

2013 PRINCIPAL ACTS

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

CLASS I – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Act I – Act anent the Sustentation Fund
(No 1 of Class I)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

1. The General Assembly with consent of presbyteries, desiring arrangements regarding the Sustentation Fund be clarified and updated, enact and ordain as follows:

1. Congregations

1.1 A Schedule drawn up by the Home Missions Board 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 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 Home Missions Board 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 the congregation has been remitting to Central Funds.

1.4 The Home Missions Board 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. 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.

2.2 When a Congregation's commitment lies between 100% and 130% of the stipend in effect when the Presbytery gives consideration to the Schedule, the Presbytery shall be required to report to the Home Missions Board 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 130% of the stipend.

2.3 A Presbytery shall not moderate in a call until the Home Missions Board has intimated that the Congregation has been given permission to call a minister.

3. The Home Missions Board

3.1 The Board shall not consider a Schedule until it has been approved by the Presbytery of the bounds.

3.2 The Board 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 2.2 are satisfactory. The Board may only approve Schedules which have been validly completed in all these respects.

3.3 If the Congregation has promised to remit at least 130% of the stipend, and if the Board 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 the Congregation undertakes to remit between 100% and 130% of the stipend and if the Board is satisfied with the responses given to the other questions asked in the Sustentation Schedule, then the Board may give restricted permission to call a minister. In these circumstances, a minister inducted to the charge shall be on a five year 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 130% of the current stipend and if the Board are satisfied with the Schedule in this and other respects, then the Congregation may be placed on the Equal Dividend platform without restriction (as in 3.3). The Board will report on the matter to the next ensuing General Assembly so that the minister's induction to the charge may 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 130% of the stipend and if the Board are satisfied with the Schedule in this and other respects, then the Board 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 the Congregation is unable to promise to remit at least 100% of the stipend, or if the Board adjudge the congregation's promised commitment to be unrealistic, the Board shall report this to the next General Assembly, and unless exceptional circumstances are shown to exist, the Board 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 whose minister is appointed under the terms of this Act fails to remit the full cost or direct cost of ministry as promised when admitted to the Equal Dividend Platform, then the Board shall draw the attention of the Congregation and the Presbytery to this fact, and the Presbytery shall report to the Board what steps are being taken to rectify the situation. The Board shall report to the General Assembly annually which congregations, if any, failed to meet their commitment in the previous year.

3.11 When any congregation, whose minister is appointed under the terms of this Act, fails to remit 100% of stipend in any one year, the Home Missions Board shall draw the attention of the Congregation and the Presbytery to this fact. On receipt of such notification the Presbytery shall initiate a Review and Audit of the Congregation as in Section 6.1 below. The Board shall also report to the General Assembly that such a review has been initiated.

3.12 The General Assembly enact that in future the entitlement of a vacant congregation to call a minister be limited to two years from the date on which its Schedule is passed by the Home Missions Board.

4. Union of Neighbouring Congregations

On a vacancy occurring in a pastoral charge the Presbytery, before considering a Schedule, shall give consideration to whether in the light of their overall Strategy Plan it is desirable for the vacant congregation to be linked or united with another congregation whether vacant or not; and only when this possibility has been fully explored and departed from shall they approve a Schedule. In submitting the Schedule they shall report to the Board the steps taken and the reasons for departing from any such linking or union.

5. Special Arrangements

5.1 Notwithstanding the above regulations, the Board 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 Board 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 Board 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 Board, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the Congregation.

5.5 Before a Presbytery moderates in a Call to a minister from a congregation placed on the Equal Dividend Platform under Special Arrangements, it shall prepare a Report of the Congregation giving a detailed analysis of the local context in which the ministry is to take place. This Report shall be forwarded to the Home Missions Board with whom consultation shall take place, at the initiation of the Congregation and the Presbytery, before the formal process of moderating in a call commences.

6. Review and Audit

The purpose of this review is to make a decision regarding the long-term viability of a congregation whose numerical and financial strength has become seriously weakened. The review period shall be twelve months during which the following steps must be taken:

6.1 Presbyteries

6.1.1 The Presbytery, on receipt of notification from the Home Missions Board that a congregation's remittances have fallen below 100% of stipend as in Section 3.11 above, shall initiate a thorough review of the congregation. This review shall include a thorough audit of the congregation, giving due consideration to (1) the likely causes of the fact that its numerical and financial strength has become seriously weakened; and (2) the future prospects for ongoing fulltime ministry in the congregation, including any potential for growth perceived to exist. On completion of the review, the Presbytery shall give a Report of its findings to the Board.

6.1.2 The Presbytery shall be required to meet with the congregation in order to explain the procedures to be followed as a result of the fall in the numerical and financial strength of the congregation. The Presbytery shall consult fully with the congregation during the review period in order to agree an achievable way forward for ministry in the congregation.

6.1.3 If the Presbytery finds that there is potential for growth in the congregation and that there is reason to believe special evangelistic effort on the part of the denomination could lead to realising this potential, then the Presbytery shall consider making application for redevelopment status in terms of Act XXXIV, 1988.

6.1.4 If the Presbytery finds that a fulltime ministry is not viable in the congregation in the long term but that there is a need to support ministry in the congregation in the short term, then the Presbytery shall formulate a short term plan for ministry, not exceeding five years, and recommend accordingly to the Home Missions Board. The Presbytery shall also arrange a meeting with the congregation in order to explain its findings.

6.1.5 If the Presbytery finds that the provision of a fulltime ministry in the congregation is no longer viable then it shall report to the Home Missions Board in these terms. The Presbytery shall also arrange a meeting with the congregation in order to explain its findings and to discuss arrangements for future ministry.

6.1.6 The Presbytery shall submit its Report to the Home Missions Board by 14th February in the calendar year after which the review was initiated.

6.2 Home Missions Board

Presbyteries shall ensure that Audit and Review Reports are submitted to the Home Missions Board by 14th February in any given year.

6.2.1 On receipt of the Presbytery's Report that a fulltime ministry is no longer viable in a congregation, the Home Missions Board shall include this in its Report to the next General Assembly recommending that (1) the minister's pastoral link with the congregation be severed within six months and his name added to the Register of Ministers Without Charge, eligible for call; and that (2) the Presbytery be instructed to make all necessary arrangements for linkage, union, or district ministry as local circumstances permit.

6.2.2 On receipt of the Presbytery's Report that a fulltime ministry is not viable in the long term but that arrangements need to be made to support ministry in the short term, the Board shall satisfy itself that all the requirements of Section 6.1 have been met and that the Schedule is completed with achievable commitments in the light of the congregation's financial weakness. If the Board is satisfied with all the documentation received from the Presbytery it shall report on the matter to the next ensuing General Assembly with the following recommendations: (1) that the congregation be removed from the Equal

Dividend Platform and the minister placed on a renewable appointment; and (2) that a review of the congregation's situation, in accordance with Paragraphs 3.4 to 3.9 above, shall take place one year before the term of renewable appointment is due to end.

If at the end of the review referred to in paragraph 6.2.2 above the congregation's circumstances have sufficiently improved, then the Board may place the congregation on the Equal Dividend Platform in terms of the prevailing regulations, with the minister's induction to the charge being declared to be free of time-restriction. The Board shall include details of this change to the next General Assembly.

6.2.3 If at the end of the review referred to in paragraph 6.2.2 above the congregation's circumstances have not shown signs of improvement, the Board shall report to the General Assembly with the following recommendations: (1) that, due to continuing full-time ministry in the congregation not being viable, the minister's pastoral link with the congregation be severed, with his name being added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, eligible for call; and (2) the Presbytery be instructed to take other steps for ongoing ministry in the congregation such as linkage, union, or district ministry.

The Home Missions Board shall make careful examination of each case where a ministry is being terminated, that due pastoral care has been offered and other possible avenues of service have been examined.

6.3 Terms of Re-appointment

When a congregation with a settled ministry is removed from the Equal Dividend Platform and the minister placed on a renewable appointment the following conditions will apply:

6.3.1 The annual stipend shall be paid at the rate of Equal Dividend each year with the shortfall between congregational remittances to central funds and the rate of Equal Dividend being borne by the Home Missions Board.

6.3.2 The congregation shall pay a sum for the minister's travelling and other expenses, which sum shall be fixed in agreement with the Home Missions Board and reviewed annually during the appointment.

