

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY

2014

CLASS I – ACTS THAT HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

CLASS II – ACTS THAT ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

1. Act anent arrangements for the General Assembly of 2015
2. Act revising the Quorum for the Commission of Assembly
3. Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen
4. Act anent the Stipend and Related Salaries
5. Act anent Establishment of the Development Fund
6. Act anent Modification of the Structure of Boards and Committees
7. Act anent Compliance and Risk Management
8. Act anent Procedure for the Admission of Congregations from other Presbyterian Churches
9. Act anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds
10. Act reappointing the Judicial Commission
11. Act reappointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery
12. Act anent Reimbursement of Travel Expenses
13. Act anent Alternative Ministerial arrangements
14. Act anent Asian Outreach Work in Glasgow
15. Act anent Ministerial Arrangements in East Sutherland and authorising an Alternative Ministry in the Congregation of Golspie
16. Act anent Ministerial Arrangements for the Church Extension Charge of Dunfermline
17. Act anent Ministerial Arrangements for the Redevelopment Charge of Elgin and Forres
18. Act anent Appointment of an Assistant Minister to the Congregation of St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh
19. Act anent Appointment of an Assistant Minister to the Congregation of Greyfriars-Stratherrick Free Church, Inverness
20. Act appointing an Assistant Minister to the Congregation of Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan Free Church
21. Act renewing the Appointment of Rev. Murdo Macleod as Assistant Minister of the congregation of Smithton-Culloden and Nairn Free Church
22. Act anent Appointment of Ministers to Centrally Supported Congregations
23. Act appointing Mr Clive Bailey as Camps Supervisor
24. Act changing the name of the Free Church of Scotland College to Edinburgh Theological Seminary
25. Act changing the Name of the College Board to Seminary Board
26. Act anent Staffing Arrangements for Edinburgh Theological Seminary and the Status of Rev. Daniel Sladek
27. Act uniting the Congregation of Tarbat with the Congregation of Tain and Fearn
28. Act anent Synods
29. Act anent Requirements for the Licensing of Mr Joe Barnard
30. Act anent Requirements for the Licensing of Mr David Kirk
31. Act anent Requirements for the Licensing of Mr Andrew Longwe
32. Act anent Modified Courses for Applicants to the Ministry who have completed Degree Level Theological Studies
33. Act anent Requirements for Applications from Ministers for Admission to the Free Church Ministry
34. Act anent Proposals to dissolve the Synod of North America and to unite the Constituent Presbyteries
35. Act granting a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to Rev. Colin Macleod
36. Act renewing Mr James Fraser's Term of Appointment as Chairman of the Board of Trustees
37. Act appointing the Commission of Assembly
38. Act appointing next General Assembly

ACTS OF COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

1. Act admitting Rev. David Court to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
2. Act admitting Rev. David S. Randall to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
3. Act admitting Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
4. Act authorising the Church Extension of Dunfermline to appoint its own Kirk Session
5. Act authorising the Church Extension Charge of St Andrews to appoint its own Kirk Session

6. Act uniting the Congregation of Kilmallie with the Congregation of Ardnamurchan, Acharacle and Strontian
7. Act renewing Permission for the Congregation of Downvale Free Church, Glasgow, to appoint an Assistant Minister
8. Act appointing Rev. Daniel Sladek as Lecturer in Old Testament, Exegesis and Theology in the Free Church College and other purposes
9. Act anent Release of Funds
10. Act admitting Rev. Michael Braeutigam to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
11. Act admitting Rev. Paul Clarke to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
12. Act admitting Rev. Ian Watson to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
13. Act anent Sale of Property

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

CLASS I – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

CLASS II – ACTS THAT ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

Act I - Act anent arrangements for the General Assembly of 2015
(No 1 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 19th May 2014

The General Assembly authorise the Assembly Clerks to make arrangements for the 2015 General Assembly to meet over three whole days, the evenings to involve shorter business sessions and to include worship items. The General Assembly approve the Committee's recommendation that invitations to other Churches and organisations to send representatives be issued only every third year, phased over a three-year period so that representatives do not all attend in the same year. They also authorise the Clerks to examine how more powers may be given to the Commission of Assembly and report to the next General Assembly.

