembly instruct the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee through its Social Responsibility Sub-committee, and in consultation with the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to appoint a Council of Reference to:

- (i) Establish the criteria and ground rules for a Grant Aid Scheme for pump priming of caring initiatives. The Church's maximum annual financial commitment to the Scheme to be £10,000 with an upper limit for congregations wishing to apply of £2,000;
- (ii) Identify a specific member of the church office staff to help in administration of the Scheme.

Act XVI - Act anent Asian Outreach Worker in Glasgow
(No. 16 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 12th May 1999

The General Assembly approve the resumption of the Glasgow Asian Outreach Project in terms of Act VII, 1997. They authorise the Church Extension Committee to appoint in terms of that Act one full-time worker to the Project, which shall be under the supervision of the Govanhill Kirk Session.

Act XVII - Act anent appointment of Church Planter/Evangelist
(No. 17 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 12th May 1999

The General Assembly instruct the Church Extension Committee in consultation with the Presbyteries of Glasgow and Edinburgh and Perth to appoint a Church planter/evangelist to assist both Presbyteries in outreach work. In particular they direct in terms of Act XXVIII, 1989, that the person appointed assess opportunities for church planting within the bounds of the two Presbyteries.

Act XVIII - Act appointing a General Trustee
(No. 18 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

The General Assembly appoint Dr. Ian MacIver, Glasgow, a General Trustee.

Act XIX - Act anent Roll of Resigned Ministers
(No. 19 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

1. The General Assembly amend Act XIII, 1990, in so far as it affects resigned ministers by substituting for paragraph 8 of the Act the following:

8. If a Presbytery instruct that a minister's name be placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers, it shall remain on that Roll without limit of time, subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 above and paragraphs 12 and 13 below.

2. The General Assembly also append to Act XIII, 1990, the following two paragraphs:

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

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

Act XX - Act anent Structure of General Trustees and Finance, Law and Advisory Committee
(No. 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

The General Assembly, in order to restructure the General Trustees and the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, and to readjust the relationship between these two bodies, enact as follows:

(A) AS TO THE GENERAL TRUSTEES

1. The General Trustees shall be twelve in number whereof not more than four shall be ministers. The period of service shall be eight years, with re-appointment competent after a one year break.

2. It shall be the responsibility of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by 30th November each year, when new appointments of Trustees are required. The Principal Clerk shall notify Presbyteries and the responses of Presbyteries shall be reported to the Nominations Committee, who shall bring appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly.

3. All the General Trustees shall have the right of attendance at meetings of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee, but of their number only six shall have the right to vote, not more than one minister being included in the six with the right to vote. The General Trustees shall notify the Nominations Committee by 15th February each year of the names of the six Trustees with voting rights in the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee during the year following the ensuing General Assembly. The Nominations Committee shall report these names to the General Assembly.

4. The duties of the General Trustees shall remain as already enacted and the required changes phased in such a way as to secure minimal inconvenience.

5. Act II, 1979, paragraph 3 is hereby repealed; and in paragraph 16, first sentence of the same Act the words “the General Trustees be ex officio members of” and “which Committee” shall be deleted so that the sentence now reads “The General Assembly approve that the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall be responsible for approving and directing the application of revenue in accordance with Assembly legislation.”

(B) AS TO THE FINANCE, LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall comprise twenty-five voting members composed as follows:

Conveners of Group I and Group II Standing Committees; Chairman of the Foreign Missions Board; Chairman of the College Board; the Principal Clerk of Assembly; six General Trustees of whom not more than one shall be a minister, three ministers and three elders elected on a synodical basis (each Presbytery shall be entitled to nominate one minister and one elder from each Synod in Scotland, and the nominations shall be processed by the Nominations Committee in the usual way); elders nominated by the Nominations Committee to make up the total voting membership to twenty-five.

2. In making up the required number of elders the Nominations Committee shall nominate elders from the list of those on Standing Committees, but shall also have in mind the desirability of having each Presbytery represented on the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee.