6.3.3 The minister placed on a five-year appointment shall devote his whole time to the congregation and work under the supervision of the Presbytery of which he is a member, in conjunction with the Home Missions Board.

6.3.4 The minister shall report at least annually to meetings of his Presbytery and the Presbytery shall report by 14th February each year to the Home Missions Board, on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the congregation. The Presbytery shall also ensure that all support-structures agreed in the development plan are being implemented.

6.3.5 If the minister's link with the congregation is severed at the end of the five-year period, then he shall be treated as a minister without charge, except that he shall be paid at the rate of the then current Equal Dividend for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner, and the Presbytery shall inform the Assembly Clerk so that his name may be included on the Register of Ministers without Charge.

7. Scope of this Act

7.1 The terms of this Act shall hereafter apply to all congregations for which Sustentation Fund Schedules come before the Presbytery of the bounds for scrutiny and approval.

7.2 Where a Schedule has already been forwarded by the Presbytery of the bounds to the Board, the Schedule shall be approved in terms of this Act.

7.3 Settlements that have taken place under previous regulations shall now be monitored in terms of this Act.

7.4 The General Assembly hereby repeal Act XV, Class II, 1994, Act XVIII, Class II, 1998, Act XIV, Class II, 2005, and Act XIV, 2012.

Act II - Act anent Submission of Amendments to Reports to the General Assembly (No 1 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2013

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, amend Standing Order V.3.4, with immediate effect, to read as follows:

That amendments and addenda to the proposed deliverances of reports taken during the first sederunt may be moved without previous notice. Amendments and addenda to the proposed deliverances of all

other reports taken in subsequent sederunts shall be given in and read by the Clerk as specified in the following table. Amendments or addenda given in after the specified deadline shall not be accepted.

Reports due to be taken up during:	Amendments and addenda to be given in before:
2nd Sederunt (Tuesday morning and afternoon)	Adjournment Monday evening
3rd Sederunt (Tuesday evening)	Suspension Tuesday lunchtime
4th Sederunt (Wednesday morning and afternoon)	Adjournment Tuesday evening
5th Sederunt (Wednesday evening)	Suspension Wednesday lunchtime
6th Sederunt (Thursday morning and afternoon)	Adjournment Wednesday evening
7th Sederunt (Thursday evening)	Suspension Thursday lunchtime
8th Sederunt (Friday morning)	Adjournment Thursday evening

Act III – Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen
(No 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly the 20th day of May 2013, humbly offer Your Majesty the expression of our continued loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne and to the Constitutional Monarchy of which you are the honoured Head and Representative.

We give thanks to Almighty God that Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh have both been restored to health after requiring hospital treatment and pray that continued health and strength will be granted to you to enable you to perform your duties of state.

We offer our respectful congratulations to Your Majesty on the sixtieth anniversary of Your solemn coronation.

We also commend to the grace of God all the members of the Royal Family at this time, praying that they will be preserved from all that would in any way harm them, and that they will be enabled to lead lives that are both useful and an example to the nation.

We pray for Your Majesty's Ministers and Government, both in Westminster and Holyrood, that they may be granted all necessary grace, wisdom and strength in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. We continue to pray that the legislation that is passed will reflect the law of Almighty God and will be for the benefit of all Your Majesty's subjects.

We give thanks for the success of the Olympic Games held in London last summer, for the safety from terrorism of the many who gathered there and those who came to our shores for this event, for the commitment, self-discipline and prowess shown by the large army of athletes, and for the encouragement brought to our nation at a time when so many are feeling the effects of the recession.

We give thanks for the references Your Majesty made in your Christmas Broadcast to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to be our Saviour and for the freedom that we continue to enjoy to worship him and to proclaim the good news of his salvation.

We remember that due to the present economic circumstances many are suffering deprivation and poverty and are unable to find regular employment, including a great number of school-leavers and young people. It is our prayer that Almighty God will have mercy on our beloved land and restore our fortunes so that all who are able will have the opportunity to earn their livelihood without the necessity for state benefits.

We also remember in prayer the members of Your Majesty's Armed Forces, especially those seeking to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan, commending to the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort those who have lost loved ones in that conflict and those who carry on body and mind the scars from wounds received there.

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

While we recognise and welcome the great racial and cultural diversity of our nation, we are glad that Your Majesty continues to honour your Scottish Coronation Oath to "inviolably maintain and preserve the settlement of the true Protestant Religion, with the Government, Worship, Discipline, Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland", for we believe it is in this Protestant basis that there is freedom and toleration for all.

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

Act IV – Act anent Changes to the System of Congregational Remittances
(No 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

The General Assembly endorse the conclusions arrived at in the Board of Trustees' review of the current system of congregational remittances and approve the proposed changes to the system. They declare as follows:

1. The Central Projects Levy shall be renamed as the Mission Levy and the Additional Contributions shall be reclassified as the Mission Support Fund.
2. The additional Fixed Allowance applied to congregations with an assistant minister shall be reduced to £15,000 per annum from 1st January 2014.
3. Any Board or Committee embarking on a new area of work must first prepare a financial case for that work, clearly setting out full costings together with detailed sources of funding.
4. The Home and International Missions Boards shall liaise closely with the Communications Officer to communicate their work to the wider Church and thereby seek engagement from congregations and individuals in that work. The Boards shall also give careful consideration to the selection of areas of work for which they will seek financial support through the Mission Support Fund.
5. Presbyteries are instructed to take responsibility for ensuring that the congregations within their bounds comply with the remittance system. They are also encouraged to foster a greater sense of mutual support between congregations.

Act V – Act anent Financial Policies
(No 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

1. The General Assembly note the concerns raised by the Board of Trustees in relation to the Church's cash flow position and endorse the Board's decision not to make further major loans to congregations until significant improvements are made. The General Assembly also note the attempts made by the Board to identify possible external sources for major project funding and encourage it to continue to explore options in this area.

2. The General Assembly note the Board's position in relation to the arrangements for the Church and Manse Building Fund. They instruct the Board to keep the purposes of this fund in mind when considering the establishment of a development fund to support future growth in the Church.

3. The General Assembly note the revised remit for Presbytery Liaison Officers and encourage Presbyteries to ensure that a suitable person is appointed to this role in order to support congregations in fulfilling their financial responsibilities.

Act VI – Act anent Spending Priorities
(No. 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh 21st May 2013

1. The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that the Church's expenditure must be brought into line with anticipated income and to that end support the need for substantial savings against the current level of budgeted spend.

2. The General Assembly declare, with immediate effect, a moratorium on the funding of any centrally supported posts whether arising through vacancies or the creation of new posts, unless prior agreement to such funding is given by the Board of Trustees. They further declare that this moratorium shall remain in place until reviewed by the 2015 General Assembly.

3. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to establish a working group comprising expertise from all of the main activities of the Church to liaise with the various spending boards and committees and with Presbyteries with a view to making a composite report to the 2014 General Assembly. This report will set out the ways in which the Church should frame its activities in order to deliver within the budgetary ceilings set out in paragraph 6 below. The working group will be empowered to vary the distribution of expenditure within the total proposed budget.

4. The General Assembly approve the undernoted budgetary ceiling for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 and direct that all committees and boards operate within this ceiling unless otherwise agreed by the Board of Trustees.

£000s	HMB	IMB	Training	Self-funded	Central	Total
2013	2,190	415	415	255	900	4,175
2014	2,115	365	365	255	890	3,990
2015	2,015	315	315	255	880	3,780

5. The General Assembly encourage contributors to give regularly to the work of the Church as part of Christian discipleship and draw attention to tithing as a model practiced by many in the Church.

Act VII – Act anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds
(No 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

1. **St Columba's, Edinburgh** The General Assembly grant authority to sell the manse of St Columba's Church, Edinburgh, at 10 Esslemont Road, Edinburgh, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland, and further that up to one half of the proceeds be made available to the Deacon's Court of Edinburgh Free Church Continuing for the purchase by them of an alternative manse, the remainder of the proceeds to be lodged with the Free Church of Scotland Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation of St Columba's Free Church, the interest in the meantime to be added to the capital. The General Assembly further direct that the St Columba's Free Church Deacon's Court have access to the whole funds lodged, upon due application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for the purchase or development of congregational properties.