Act II - Act revising the Quorum for the Commission of Assembly
(No 2 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

The General Assembly declare that as of this Assembly the quorum for meetings of the Commission of Assembly be twelve commissioners at least four of which must be ministers.

Act III – Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen
(No 3 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

May it please Your Majesty

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly the 19th day of May 2014, 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 continue in good health and strength, and faithfully and graciously engage in your considerable duties of state.

We also commend to the grace of God all the members of the Royal Family, 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 a worthy example to the nation.

We pray for Your Majesty's Ministers and Government, and Members of Parliament, in Westminster, Edinburgh and Brussels, that they may be given all the grace, wisdom and strength needed for 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 serve for the good of all Your Majesty's subjects.

With the forthcoming sporting events of 'Glasgow 2014' we are reminded of the bonds we have, and that are highly valued by Your Majesty, through the Commonwealth, for wider horizons and mutual benefit. In this regard we also give thanks for the success of the recent tour of New Zealand and Australia by the Earl and Countess of Strathearn and their son, Prince George.

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 continue to remember that in the present economic circumstances many of your subjects (including a great number of school-leavers and young people) still suffer hardship and poverty and are unable to find regular or full employment. It is once more our prayer that Almighty God will have mercy on our beloved land so that all who are able will have the opportunity to earn their livelihood without the necessity for state benefits.

We also bring the members of Your Majesty's Armed Forces to God in prayer, especially those who have been engaged to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan, thankful that it is now possible for many of them to be brought home again. We commend to the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort those who have lost loved ones in that conflict and those who carry in mind and body the scars from hurts suffered 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. We wish your son and his wife, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, blessing in all their service.

While we appreciate and share in the great diversity of race and culture of our nation, we are thankful 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 historic Reformed faith 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 the Stipend and Related Salaries
(No 4 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £21,500 from 1st January 2014. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

Act V - Act anent Establishment of the Development Fund
(No 5 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

The General Assembly support the proposal to establish a Development Fund utilising a portion of the funds allocated for home mission to be distributed by the Home Missions Board in accordance with its strategy for the promotion of ministry and mission. They instruct the Home Missions Board to move towards a system whereby support is provided to Presbyteries and congregations via time-limited funding from the Development Fund rather in the form of long term subsidy.

The General Assembly endorse the Board's view that Presbyteries should hold primary responsibility for issues relating to congregational ministry within their bounds. They recognize, however, that during a period of transition as envisaged by the movement away from long term central support, some Presbyteries will need additional support from the Home Missions Board in the short term.

Act VI - Act anent Modification of the Structure of Boards and Committees

(No 6 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2014

1. The General Assembly endorse the proposals relating to the modification of its committee structure contained in the report of the Board of Trustees. They enact that from May 2014 the work of the Assembly between their meetings shall be prosecuted by the following committees and boards:

1.1 **Board of Trustees** to discharge the functions of the Board of Trustees as presently constituted; to continue to have members of the Board appointed as directors of the Free Church of Scotland General Trustees' Limited; and to assume oversight of an **Executive Office** comprising the following functions:

1.1.1 **Administrative Office** to monitor and prepare regular reports on financial performance; to oversee the annual budgeting process; to keep under review matters of legal compliance and risk management; and to provide general administrative support to the Church.

The Board shall receive regular reports on financial performance, legal compliance and risk management from the Administrative Office and shall allocate time within its meetings for consideration of these.

1.1.2 **Assembly Clerks' Office** to make all arrangements for the General Assembly and perform any other functions presently discharged by the Assembly Arrangements Committee reporting directly to the General Assembly in relation to matters connected with the conduct of business at meetings of the General Assembly or meetings of the Commission of Assembly; to receive nominations from Presbyteries for vacancies on committees and boards when they occur, and, following consultation with the relevant committee or board, to make recommendations from these submissions, through the Board, to the General Assembly; to advise on matters of Church practice and procedure in light of the rules and procedures laid down in *The Practice* and in Church legislation and to initiate reviews of the practice or procedures of the Church where these might benefit from modification; to maintain formal relationships with other churches and ecclesiastical bodies; and, in the case of the Principal Clerk of Assembly, to act as Custodian of Titles.

Any proposals from the Assembly Clerks' Office to modify Church practice or procedures shall be reported to the General Assembly through the Board. The Assembly Clerks' Office shall be at liberty to enlist additional assistance as required, and at its discretion, to assist with the fulfilment of the various aspects of its remit.