3. Required nominations for membership of the Finance, Law and Advisory Committee shall be notified to Presbyteries by the Principal Clerk of Assembly not later than 1st January in each year and responses shall be processed by the Nominations Committee in the usual way.

4. The changes authorised will be phased as conveniently as possible on the advice of the Nominations Committee.

5. Act VIII, 1987, paragraph 1.4 is hereby repealed.

Act XXI - Act anent Sale of Properties
(No. 21 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

1. Arran: The General Assembly receive the petition of the Congregation of Arran Free Church and grant its crave to the extent that they authorise the sale of the property known as “Corrie Cottage”, subject to obtaining a Minute of Waiver; the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church’s Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees, and the interest made available to the Arran Deacons’ Court for the purpose of maintaining the remaining property of the congregation, the interest in the meantime to be added to the capital.

2. Assynt: The General Assembly, waiving irregularities in procedure, receive the Petition of

the Free Church Congregation of Assynt and grant its crave to the extent that they authorise the sale of the Church building in Drumbeg, subject to obtaining a Minute of Waiver; the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be made available to the Congregation for the maintenance and improvement of congregational properties.

3. Duirinish: The General Assembly, waiving irregularities in procedure, receive the Petition of the Free Church Congregation of Duirinish and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Mission House and Old School in Duirinish, subject to obtaining a Minute of Waiver, if necessary; the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the Congregation, with capital and interest being available to the Congregation for the maintenance and improvement of congregational properties.

4. Rothesay: The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Rothesay Deacons' Court and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Rothesay Manse at 34 Ardmory Road, Rothesay, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. Once all financial obligations of the Rothesay Congregation have been met, the balance of the proceeds of the sale together with interest thereon are to be lodged with the General Trustees for behoof of the Special Projects Fund set up by paragraph 3 of Act V, 1991.

Act XXII- Act anent Release of Congregational Monies (Strathy and Halladale)
(No. 22 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

The General Assembly authorise the congregation of Strathy and Halladale to use such part of the capital from the sale of the Strathy Church and manse as may be necessary for the repair and improvement of the manse in Skerray.

Act XXIII - Act anent Validation of B.Th. Degree
(No. 23 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

1. The General Assembly approve the proposal to have a degree course which is designed and delivered by the Free Church College validated as a B.Th. degree by the University of Edinburgh.

2. The General Assembly welcome the appointment by the Faculty of Divinity of the University of Edinburgh of a Validation Committee through which University validation of a Free Church College course may be delivered.

3. The General Assembly approve the following Joint Statement of the Composition and Responsibilities of the Validation Committee:

(1) The University of Edinburgh (hereinafter 'the University') is satisfied that the courses offered by The Free Church of Scotland College (hereinafter 'the College') and to be subject to validation take place in a 'suitable institutional environment', as stipulated in the CVCP Code of Practice for University Validation of Courses in the Polytechnic and College Sector,

May 1987.