2. **Assynt** The General Assembly authorise the sale of the church building at Stoer and the glebe at Stoer, as well as the church at Lochinver and the manse at Lochinver, all transactions to be carried out under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland and the proceeds of any sale to be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation with interest payable to the congregation and the funds to be made available to the congregation, upon due application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for congregational purposes.
3. **North Uist, Grimsay and Berneray (A)** The General Assembly grant authority to sell the manse building at Paible, North Uist, under supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland, and direct that the proceeds of sale be applied to the reduction of their capital borrowing.
4. **North Uist, Grimsay and Berneray (B)** The General Assembly grant authority to transfer title to the church building at Paible, North Uist, to the North Uist Free Church Continuing, under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland.
5. **Scalpay** The General Assembly grant authority to sell the manse at Kyles, Scalpay, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland, the proceeds of the sale be lodged with the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation and the congregation to have access to the whole funds, upon due application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for the improvement of the new manse, or the purchase and improvement of the church hall currently leased from the Tarbert Church of Scotland, or for the building of a purpose built church adequate to meet the needs of the Free Church congregation in Scalpay.
6. **Smithton-Culloden and Nairn** The General Assembly grant permission to sell the Rosebank Hall at Academy Street, Nairn, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland, and the proceeds to be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation. The General Assembly further direct that the congregation have access to the interest and capital, upon due application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for the repair, maintenance and development of existing congregational properties and for such congregational purposes as may be approved by the Deacons' Court from time to time.
7. **Glenelg and Arnisdale, Lochalsh and Glenshiel** The General Assembly grant authority to transfer title to the church building at Ardelve and associated land to the Ardelve Free Church Continuing, under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Law Agent of the Free Church of Scotland.
8. **Coll** The General Assembly amend Act IV, § 2, 1984, to the extent that they authorise the release of the sum held in trust on behalf of Coll Free Church for the purpose of funding the appointment of a Presbytery worker within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll.
9. **Mull** The General Assembly amend Act XVIII, § 3, 2008 to the extent that they grant authority to:
 - a) Release the sum of £75,000 to help fund the appointment of a Presbytery worker within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll;
 - b) Release the sum of £70,000 to the Deacons' Court of Mull Free Church to carry out necessary repairs to the church at Tobermory.
10. **Lochgilphead and Lochfyneside** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Finance Committee of Lochgilphead Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the release of cash funds held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation as may be required for purposes of church renovation.

Act VIII – Act anent Synods
(No 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

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

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

3. The General Assembly, noting that no meetings of Synod have been required since the annual statutory meetings were suspended in 2009, and that the introduction of the Judicial Commission has made significant changes to the Church's judicial review procedures, instruct the Committee on Church Practice and Procedure to investigate whether the time is not now ripe for the abolition of Synods and the implications of such abolition, and to report to the next General Assembly.

Act IX – Act reappointing the Judicial Commission
(No 8 of Class II)

21st May 2013

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

Judicial Commission			
	Rev. A. J. MacDonald	EP	[2/1]
	Rev. Professor J. R. McIntosh	EP	[2/1]
	Mr J. MacRae	EP	[2/1]
	Mr D. W. Matheson	EP	[2/1]
	Rev. A. J. Howat	GA	[2/1]
	Rev. A. Cowie	GA	[2/1]
	Mr Evan MacDonald	GA	[2/1]
	Mr Norman Smith	GA	[2/1]
	Rev. Gordon Mair	ILR	[2/1]
	Rev. D. C. Meredith	ILR	[2/1]
	Mr Andrew Murchison	ILR	[2/1]
	Dr Gordon Fraser	ILR	[2/1]
	Rev. Duncan Macleod	N	[2/1]
	Rev. I. MacAskill	N	[2/1]
	Mr David Lipp	N	[2/1]
	Dr James Skinner	N	[2/1]
	Rev. John H. MacLean	SWR	[2/1]
	Rev. D. G. MacDonald	SWR	[2/1]
	Mr John A. Gillies	SWR	[2/1]
	Mr Robert MacDonald	SWR	[2/1]
	Rev. James Maciver	WI	[2/1]
	Rev. Malcolm Macleod	WI	[2/1]
	Mr Murdo Macleod (Lochs)	WI	[2/1]
	Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway)	WI	[2/1]
Chairman:	Rev. A. J. MacDonald		
Clerk:	Principal Clerk		

Act X - Act granting a Seat on the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to Rev John R. de la Haye
(No 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

The General Assembly receive the Petition of Rev. John R. de la Haye. Noting that existing legislation does not provide for a minister whose name appears on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers and who has not

retired from his previous charge to have a seat in presbytery, they grant its crave to the extent that they grant Rev. John de la Haye a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross for as long as he resides within the bounds of the said Presbytery with effect from the date of his signing the Formula under the supervision of the said Presbytery.

Act XI - Act granting a Seat on the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to Rev. Dr John Nicholls
(No 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2013

The General Assembly receive the Petition of Rev. Dr John Nicholls. Noting that existing legislation does not provide for a minister whose name appears on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers and who has not retired from his previous charge to have a seat in Presbytery, they grant its crave to the extent that they grant Rev. Dr John Nicholls a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross for as long as he resides within the bounds of the said Presbytery with effect from the date of his signing the Formula under the supervision of the said Presbytery.

Act XII - Act anent Pastoral Committees in Presbyteries and Other Purposes
(No 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly re-number Act XXIV, 2003, paragraph 1, as 1.1 and add the following:

1.2 The General Assembly instruct each Presbytery to appoint to their Pastoral Committees a minister of Presbytery with special responsibility to oversee mentoring arrangements of ministers within their bounds. Presbytery Clerks should inform the Clerk of the Personnel Committee of any changes to Mentoring Co-ordinator appointments. Such a member shall be known as the Presbytery Mentoring Co-ordinator and he shall have responsibilities in the following areas:

1.2.1 **Establishing Mentoring Partnerships** It shall be the Mentoring Co-ordinator's role to liaise with new ministers and recommend to Presbytery an individual who might best suit the needs of mentoring new ministers in the Presbytery.

1.2.2 **Support for Mentors** Mentoring Co-ordinators will be offered more specialised training under the supervision of the Personnel Committee and Board of Ministry, to enable them to more adequately carry out their remit of supporting those involved in mentoring in their own Presbytery.

1.2.3 **Support for Line Managers** Mentoring Co-ordinators will make the same training and support available to those involved in supervising Presbytery Workers, or to congregational auxiliary workers if such support is desired.

1.2.4 **Supervision** Mentoring Co-ordinators will supervise mentoring relationships, to identify weaknesses or failings in the mentoring process.

1.2.5 **Post-mentoring Evaluation** Mentoring Co-ordinators shall liaise with mentors around the end of mentoring relationships, and take time to evaluate the overall experience from both mentor's and mentee's perspectives.

1.2.6 **Reporting** The Mentoring Co-ordinator shall, from time to time, report to the Presbytery on general state of mentoring relationships, and propose any changes should they be required.

The Act as amended now reads:

The General Assembly, recognising the pressures under which the work of the ministry has to be carried out in today's society and the problems faced by many ministers and their wives and families, appoint the following steps to be taken to relieve or avoid the consequences of stress as far as possible:

1.1 The General Assembly instruct each Presbytery to appoint a Committee with the responsibility for making suitable provision for guidance and counselling to ministers within the bounds of the presbytery or their wives and families whenever necessary. Such Committee may be known as the Pastoral Committee and shall have power to co-opt or consult suitable persons out-with the membership of the Presbytery to obtain their advice or assistance as may be required. Ministers and their families shall be encouraged to consult with this Committee in situations of personal need. This Committee should be advised of cases of sickness and domestic difficulties so as to permit them to take the initiative in offering and providing necessary support for the minister and his family. The Committee shall report at least once a year in general terms to the Presbytery.

1.2 The General Assembly instruct each Presbytery to appoint to their Pastoral Committees a minister of Presbytery with special responsibility to oversee mentoring arrangements of ministers within their bounds. Presbytery Clerks should inform the Clerk of the Personnel Committee of any changes to Mentoring Co-ordinator appointments. Such a member shall be known as the Presbytery Mentoring Co-ordinator and he shall have responsibilities in the following areas:

1.2.1 *Establishing Mentoring Partnerships* It shall be the Mentoring Co-ordinator's role to liaise with new ministers and recommend to Presbytery an individual who might best suit the needs of mentoring new ministers in the Presbytery.