1.1.3 **Media Office** to manage relationships with the media, acting as the primary contact point for media enquiries and sourcing comment from appropriate personnel within the Church; to exercise oversight of the Church's website including matters of design and content and similarly to oversee and develop the Church's social media presence; to oversee denominational publications; to identify issues of contemporary interest and importance, develop position papers on such issues and communicate the same effectively to internal and external audiences; and, more generally, to facilitate the flow of information around the Church with a view to stimulating interest and involvement in the Church's work.

1.1.4 *Membership*: Thirteen members in total including the Principal Clerk of Assembly *ex officio*. The remaining membership shall comprise at least four ministers and at least six elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The General Assembly shall appoint one of the Board, who shall always be an elder, as Chairman, for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three trustees.

1.2 **Board of Ministry** to discharge the functions of the Board of Ministry as presently constituted; to assume oversight of matters relating to the working conditions of ministers and other personnel, excluding those connected with the Free Church Offices and the Free Church College; to work with Presbyteries in seeking to

further equip ministers and others in areas such as mentoring, leadership and management skills; to consult with Presbyteries and the missions boards in assessing and specifying training needs for ministry candidates in the areas of knowledge, skills and character and to develop appropriate delivery mechanisms prior to, during, and following a formal academic training programme; and to assume responsibility for issues currently remitted to the Panel of Pastoral Advice.

1.2.1 With reference to the provision of pastoral care and advice, the Board of Ministry shall be at liberty to enlist such additional expertise from around the Church as might be required to deal with situations as they arise.

1.2.2 The Student Finance Scheme shall be overseen by the Board of Ministry in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer.

1.2.3 *Membership:* Eight members in total including one member of the College Senate appointed annually by them on an *ex officio* basis. The remaining membership shall comprise three ministers and four elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

1.3 **Home Missions Board** to discharge the functions of the Home Missions Board as presently constituted and to assume responsibility for developing appropriate denominational partnerships as well as partnerships with other organisations and agencies in order to enhance the Church's ability to reach out with the Gospel.

1.3.1 *Membership:* Eight members in total comprising four ministers and four elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

1.4 **International Missions Board** to discharge the functions of the International Missions Board as presently constituted and to assume responsibility for developing appropriate partnerships with overseas denominations, as well as partnerships with other organisations and agencies, in order to enhance the Church's ability to reach out with the Gospel.

1.4.1 *Membership:* Eight members in total comprising four ministers and four elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

1.5 **College Board** to discharge the functions of the College Board as presently constituted.

1.5.1 *Membership:* Nine members including the College Principal, one member of the College Senate, the Chairman of the Board of Ministry and the President of the Students' Representative Council, all *ex officio*. The remaining membership shall comprise two elders and three ministers appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. Elders appointed to the College Board shall have suitable qualifications or experience in education, preferably tertiary education, or in the administration or promotion of education. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall not be a member of the College Senate. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.

1.6 **Psalmody and Praise Committee** to discharge the combined functions of the Psalmody Committee and the Special Committee on Praise.

1.6.1 *Membership:* Six members in total comprising at least two ministers and at least two elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Convener shall be appointed from the membership of the Committee by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Committee.

2. The General Assembly hereby repeal Act XLVIII, 2008, and all other Acts bearing on the structures, remits and powers of Committees and Boards insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act. They direct that Standing Orders be amended in terms of this Act with immediate effect.

3. The General Assembly direct that the termination of the appointment of any member of the Boards and Committees specified above in 1.1-1.6, by death, resignation or discipline, shall be reported as soon as possible after the event to the Assembly Clerks' Office. Upon notification, the Assembly Clerks' Office, in consultation with the relevant Board or Committee, shall proceed to appoint a replacement who shall serve until the ensuing General Assembly at which the relevant Board or Committee shall report on the same.

4. The General Assembly endorse the view of the Board of Trustees that the functions of the Home and International Missions Boards should be combined under a single Missions Board. Recognising the practical issues involved in effecting an immediate unification of the boards, they ordain that the Missions Board shall come into effect following the 2015 General Assembly. In the meantime, they instruct the Home and International Missions Boards to consult with one another over the practical arrangements for their unification and to establish a joint strategy forum aimed at bringing greater coherence to the overall mission strategy of the Church. If, in the course of their consultation, substantive issues arise that would suggest that unification of the boards would not be possible, these should be reported to the Board of Trustees by the end of February 2015 in order that the Board might reflect on these and report to the General Assembly accordingly.