- (2) The College Senate will appoint three representatives to meet with the Validation Committee of the Faculty of Divinity and will normally be present when matters relating to the Free Church College courses are under consideration.
- (3) The Committee will meet as and when required to consider:
 - (i) proposals for degree validation submitted by the College;
 - (ii) recommendations for course changes to previously validated degrees;
 - (iii) such other matters including, for example, admission and progress of students as may be appropriate.
- (4) The Committee will report to the Faculty of Divinity and thence through appropriate University channels to the Senatus.
- (5) The activities of the Committee will be conducted against the background of the relevant College and University quality assurance procedures.
- (6) The College Principal will serve as a point of contact and advice between the University and the College Senate on academic matters. The College Senate will be responsible for maintaining oversight of validated courses.
- (7) The procedures for achieving validation of a course will be as follows:
 - (i) The College will lodge a detailed submission for the course to be validated with the Convener of the Validation Committee.
 - (ii) The Convener of the Validation Committee will ensure that the overall structure of the proposed course accords with current University practice for similar courses.
 - (iii) The Validation Committee will draw upon the expertise of senior members of Faculty in each Subject Group in order to review the contents of a proposed course. If necessary, the Committee will seek advice from appropriate external examiners and from specialists outwith the University.
 - (iv) The reports of the Validation Committee Convener and those appointed to review courses shall be presented to the Validation Committee.
 - (v) The recommendations of the Validation Committee shall be presented to the University Senatus through the Faculty of Divinity and the Undergraduate Studies Committee for approval.
- (8) The University will conduct reviews of the validated courses in the College leading to degrees of the University at intervals to be advised by the Validation Committee.
- (9) If the College wishes to make substantial changes to any of its validated courses at times other than that of a review it shall submit the proposals to the Convener of the Validation Committee who will pass them to an appropriate senior member of Faculty for consideration, as for the original submission. If the amendments are deemed acceptable these will be referred to the Validation Committee and University Senatus for approval. (Minor course amendments may be approved by the Convener of the Validation Committee).
- (10) The academic standards achieved by College students following courses leading to

validated degrees shall be measured in the same way as for the University's own degree students. The appropriate external examiner(s) shall approve the College draft examination papers.

(11) The external examiners will be nominated by the College and their appointment will be subject to approval by the University in its normal manner. External examiners will report to the University in accordance with University practice and their reports will in due course thereafter be transmitted to the College Principal.

(12) The fees charged by the University for the operation of the validation procedure will be agreed in advance of the above procedures being put in place, and will be reviewed from time to time as agreed by both parties.

(13) Both the University and the College reserve the right to withdraw from this agreement by giving one academic year's notice to terminate. In the event of such termination the University and the College will honour commitments to students already on the course.

Act XXIV - Act anent Retirement of Principal and Professor of Greek and New Testament in the Free Church College

(No. 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

The General Assembly accept with regret the retirement of Rev. Principal A.C. Boyd, M.A., B.D., from his College appointments. They declare that his resignation from the Principalship shall have immediate effect, and that 30 June 1999 shall be the effective date of his retirement from the Chair of Greek and New Testament Literature, subject to the terms of Act XI, 1982, and grant him from 30 June 1999 the designation "Principal-Emeritus" and a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

Act XXV - Act anent Procedure on Appointment of College Principal

(No. 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

1. The General Assembly, in order to clarify the remit of the College Board, declare that the effect of paragraph 6.5 of Act XVI, 1995, is that the following is the current practice of the Church in the matter:

(1) that it shall be the duty of the College Board, on receiving intimation of a resignation or retirement 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 College Board one or more nominations for the vacancy, such nominations to be in the hands of the Board by the date specified when intimation of the vacancy is made to Presbyteries and Synods;

(3) The College Board shall tabulate the returns made by Presbyteries and Synods as a

Supplementary Report, the General Assembly in appointing to the Principalship not being limited to the names included in the Supplementary Report.

2. The General Assembly enact that the post of Principal of the College shall be an appointment by the General Assembly and that the practice of induction to the College Principalship is herewith discontinued.

Act XXVI - Act anent Monitoring of College Course
(No. 26 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

The General Assembly approve the following proposals drawn up by the Training of the Ministry Committee in consultation with the College Board which clarify the Committee's monitoring role in ensuring that the College course continues to be a suitable preparation for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland:

- (a) The syllabus of the College course should be updated annually and given to Committee members and examiners, ordinarily by September. College Board members would also receive a copy for interest.
- (b) There should be discussion each year between the relevant professor and the examiner about course content and assessment for that year, including continuous assessment work and essays.
- (c) Each examiner would submit his report to the Committee.
- (d) The Committee would review the reports of examiners and if recommendations for changes to a course or courses were to be made, then the professor would be approached by the Convener of the Committee.
- (e) If no agreement or consensus were to emerge at this point:
 - (i) the Convener, on behalf of the Committee, would approach the College Senate for a view;
 - (ii) the Convener, after meeting with the Senate, would report back to the Committee to decide if any further action is required;
 - (iii) as a last resort either party would have the right of General Assembly appeal, bearing in mind that monitoring should still display respect toward the integrity, expertise, experience and intellectual independence of the professorial staff.