1.2.2 *Support for Mentors* Mentoring Co-ordinators will be offered more specialised training under the supervision of the Personnel Committee and Board of Ministry, to enable them to more adequately carry out their remit of supporting those involved in mentoring in their own Presbytery.

1.2.3 *Support for Line Managers* Mentoring Co-ordinators will make the same training and support available to those involved in supervising Presbytery Workers, or to congregational auxiliary workers if such support is desired.

1.2.4 *Supervision* Mentoring Co-ordinators will supervise mentoring relationships, to identify weaknesses or failings in the mentoring process.

1.2.5 *Post-mentoring Evaluation* Mentoring Co-ordinators shall liaise with mentors around the end of mentoring relationships, and take time to evaluate the overall experience from both mentor's and mentee's perspectives.

1.2.6 *Reporting* The Mentoring Co-ordinator shall, from time to time, report to the Presbytery on general state of mentoring relationships, and propose any changes should they be required.

2. The Presbytery, before the ordination and induction of a minister to his first pastoral charge, shall appoint a senior minister of considerable pastoral experience to be his mentor. The new minister will meet regularly with the Mentor during the first three years of his ministry to discuss difficulties and problems. During the first year these visits should be very frequent, e.g. monthly: thereafter they may be less frequent. The Mentor shall report to the presbytery in general terms from time to time and in the event of a Quinquennial Visitation falling within the period, the Quinquennial Visitation Committee may discuss with him any matters of relevance to their enquiries. The Mentor may be changed at any time during the three-year period at the request of either party.

3. Presbyteries shall not normally appoint ministers in the first three years of their ministry to be moderator of presbytery or to hold interim moderatorships. In the event of exceptional circumstances making it necessary to appoint such a minister to an interim moderatorship, such appointment shall be for a year only with the opportunity for renewal at the end of the year if the same circumstances obtain: in such cases the Presbytery, when making or renewing such an appointment, shall record in their minutes the reasons for their doing so.

4. Ministers of Church Extension and Redevelopment Charges and in Church Planting appointments shall not be appointed to interim moderatorships during the first five years of their appointments except in special circumstances; and when such circumstances are deemed to exist, the details should be recorded as in § 4 above and reported to the supervising Assembly Committee.

5. A minister shall not normally be appointed a member of an Assembly committee during the first three years of his ministry. Where under exceptional circumstances a minister is nominated for such an appointment

during the first three years of his ministry, the Nominations Committee shall record the reasons in their minutes, and the circumstances shall be reported to the General Assembly.

Act XIII – Act anent Compliance of Church Courts with Employment Legislation
(No 12 of Class II)

22nd May 2013

The General Assembly remind both congregational courts and Presbyteries of their obligations to ensure compliance with all employment legislation pertaining to any persons they may engage or appoint on a contract basis. Accordingly they instruct them to ensure compliance with all appropriate employment legislation, and to have in place required employer's liability insurance.

Act XIV – Act anent Establishment of Locally Subsidised Charges
(No 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly, recognising the need for the Church to reduce its expenditure in Centrally Supported Ministries, and also that Presbyteries may wish to subsidise ministries within their bounds in order to secure their immediate future, hereby approve the establishment of a Locally Subsidised Charge as a means of providing a short-term plan for ministry in line with the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, paragraph 6.1.3, in the following terms:

1. The Congregation

Where a congregation has been declared to be financially non-viable in terms of the above Act, and the Presbytery of the bounds wishes to extend the term of an existing ministry by way of alternative financial arrangements, it shall be the duty of the Minister of such a congregation, in consultation with the Kirk Session, the Deacons' Court and congregation to fill up a Sustentation Fund Schedule and submit it to the Home Missions Board through the Presbytery.

The Schedule shall cover a three year period and show the level of the congregation's financial commitment to the appointment of a fulltime minister for this three-year term. The promise should be adequate in relation to the congregation's resources and prospects. The Schedule shall also show the congregation's ability to meet all local ministry expenses and regular congregational expenses, and confirm the suitability of all congregational property.

2. Documents

The application for extended ministry under the terms of this Act shall be supported by a Development Plan and a Funding Plan.

2.1 Development Plan

The Development Plan shall be prepared by the congregation, in consultation with the Presbytery, and with the support of the Home Missions Board. The Plan shall show the strategy for outreach and development in the congregation for the three-year term of the appointment. The Plan shall show how the strategy is to be implemented and how the aims and objectives of the Plan are to be achieved. The Plan shall also show what support the Presbytery will give to the congregation in the implementation of the Plan along with confirmed arrangements as to how this support will be given. In addition to the support of the Presbytery, the congregation shall be at liberty to request the support of the Home Missions Board in the implementation of the Plan.

2.2 Funding Plan

The Funding Plan shall give details of the congregation's financial situation showing: (i) the annual Ordinary Income; (ii) any reserves or investments held by the congregation; (iii) the level of the congregation's contribution to the cost of ministry for each year of the three year term of the appointment; (iv) budgeted expenditure for all local ministerial and congregational expenses; (v) budgeted expenditure for resources, etc.,

required for implementation of the Development Plan. In addition to the above, the Funding Plan shall also show all sources of alternative and additional funding required to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry and the appropriate Administration Levy. Such alternative and additional sources of funding shall be clearly identifiable and secured before the application is passed by the Home Missions Board or approved by the General Assembly. The support-funding shall be remitted on request to the Church's Finance Officer throughout the period of the minister's appointment so that central resources are not disadvantaged by the arrangement. If the supporting funds are to be realised through money held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of congregations, the application for ministry under the terms of this Act shall be supported by copies of petitions addressed to the General Assembly requesting that such funds be released.

3. The Presbytery

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

3.1 Before a Presbytery gives its approval to a Schedule seeking permission to extend the current ministry under the provisions of this Act, the Presbytery shall carry out a visitation of the congregation and submit to the Board, along with the Schedule, a report on the prospects of a continued ministry in the congregation.

3.2 The Presbytery shall petition the General Assembly through the Home Missions Board in suitable terms. The Petition shall show (1) the commitment of the congregation towards the direct cost of ministry; (2) the identity of all secured sources of supporting funding; and (3) the desire of the minister and of the congregation for the existing ministry to be extended under the terms of this Act. The Presbytery's report to the Home Missions Board shall show (1) that the Presbytery has approved the Development Plan and is committed to participating in the implementation of it; (2) that the Presbytery has approved the Financial Plan and is satisfied that all the financial promises given are secured and realistic; and (3) that the Presbytery has given consideration as to how the Financial Plan can be supported should any of the listed sources of funding fail to meet their commitment in any given year.

4. Home Missions Board

The Schedule shall be forwarded to the Home Missions Board once it has been approved by the Presbytery. If the Board is satisfied with (i) the congregation's commitment; (ii) the arrangements for alternative support-funding; (iii) the congregational development plan; and (iv) that the proposal is consistent with the overall strategy of the Board, then they may recommend to the General Assembly that the existing ministry should continue for an additional fixed three-year term.

5. Review

5.1 Annual Financial Review

The Church's Finance Officer shall provide the Home Missions Board with a financial report at the beginning of each calendar year. This report will give details of actual remittances for the previous year against budgeted remittances. If this report shows a shortfall in the actual income, the Board shall instruct the Presbytery to meet with the congregation to assess the ongoing viability of the Financial Plan and will seek to identify alternative sources of funding should such be required. The Presbytery shall report to the Board at its meeting due in March each year. If no additional sources of funding are secured, the Board will report accordingly to the General Assembly recommending that the minister's appointment be terminated.

5.2 Final Overall Review

A review of the congregation's overall situation shall take place two years after the new arrangements have been implemented. The purpose of this review is to assess the progress of the congregation in the implementation of the Development Plan and also to assess the long-term financial viability of the congregation. The review shall be initiated by the congregation through submission of a new Sustentation Fund Schedule through the Presbytery of the bounds. The Presbytery shall consult fully with the congregation during the review period in order to agree an achievable way forward for ministry in the congregation.