5. The General Assembly declare that Presbyteries may nominate elders and ministers from other Presbyteries to fill vacancies on Boards and Committees when there is a shortage of eligible and available nominees within their own bounds. The General Assembly, noting the above declaration, amend Paragraph 2 of Act XLVIII, Class II, 2008 as follows: The Committee when seeking nominations from Presbyteries shall outline for their information the skills and expertise expected of nominees for each vacancy. Presbyteries shall normally nominate candidates from within their own bounds. When there is a local shortage of available and eligible ministers and elders, Presbyteries may nominate candidates from outwith their own bounds. If a Presbytery is unable to identify a suitable candidate, the Assembly Clerks' Office shall arrange to fill such a vacancy from elsewhere. Appointments made in these cases shall exist for the duration of the term of service specified, unless terminated by death, resignation, translation to another Presbytery or discipline. Presbyteries are directed to ensure that nominees are available, willing and able to serve *before* submitting their names.

6. In accordance with Act XXIV, 2003, paragraph 5, a minister shall not normally be nominated to serve on any Assembly Board or Committee during the first three years of his ministry. This restriction shall also apply to ministers newly admitted to the Free Church from other denominations.

7. In all cases, a person serving a full term on any Committee or Board specified in this Act shall not be eligible for nomination to any Committee or Board until at least one year has elapsed from the date at which the full term of appointment ended.

8. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act, the Assembly Clerks' Office shall, in consultation with Committees and Boards, appoint clerks and secretaries in accordance with Act III, 2001.

9. Uninterrupted absence from meetings by any member of a Committee or Board during the period from the General Assembly to 31st December in any calendar year, without good reason given by him and sustained by the relevant Committee or Board, shall be considered a resignation of his membership of that Committee or Board, who shall inform the Assembly Clerks' Office accordingly before 31st January of the ensuing year. Upon notification the Assembly Clerks' Office shall proceed to appoint a replacement who shall serve until the ensuing General Assembly at which the Clerks shall report on the same.

10. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to develop Memoranda of Procedures for each Board and Committee appointed by this Act. This shall include the detailed remit of the Board or Committee, duties and powers of Conveners and Clerks, a timetable of meetings and an outline of proceedings of meetings. The General Assembly instruct each Board and Committee to ensure that all such Memoranda are reviewed annually and made available to members of the relevant Board or Committee at the first meeting after the General Assembly.

11. The Assembly Clerks' Office shall consider in October annually impending vacancies to Committees and Boards due at the ensuing General Assembly. After this meeting, and not later than 31st October, the Assembly Clerk shall notify Presbyteries, indicating the vacancies which require nomination from within their bounds, as well as the skills required for these positions and inviting them to submit names of suitably qualified personnel by 31st December. Not later than 15th March the Assembly Clerks' Office shall formulate its Report to the ensuing General Assembly giving due consideration to these submissions and any other matters affecting Committee and Board appointments.

12. The General Assembly ordain that, with the exception of the Board of Trustees and the Psalmody and Praise Committee, each Committee and Board referred to in 1.1-1.6 above shall hold three statutory meetings per annum, with the liberty to arrange additional meetings as required.

13. The General Assembly encourage all committees and boards to consider the practical arrangements for their meetings with a particular view to increasing the possibility of attendance for prospective members in full-time employment. Such considerations could include the timing of meetings and the increased use of video or telephone conferencing.

14. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to consider options for involving the diaconate and other non-ordained members of the Church in the work of the Standing Committees and to bring forward proposals in this regard to the 2015 General Assembly.

15. The General Assembly advise that discretionary expenditure incurred in relation to the arrangements for the General Assembly and in attending ecumenical events and conferences follow the practice of 'best value'. They instruct the Assembly Clerks' Office and the Home and International Missions Boards to allocate expenditure to the areas which are considered essential.

Act VII - Act anent Compliance and Risk Management
(No 7 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

1. The General Assembly instruct any congregation, committee or board to make early contact with the Church's Compliance Officer for advice when considering employing any person from outside the European Union, whether in a paid or unpaid role and regardless of the length of stay.