Act XXVII - Act appointing Professor of Greek and New Testament Literature in the Free Church College
(No.27 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 13th May 1999

1. The General Assembly appoint Rev. John Angus MacLeod, M.A., B.D., Minister at Dingwall, to be Professor of Greek and New Testament Literature, in accordance with existing regulations.

2. The General Assembly hereby release Mr MacLeod from his present pastoral charge and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps for his induction to the Chair of Greek and New Testament Literature on a date not earlier than 1 July 1999, his relationship to the congregation of Dingwall to subsist until he be actually admitted to the charge aforesaid.

Act XXVIII - Act appointing Principal of the Free Church College
(No. 28 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 14th May 1999

The General Assembly hereby appoint Rev. Professor Donald Macleod, M.A., as Principal of the Free Church College in terms of Act XXIII, 1999, Paragraph 2.

Act XXIX - Act appointing Commission of Assembly
(No. 29 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 14th May 1999

The General Assembly did, and here by do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. Professor John L. Mackay, 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 at 7 o'clock in the evening on the fourth Wednesday of June and days following as necessary, on the first Wednesday of October and the first Wednesday of March next to come at 7 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 to do everything contained in, and conform to the instructions 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 now extended to particular affairs or processes before Synods of 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 Commission with relation to private causes shall be unalterable by any other diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in force till disapproved of by the General Assembly. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to hear and finally determine the appeal by Rev John Macleod (Duthil-Dores) against a recommendation of the Bills and Overtures Committee of this General Assembly, the appeal of Rev. D. P. Murray against a recommendation of the same Committee, the appeal of Mrs Susan Harding against a recommendation of the same Committee, the appeal from the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth regarding the recommendation of the same Committee anent Overture (b) from the Presbytery, and furthermore, if they sustain any of the aforementioned appeals, to proceed to hear and determine the causes therein raised. And further, the said Commission are hereby empowered to receive the Report of the Special Commission appointed by the 1998 General Assembly, to deliberate upon the same and to

determine all matters raised by it as they see fit. At the same time the Commission are instructed to consider the Overture (a) presented by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to this General Assembly. And further the said Commission are hereby empowered to hear and finally determine a libel against Rev Maurice Roberts prosecuted by the Special Committee appointed by this Assembly to do so. 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 consolidating congregations into one charge, for the appointment of Ministers overseas and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to appoint teachers seconded by the Reformed Missions League as missionary teachers to Colegio San Andrés, 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, and to receive any references and appeals 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, in 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.

Act XXX - Act appointing next General Assembly
(No. 30 of Class II)
Edinburgh, 14th May 1999

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 22nd May 2000 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

I - Act anent Sale of Property
Edinburgh, 7th October 1998

1. The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the present Strathpeffer Manse, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation and made available for the procurement of a more suitable manse.

2. The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the present Greenock Manse at 255 Eldon Street, Greenock, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees in behoof of the congregation and made available for the procurement of a more suitable manse. Any residual balance shall be held in behoof of the congregation and shall be available upon application by the Finance Committee for the improvement or repair of the property of the Greenock congregation.

Act II - Act anent Reformed Educational Association San Andrés
Edinburgh, 7th October 1998

The Commission of Assembly in terms of Act XXV, 1998, appointing the Commission, approve the constitution for the proposed Reformed Educational Association San Andrés and instruct the Foreign, Overseas and Jewish Missions' Board to take the necessary steps for the setting up of the Association.

Act III - Act anent Sale of Property
Edinburgh, 3rd March 1999

The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the present Church and Manse at Lochcarron, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agents. The proceeds of the sale are to be lodged with the General Trustees and made available for the purchase or erection of a more suitable church and manse, with titles in terms of the Model Trust Deed.