5.2.1 If when a fresh Schedule is submitted the congregation promises to remit at least the Direct Cost of Ministry, and if the Board is satisfied with the Schedule in this and other respects, then the Congregation may be given the status of a fully-sanctioned charge, financially self-supporting, and without restriction on the minister's appointment. The Board will report on the matter to the next General Assembly so that the minister's induction to the charge may be declared to be free of time-restriction.

5.2.2 If the Presbytery reports that the congregation is unable to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry, but that there has been considerable improvement in the strength of the congregation, and that sufficient supporting funds are available to finance the ministry for another three-year term, then the Board shall report accordingly to the next General Assembly recommending that the minister's appointment be extended for a second and final three-year term according to the provisions of this Act.

5.2.3 If at the time of a review the congregation is unable to promise to remit at least the Direct Cost of Ministry, even with the help of additional supporting funds, or if the Board adjudge the congregation's promised commitment to be unrealistic, the Board shall report this to the next General Assembly, and the Board shall recommend that the minister's appointment be terminated at the end of his current appointment. When the contract of a minister is terminated 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.

The Presbytery shall submit its Report to the Home Missions Board by 31st January in the calendar year after which the review was initiated.

6 Terms of Appointment

Appointments made under the terms of this Act will be in situations where an existing ministry is financially non-viable and which no longer qualifies for financial support from Central Funds. The appointment of a minister will be for a fixed three-year term and the following conditions will apply:

6.1 The original induction of the Minister to the Charge shall be declared valid for an appointment under the provisions of this Act but the current arrangements and terms of appointment will be superseded by the terms and conditions set out in this legislation.

6.2 The minister shall be paid the annual stipend. The shortfall between the congregational remittances to Central Funds from Ordinary Income and the Direct Cost of Ministry shall be met from alternative, local, support-funding sourced from the Presbytery of the bounds.

6.3 The minister placed on a three-year appointment according to this legislation shall not accept extra-ecclesiastical work or appointments, or appointments which require absence from the charge, so that he may devote his whole time to the congregation. The Presbytery shall ensure that all support-structures agreed in the development plan are in place and that the plan is being implemented.

6.4 The minister shall report twice annually to meetings of his Presbytery. The Presbytery shall report by 31st January each year to the Home Missions Board giving an update on the implementation of the development plan and on progress in the spiritual, numerical and financial aspects of the congregation.

6.5 If the minister's link with the congregation is severed at the end of the three-year period, then he shall be treated as a minister without charge, except that he shall be paid at the rate of the then current Stipend for a period of six months from the date of expiry of the appointment, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner, and the Presbytery shall inform the Assembly Clerk so that his name may be included on the Register of Ministers without Charge.

Act XV – Act anent Church Planting and Evangelism (No 14 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly, recognising the responsibility of the Church to the whole of Scotland and being aware that there are many large areas not served by the Free Church or by any Church fully committed to Reformed standards, resolve to plan and initiate a programme of evangelism and Church planting in such areas. They therefore enact and ordain as follows:

1. The Home Missions Board is charged to review the national situation so as to identify areas in which evangelistic and church planting missions are needed and have some likelihood of favourable positive response. This review will be conducted in consultation with Presbyteries and Presbyteries are instructed to inform such consultation by undertaking research as to conditions in the areas within their bounds.

2. When the Board has agreed on an area of operation they should seek the services of a minister deemed to have the gifts requisite for the enterprise and invite him to undertake it. If he be settled in a charge the invitation will be processed through his Presbytery following the analogy of a Call.
3. The invitation will specify the initial area of work and its aims and convey an undertaking by the Board to support him for a minimum period of five years - not necessarily in the same area. During this five-year period the appointee will not be eligible for call elsewhere. On the expiry of the five-year period the Board may renew the appointment or continue support of the minister concerned for six months or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner.
4. All the financial and governance arrangements for the work will be agreed, on a per-case basis, by the Board in consultation with the Presbytery, the Chief Administrative Officer and the Finance Manager, and any other interested parties. Such arrangements will take into account all income and expenditure, and the remuneration of the minister.
5. Induction to the new work will be arranged at the Board's request by the Presbytery whose seat is nearest the sphere of work and the minister appointed shall have a seat in that Presbytery.
6. So that the minister will not be unduly isolated he shall be assisted as far as possible by an advisory committee appointed by the Board after consultation with the Presbytery involved. The Advisory Committee may include in its membership personnel out-with the membership of the Board and that of the Presbytery.
7. The minister shall report on a quarterly basis to the Advisory Committee, and it will report to the Presbytery and the Home Missions Board as appropriate, giving an update on progress in the work and on the current situation regarding income and expenditure.
8. In order that he may devote his whole time to the work, the minister appointed shall not accept extra-ecclesiastical work or appointments, or appointments which require absence from the designated sphere of labour, except with the express written consent of the Advisory Group, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld.
9. If the Board is persuaded that the initial stage of the new work requires the co-operation of two persons they may appoint a second on a one-year basis. This additional appointment may be of any suitably gifted person.
10. If circumstances are such that the Board deems a one-year experiment would be helpful in a specific area they may seek the services of a minister in a settled charge by means of leave of absence for that year, or make some other suitable short-term arrangements.

The General Assembly hereby repeal Act XXVIII, Class II, 1989.

**Act XVI – Act anent Asian Outreach Work in Glasgow and Termination of Appointment
of Rev. Colin Macleod
(No 15 of Class II)**

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

1. The General Assembly note with approval the proposed appointment of a missions committee as a discussion forum between the Board and the International Missions Board. They continue the remit to the Home Missions Board, in consultation with the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and the International Missions Board, to bring proposals for the development of the work of Asian Outreach and any necessary amendments to the existing legislation to the General Assembly of 2014.
2. The General Assembly noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board regarding the appointment of Rev. Colin Macleod as an additional worker in the Asian Outreach project, terminate the current arrangements of the appointment as detailed in Act XXXIX, Class II, 2008 anent Appointment of Additional Worker Asian Outreach with respect to the duties which come under the remit of the Home Missions Board and the associated financial arrangements, effective from 31st August 2013.

Act XVII – Act anent Ministerial Arrangements for Congregations in East Sutherland
(Act 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly commend the Northern Presbytery for the continuing development of their Strategy Plan. They continue the remit to the Presbytery to pursue negotiations for alternative ministerial arrangements for East Sutherland and instruct them to report their progress through the Home Missions Board to next General Assembly.

Act XVIII – Act anent Assistantships
(No 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly, desiring that arrangements for applications for an assistant minister be updated and clarified, amend paragraph 2 of Act IX, Class II, 2007 anent Assistantships, to read as follows: Such application shall only be considered from congregations which (1) are able to remit twice the Full Ministry Costs plus the appropriate Administration Levy; (2) are able to provide suitable accommodation and expenses for an Assistant Minister; and (3) have met their annual commitment to central funds in each of the previous three years, or where there has been a shortfall, can show that this has been due to exceptional circumstances to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.

The Act as amended now reads:

The General Assembly having considered that it is desirable for the Ministers of certain congregations to have Ordained Assistants enact as follows:

1. The General Assembly reserve to themselves the right to judge of all applications which may be made by congregations for the appointment of an Assistant Minister under waiver of the conditions of Act III, 1851.
2. The General Assembly, desiring that arrangements for applications for an assistant minister be updated and clarified, amend paragraph 2 of Act IX, Class II, 2007 anent Assistantships to read as follows: Such application shall only be considered from congregations which (1) are able to remit twice the Full Ministry Costs plus the appropriate Administration Levy; (2) are able to provide suitable accommodation and expenses for an Assistant Minister; and (3) have met their annual commitment to central funds in each of the previous three years, or where there has been a shortfall, can show that this has been due to exceptional circumstances to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.
3. An application for the appointment of an Assistant Minister in terms of this Act shall be by means of a Petition from the Presbytery presented to the General Assembly through the Committee on Sustentation and Ministry. The Committee shall only transmit such a Petition after scrutiny and approval of a special Sustentation Schedule.
4. Such a Schedule shall give adequate information so as to satisfy the Committee as to the suitability of the accommodation to be provided for and the expenses to be paid to the Assistant Minister by the congregation, and the nature of his proposed duties.
5. Upon the granting of an application by the General Assembly the Presbytery shall consult with the congregation concerned and process an invitation from them as though it were a Call and upon its acceptance make the requisite arrangements for the ordination/induction of the appointee to the assistantship and to a seat in the Presbytery.
6. The appointee shall be instructed by the minister who shall consult with the Kirk Session as regards the work to be undertaken by him. He shall have a seat in the Kirk Session and may preside in the absence of the Minister.

7. In the event of the General Assembly granting an application but no appointment being made within two years, the permission of the General Assembly will lapse and a fresh application will require to be made in accordance with 3) and 4) above. Such an application may be submitted, with accompanying Schedule, to the meeting of the Committee on Sustentation and Ministry in the March before the second General Assembly after the Assembly which granted the original application.

8. The appointment shall in the first instance be for three years, renewable by the Presbytery at the request of the Kirk Session, for a further period of three years. The permission of the General Assembly must be obtained for any extension beyond six years. In either case, renewal shall be dependent upon the congregation having met their commitment to central funds in each of the previous years where there has been an Assistant, or where there has been a shortfall, can show that this has been due to exceptional circumstances to the satisfaction of the Presbytery or the Sustentation and Ministry Committee as the case may be. In the former case the Presbytery shall advise the Committee of their decision.

9. At the date of expiry of the Assistant's appointment, he shall be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge and be paid at the rate of the Stipend for a period of six months from the date of the expiry of his appointment or until his induction to a charge, whichever is sooner.

10. Act IX, Class II, 2007 is hereby repealed.

Act XIX – Act terminating Church Extension Status for the Congregation of Cobham and Other Purposes
(No 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Cobham and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave to the extent that (1) they terminate the Church Extension status of the congregation; (2) they waive the irregularity in the appointment of the Congregational Meeting held on 4th November 2012; (3) they appoint Rev. David D. Miller to the congregation of Cobham in accordance with Act I, 2013, on the basis of a five-year terminable appointment according to Paragraph 3.4 of the said Act, and (4) that it be continuous with Mr Miller's original induction to the charge.

Act XX – Act renewing Church Extension status for the Congregation of St Andrews and authorising the Interim Ministerial Arrangements
(No 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: St. Andrews and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant the Congregation a third and final five-year term of Church Extension status according to the provisions of Act XXXVII, Class II, 1989 anent Church Extension Charges. They also approve the interim arrangements regarding the appointment of Rev. Paul Clarke under Paragraph 1.2 and 1.7 of Act X, Class II, 2006 anent Appointment and Employment of Presbytery Workers and Act XXVII, Class II, 1989 anent Church Extension Charges. They commend his ministry to the prayers of the Church.

Act XXI – Act anent Ministerial Arrangements for the Congregation of Sleat and Strath
(No 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, declare the appointment of Rev. Gordon Matheson to the congregation of Sleat and Strath to be a three-year terminable appointment according to the terms of Act XIV, 2013, and that it be continuous with his original induction to the charge.

**Act XXII – Act authorising the Appointment of Rev. Norman Mackay as a Church Planter
in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll**
(No 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly approve the joint initiative of the Home Missions Board and the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to commence a programme of evangelism and church planting in the Govan area of Glasgow. They authorise the appointment of Rev. Norman Mackay to the post of Church Planter in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll with particular responsibility for the Govan area. The General Assembly hereby release Rev. Norman MacKay from the pastoral charge of Falkirk Free Church and instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to induct him to the post of Church Planter with the Presbytery on a date not later than 31st July 2013, his pastoral relationship to his present congregation to subsist until he be actually inducted to the post as aforesaid. The appointment shall be according to the terms of the Act XV, 2013. Furthermore the General Assembly also instruct that Mr MacKay continue to receive his full stipend for three months from the date of his induction, the financial arrangements referred to in the aforementioned Act to become effective when that period has expired.

Act XXIII – Act renewing Church Extension status for the Congregation of Dunfermline
(No 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly grant the renewal of Church Extension status to the Congregation of Dunfermline under the ministry of Rev. Douglas Campbell for a second and final five-year term in accordance with Act XXVII, Class II, 1989.

Act XXIV – Act renewing Church Extension status for the Congregation of South Uist and Benbecula
(No 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, and the exceptional circumstances of the congregation recognised by the 2010 General Assembly, grant the renewal of Church Extension status to the Congregation of South Uist and Benbecula for a third and final five-year term in accordance with Act XXVII, Class II, 1989.

Act XXV – Act terminating the appointment of Rev. Ruairidh Maclean to the Redevelopment Charge of Harris and authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of a Report from the Home Missions Board regarding future ministerial arrangements in the Congregation
(No 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly note with regret the Home Mission Board's recommendations with regard to the Redevelopment charge of Harris. They terminate the appointment of Rev. R. Maclean with effect from 31st July 2013, and dissolve the pastoral tie from that date. They instruct that stipend be paid to Mr Maclean for a period of six months from that date or until such time as he receives a new appointment, whichever is sooner, on

the analogy of Act XXXIV, 1988, § 5.2.4. They thank Rev. Ruairidh and Mrs Peigi Maclean for their faithful efforts in the congregation and commend them to the prayers of the Church as they seek a new sphere of service. Furthermore, the General Assembly authorise the October 2013 Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of a Report from the Home Missions Board regarding future ministerial arrangements in the congregation of Harris.

Act XXVI – Act anent Ministerial arrangements for the Congregation of East Kilbride
(No 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, declare the appointment of Rev. I. Thomson to the congregation of East Kilbride to be a three-year terminable appointment according to the terms of Act XIV, 2013 and that his appointment be continuous with his original induction to the charge.

Act XXVII – Act authorising the Appointment of an Assistant Minister for the Free North Church, Inverness
(No 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant permission to the congregation of Free North, Inverness, to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, 2013, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2015.

Act XXVIII – Act anent Church Planting and Training of Church Planters
(No 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly commend the Home Missions Board for its efforts to bring forward Church planting initiatives throughout Scotland. To further facilitate the work of church planting, the General Assembly authorise the Board to: (1) liaise with the Board of Ministry to identify suitably gifted church planters and evangelists who are eager to bring the good news to communities with little or no gospel witness; (2) liaise with the College Board to develop training suitable to church planters and evangelists at the Free Church College; (3) co-operate with Porterbrook Scotland to train and equip men and women to support and spearhead church planting initiatives; (4) co-operate with 20 Schemes to consider ways in which the Home Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland can support and initiate church planting or revitalisation works in those areas of greatest social need in Scotland; and (5) report on its progress to the 2014 General Assembly.

Act XXIX – Act empowering the Commission of Assembly to dispose of a Report from the Home Missions Board regarding the Kirk Sessions for the Church Extension Charges of Dunfermline and St Andrews
(No 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly empower the Commission of Assembly at its meeting in October to take up and dispose of a Report from the Home Missions Board regarding the Kirk Session arrangements for the Church Extension Charges of Dunfermline and St Andrews.

Act XXX – Act empowering the Commission of Assembly to dispose of a Report from the Home Missions Board regarding the Appointment of an Assistant Minister for the Congregation of Dowanvale
(No 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly empower the Commission of Assembly of October 2013 to take up and dispose of a Report from the Home Missions Board with respect to an application through the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for renewal of permission for the congregation of Dowanvale to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, 2013.

Act XXXI – Act anent Potential Implications of the Forthcoming Independence Referendum
(No 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly instruct the Communications Committee, in consultation with appropriate bodies, to explore the potential implications which the forthcoming independence referendum might have in terms of 1) the Establishment Principle, and 2) the recognition and place of Christianity, the Committee to report to the 2014 Assembly.

Act XXXII - Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery
(No 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

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

Act XXXIII – Act granting a Seat in the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island to Rev. Dr Jack Whytock
(No 32 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island and grant its crave. They grant a seat on the Presbytery to Rev. Dr Jack Whytock for as long as he continues to reside within the Presbytery bounds when he is not lecturing at Dumisani Theological Institute, and order that his name be removed from the Register of Ministers available for Call.

Act XXXIV - Act anent Admission of Ministers and Probationers from other Churches
(No 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

The General Assembly amend Act XXXV, 2005, in the following terms:

1. Paragraph 3 shall be amended to read: *All applications shall be made on an official Schedule of Application drafted by the Board of Ministry and shall normally be accompanied by a certificate of good standing from the church or denomination with which the applicant is connected.*
2. Paragraph 4 shall be amended to read: *This Schedule shall be in two parts, 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 Board deems appropriate, this schedule shall require (a) that the applicant indicate his willingness to subscribe to the questions put to licentiates, these questions being incorporated in full in the Schedule; and (b) that the Presbytery state that they are satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a ministerial charge in the Free Church of Scotland.

3. Paragraph 5 shall be amended to read: *The Presbytery shall transmit the completed Schedule of Application to the Board of Ministry; and the Clerk of the Board, on receipt of the application, shall inform all Presbytery Clerks, stating the name and denominational affiliation of the minister concerned and advising them that the application will be disposed of by the General Assembly.*

4. Paragraph 6 shall be amended to read: *Before considering an application for admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, the Board shall (a) obtain a report from one of the Board's panel of medical examiners on the applicant's state of health and medical fitness for the ministry and (b) satisfy itself that the applicant has made appropriate disclosure in terms of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.*

5. Paragraph 7.1 shall be amended to read: *Assure itself that the minister is prepared to give an unqualified subscription to the Formula.*

6. A new paragraph 9: to take account of the possibility of retired/resigned ministers seeking admission to the Free Church shall be added in the following terms: *In cases where it is clear that the applicant – either because of his age or particular circumstances – is neither interested in or able to take up a charge in the Free Church, then the decision to require a medical certificate or to interview the applicant shall be at the discretion of the Board.*

The amended Act now reads:

The General Assembly, having regard to the need for clearly defined procedures with reference to the admission of Ministers or Probationers from other denominations, hereby ordain as follows:

1. Authority to grant any such application lies solely with the General Assembly.

2. All such applications must be made, in the first instance, 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.

3. All applications shall be made on an official Schedule of Application drafted by the Board of Ministry and shall normally be accompanied by a certificate of good standing from the church or denomination with which the applicant is connected.

4. This Schedule shall be in two parts, 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 Board deems appropriate, this schedule shall require (a) that the applicant indicate his willingness to subscribe to the questions put to licentiates, these questions being incorporated in full in the Schedule; and (b) that the Presbytery state that they are satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a ministerial charge in the Free Church of Scotland.

5. The Presbytery shall transmit the completed Schedule of Application to the Board of Ministry; and the Clerk of the Board, on receipt of the application, shall inform all Presbytery Clerks, stating the name and denominational affiliation of the minister concerned and advising them that the application shall be disposed of by the General Assembly.

6. Before considering an application for admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, the Board shall (a) obtain a report from one of the Board's panel of medical examiners on the applicant's state of health and medical fitness for the ministry and (b) satisfy itself that the applicant has made appropriate disclosure in terms of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force.

7. The Board shall arrange to interview the applicant. Through this interview the Board shall:

- 7.1 assure itself that the minister is prepared to give an unqualified subscription to the Formula;
- 7.2 satisfy itself that the minister's educational qualifications and professional training are comparable to those required of applicants for Licence by the Free Church of Scotland;
- 7.3 ensure that the minister has such a knowledge of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland as to render him a competent person to act as Moderator of a Kirk Session and to assume the responsibilities which normally fall upon Free Church ministers in the courts of the Church;
- 7.4 ascertain that the minister is fully committed to maintaining the peace and unity of this Church and does not hold opinions or follow practices likely to be divisive.
8. The Board, having interviewed the applicant and considered all aspects of the application including the medical report) shall forward the Application Schedule to the Assembly Clerk together with an Extract Minute detailing the Committee's recommendation in relation to the application.
9. In cases where it is clear that the applicant – either because of his age or particular circumstances – is neither interested in or able to take up a charge in the Free Church, then the decision to require a medical certificate or to interview the applicant shall be at the discretion of the Board.

Act XXXV – Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of Applications from Ministers or Probationers for Admission to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
(No 34 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

The General Assembly, in view of the on-going uncertainty of the church scene in Scotland at present, waive the requirement of Act XXXV, 2005, that authority to grant admission to ministers of other denominations lies solely with the General Assembly and empower the Commission of Assembly at its meetings before the General Assembly of 2014, to receive and dispose of any such applications seeking admission to the Free Church ministry duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry.

Act XXXVI – Act conferring the title of Professor-Emeritus upon Principal John L. Mackay
(No 35 Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

The General Assembly receive with regret the retirement of Professor John L. Mackay from the chair of Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology at the Free Church College and his resignation as Principal, both with effect from 30th June 2013. They sincerely thank him for his outstanding contribution to the College as Principal and as Professor of Old Testament for over 30 years and pray that the Lord will continue to use him to the glory of His kingdom. They confer on Professor Mackay the designation Professor-Emeritus as from the date of his retirement.

Act XXXVII – Act anent Preparations for Replacement of Teaching Staff in the Free Church College
(No 36 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

The General Assembly instruct the College Board to explore ways of planning ahead to make provision for the replacement of teaching staff who intimate their intention to leave or retire.

Act XXXVIII - Act anent Review of Strategy for the Future of the Free Church College and other Matters
(No 37 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

1. The General Assembly, whilst insisting that the theological basis, content and ethos of the College remain resolutely bound to the Westminster Confession of Faith, approve in principle the expansionist strategy being proposed in this report and authorise the College Board to take steps to present suitable amended legislation to the 2014 General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly approve of the recommendation to change the name of the Free Church College to “Edinburgh Theological Seminary” and direct the College Board to bring suitable draft proposals to this effect to the 2014 General Assembly. Before doing so however, the Board is directed to ensure that such change does not jeopardise the current status of the College, particularly with respect to the UK Border Agency or Glasgow University.
3. The General Assembly instruct the College Board to conduct a review of legislation which appoints full-time and part-time teaching staff, most notably to make provision for appointing staff from out-with the Free Church. The Board is directed to explore how the College may interact with disciplinary procedures in other denominations so as to safeguard the College’s doctrinal integrity. Furthermore the Board is directed to bring proposals to give effect to these changes to the 2014 General Assembly.
4. The General Assembly authorise the College Board to formulate legislation for presentation to the 2014 General Assembly so as to permit up to three individuals from other likeminded denominations to be co-opted to the College Board for a fixed term.
5. The General Assembly direct that in the event of either chair in Biblical Studies (that is, the New Testament chair, or the Old Testament chair) becoming vacant for a prolonged period, the remaining professor in Biblical Studies shall be recognised as the Course Organiser for the other Biblical Studies department.
6. The General Assembly declare that in the light of circumstances currently prevailing, the operation of Act XXV, 2000, shall be varied *ad interim* in respect of paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Act to permit appointment of part-time lecturers who are not office-bearers in the Free Church of Scotland, this variation to remain until superseded by decisions based on the report set out in paragraph 13 of the Deliverance. Specifically, the General Assembly direct that the second sentence of paragraph 3, Act XXV, 2000, be altered to read: “Nominees must be office-bearers in the Free Church of Scotland, or be office-bearers in another denomination which requires subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith, or be prepared to subscribe on a personal basis to the Westminster Confession of Faith, this last option to be organised by the College Board before any commitment is finalised. Further, the General Assembly declare that in paragraph 5, Act XXV, 2000, the provision embodied in the words “Except in cases requiring the express permission of the General Assembly” be suspended *ad interim*.

Act XXXIX – Act appointing Principal of the Free Church College
(No 38 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

1. The General Assembly receive Supplementary Report 2 of the College Board.
2. The General Assembly appoint a new Principal and decide what his role should involve for him.

3. The General Assembly, recognising the need for the appointment of a Principal in the Free Church College who will be devoted to shaping the vision of the College and championing greater flexibility of approach while marketing that vision, raising additional financial support and making the College attractive to a wider student base, appoint Rev. Iver Martin, minister at Stornoway, to the position of Principal while continuing in his present charge. This appointment shall be in terms of the current legislation, the term of appointment to be for an initial period of two years, the arrangement to be reviewed at the 2015 General Assembly. The General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of the Western Isles to liaise with the College Board, Mr Martin, the Kirk Session and the Deacons' Court in Stornoway, in respect of all associated practical arrangements.

Act XL – Act anent Arrangements for the Teaching of Old Testament in the Free Church College
(No 39 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013

1. The General Assembly, recognising the budget ceilings already approved for 2013, 2014 and 2015, and the moratorium imposed on centrally supported posts, declare that it would be inappropriate, at this time, to make a full-time, permanent appointment to the vacant Chair of Old Testament in the Free Church College. They instruct the College Board, as a matter of urgency, to liaise with the Course Organiser and the Senate in order to make temporary arrangements to cover this vacancy pending the receipt of a report by the working group to be set up by the Board of Trustees to set out the ways in which the Church should frame its activities in order to deliver within the budgetary ceilings.

2. The General Assembly instruct the College Board to report to the Commission of Assembly at its meeting in October 2013 with regard to the implementation of such arrangements. The General Assembly authorise the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of any report from the College Board relating to these arrangements.

Act XLI – Act anent Review of Procedures for Filling Vacancies on Boards and Committees
(No 40 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 2013

The General Assembly instruct the Nominations Committee to carry out a review of all procedures for requesting and receiving submissions from Presbytery with recommendations to fill vacancies on Boards and Committee. They further instruct the Committee to report back to the 2014 General Assembly with its findings.

Act XLII – Act anent Membership of the Ecumenical Relations Committee
(No 41 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 2013

The General Assembly approve the recommendation of the Nominations Committee that the membership of the Ecumenical Relations Committee be increased from a total of eight to a total of ten. They revise Paragraph 1.7 of Act XXIV, Class II, 2007 anent Modification of Committee Structures as amended by Act IV, Class II, 2008, as follows:

Membership: Ten members in total, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee for a four year term, comprising the Moderator and previous Moderator of the General Assembly, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Home Missions Board and of the International Missions Board as appointed by the said Boards, the Principal Clerk of Assembly, and five additional members, at least two of whom should be elders, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee for a four-year term. The Committee shall have powers to appoint a Vice-Convenor, an executive and sub-committees from its own membership. The quorum shall be three members of the Committee.

Act XLIII - Act anent Membership of the Committee on Church Practice and Procedure
(No 42 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2013
Edinburgh, 24th May 2013

1. The General Assembly agreed to increase the membership of the Committee on Church Practice and Procedure to six by appointing two additional members.
2. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Malcolm Macleod and Rev. Gordon Matheson to the Committee on Church Practice and Procedure.

Act XLIV – Act anent Membership of the Special Committee on Praise
(No 43 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2013
Edinburgh, 24th May 2013

1. The General Assembly resolve to appoint one new member to the Special Committee on Praise.
2. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Ivor MacDonald to the Committee.

Act XLV – Act appointing the Commission of Assembly
(No 44 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 2013

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. James Maciver, 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.

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 further, in view of unresolved matters anent the Free Church Continuing, including legal processes, the occupation of property, the retention of other assets, and frozen bank accounts, the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all steps necessary and proper to take in the interests of the Church in connection with these matters, and declare that meetings of the Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all such matters which may arise, provided always that notice of proposals in terms of this empowerment shall be sent to commissioners at least ten days before the Commission is to convene, this requirement not implying any curtailment of amendment to such proposals.

And further, the said Commission are hereby particularly empowered to take up and dispose of Reports from the Home Missions Board (1) regarding future ministerial arrangements for the congregation of Harris; (2) with respect to an application through the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for renewal of permission to appoint an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Downvale; and (3) with respect to the Kirk Session arrangements for the Church Extension Charges of Dunfermline and St Andrews; to receive a report from the College Board

relating to the temporary arrangements for the chair of Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology; to receive a report from the Presbytery of the Western Isles anent arrangements for the Principalship of the Free Church College; to take up and dispose of a Petition from the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross relating to the consolidation of congregations in Lochaber together with any financial implications arising therefrom; and to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks anent the records of the Synod of North America and the Psalmody Committee.

And in addition the Commission are hereby authorised to receive and dispose of applications duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry from ministers of other denominations seeking admission to the Free Church ministry; and to receive and dispose of applications through Presbyteries from any congregation wishing to join the Free Church of Scotland; and further 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.

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 XLVI – Act appointing the General Assembly of 2014
(No 45 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 24th May 2013

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on 19th May 2014 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act I – Act creating a Team Ministry for the North East Congregations of Glasgow

Edinburgh, 3rd October 2012

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXI, 2012, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: North East Glasgow Team Ministry.

The Commission of Assembly waive the absence of the following extract minutes: Kirk Sessions and Deacons' Courts of Bishopbriggs, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Lennoxton, prior to the congregational meetings held in these congregations.

Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they enact that the Team Ministry Act (Act I, Class I, 2011) be applied to the congregations of Bishopbriggs, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Lennoxton, on condition that the Home Missions Board receive a Sustentation Fund Schedule for each congregation in the Plan together with a composite Schedule showing the combined financial commitment of the congregations for the five years of the Team Ministry Plan in time for the Board's December meeting.

They further authorise the Board to initiate the implementation of the Team Ministry in these congregations on approval of the outstanding documents.

Furthermore they instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to ensure that the Sustentation Schedules together with the outstanding supporting extracts are submitted to the Board in time for their December meeting.

Act II – Act dissolving the Union between the Congregation of Campbeltown and the Congregation of Tarbert and Islay and uniting the latter Congregation with the Congregation of Lochgilhead and Lochfyneside, and Other Purposes

4th October 2012

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXX, 2012, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Strategy for Argyll and noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave to the extent that:

1. They dissolve the union between the congregation of Campbeltown and the congregation of Tarbert and Islay and repeal Act XXIV, 2000;
2. They unite the congregation of Lochgilhead and Lochfyneside with the remanent congregation of Tarbert and Islay, the united congregation to have one Kirk Session and two Finance Committees, the union to take place on a date fixed by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll not later than 31st December 2012;
3. They direct that public worship be conducted in both parts of the united congregation weekly, the timing of such services to be subject to approval by the Presbytery;
4. In view of the fact that the combined 2011 remittances of the new united charge were £20,400, significantly below the level required to meet the costs of ministry, they direct that a further Sustentation Fund Schedule be submitted by the united charge to the Home Missions Board before proceeding to call a minister;
5. They direct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for the provision of a Manse for the united congregation;
6. They reduce the remanent congregation of Campbeltown to the status of a Preaching-Station under the pastoral care of the Kirk-Session of Glasgow City in accordance with Act XIII, 1863;
7. They direct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to ensure that the funds and assets belonging to the united congregation of Campbeltown, Tarbert and Islay are allocated in a fair and equitable manner between the two congregations when they are disjoined;
8. The Commission of Assembly waive the absence of the following extract minutes: the two existing Kirk Sessions and the three existing Finance Committees, prior to the congregational meetings held in these congregations.
9. Furthermore they instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to ensure that the outstanding supporting extracts are submitted to the Home Missions Board for their December meeting.

Act III – Act admitting Rev. Paul Gibson to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

4th October 2012

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Paul Gibson, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland with effect from his signing the Formula under the supervision of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.
2. The Commission of Assembly charge the Board of Ministry to ensure that, prior to signing the Formula, Mr Gibson submits two essays on 19th century church history under the supervision of the College

Senate to the satisfaction of the Professor of Church Principles. Upon such satisfaction of the said requirements the Board is to issue a certificate to that effect to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, upon receipt of the notification in 2. above, to make arrangements for Mr Gibson to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Gibson has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act IV – Act admitting Rev. Roderick Morrison to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

4th October 2012

1. The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XL, 2012, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles and grant its crave.
2. The Commission of Assembly, recognising the circumstances of the application are unusual in that the Applicant is not seeking a ministerial appointment in the Free Church of Scotland but merely the status and position of a retired minister, in this case waive the requirements of Act XXXV, 2005, that all applications for admission submit an Official Schedule of Application to the Presbytery through which they apply and to the Board of Ministry.
3. The Commission of Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit Rev. Roderick Morrison as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland with effect from his signing the Formula under the supervision of the Presbytery of the Western Isles.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct that on his signing the Formula, Mr Morrison's name be added to the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers in accordance with Act XXXIV, 2012, and that the Clerk of Assembly be advised accordingly.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act V – Act anent Examination of Records

4th October 2012

1. The Commission of Assembly receive and adopt the report of the Clerks and thank the Clerks.
2. The Commission of Assembly, noting that the Records of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross had been examined and found to be correct in form and substance, instruct that these records be attested.
3. The General Assembly instruct the Assembly Clerks to locate and examine the records of the Committee on Church Practice and Procedure and report to the next Commission of Assembly.