2. The General Assembly instruct all congregations to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PVG Scheme, seeking advice from the Church's Compliance Officer where necessary. In particular, they instruct Kirk Sessions to take the necessary steps to arrange for the retrospective checking of all existing workers (including volunteers) within the required timeframe.

3. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to keep developments in relation to safeguarding matters under review and to provide support to congregations in implementation of the Policy and Guidelines.

4. The General Assembly note the Board's conclusion that there is no inherent need for Presbyteries to register with OSCR as separate charities. They remind Presbyteries that they should ensure the adequacy of insurance cover when employing individuals and carrying out activities. They further remind Presbyteries that any contractual arrangements into which they enter must not bind the central church in any way.

**Act VIII - Act anent Procedure for the Admission of Congregations
from other Presbyterian Churches**
(No 8 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

The General Assembly approve the policy for the admission of congregations from Presbyterian denominations set out in the specifications below. They authorise the Board to make such amendments or additions to the policy as may be required from time to time, with the exception of those specifications relating to legislation governing the following: (a) office in the Free Church (Minister, Elder and Deacon), including election procedures; (b) calls to ministers; (c) communicant membership; (d) the final admission of congregations and ministers; (e) charity registration, property and trusteeship.

POLICY FOR THE ADMISSION OF CONGREGATIONS

1. Introduction

1. Background It has become desirable and necessary that a policy be provided setting out the main points of procedure to be followed in cases of congregations from Presbyterian

denominations, or proportions thereof (included in all following references to congregations) wishing to be received into the Free Church of Scotland. This should be distinguished from the process by which individuals from other denominations wish to join a congregation of the Free Church.

2. Options There are two avenues presently available to congregations wishing to become Free Church congregations:
- a) The first is where a congregation for various good reasons does not wish to join the Free Church immediately on disjunction from their existing denomination and prefers to be associated with the Free Church meantime. This gives a congregation time to make adjustments and make further planning before becoming fully integrated into the Free Church.
 - b) The second is where a congregation wishes to become a Free Church congregation as soon as possible after disjoining from their existing denomination without a period of association.
3. Congregations and Minister applying Account needs to be taken of the situation in which both a congregation and its minister wish to join the Free Church. In this case the congregation's route of application will be separate from that of the minister who is required to apply to join the Free Church ministry on his own behalf. His application will be to the General Assembly or a duly authorised Commission of Assembly, whichever is the more appropriate, through the local Free Church Presbytery and the Board of Ministry. It may be possible to continue his ministry to his existing congregation during a period of association subsequent to his being received into the Free Church ministry (see 2.7 below).
4. Property and other Assets in Dispute While dispute over property or other assets need not preclude congregations from beginning a process to join the Free Church, the Free Church will not meet any legal or other costs associated with such disputes and will not be responsible for dealing with any repercussions arising therefrom. Congregations should be advised that where such disputes exist their application must follow the route in Option 2 below.
5. Appeal The right of such appeals as are approved in Free Church procedure is preserved in relation to all applications specified in both options below. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the General Assembly in regard to all applications.

2. The Associated Congregation Option

1. Requirement A congregation wishing to be admitted to the Free Church of Scotland, but not immediately on disjunction from their existing denomination, shall be required to associate with a Free Church congregation (hereafter referred to as "sister congregation") within the local Presbytery of the Free Church (hereafter called "the Presbytery").
2. Process of Application for Associate status The application to associate shall be brought to the Presbytery via the Kirk Session of an existing Free Church congregation, with a recommendation as to which congregation within the bounds shall form the sister congregation. The final decision on which congregation shall form the sister congregation shall rest with the Presbytery. The sister congregation must not be a vacant congregation. It shall not be necessary for the formal disjunction to have been concluded for the Presbytery to consider and come to a finding over an application. The Presbytery, having decided upon the sister congregation, shall record the same in their records and shall inform the Home Missions Board.
3. Intent Adoption by Presbytery of a congregation to associate status shall be regarded by the Presbytery as an indication of intent by the associated congregation to apply for formal establishment as a Free Church congregation as soon as deemed appropriate by the associated congregation, its sister congregation and the Presbytery. The associated congregation and the sister congregation shall endeavour to restrict the period of association to 18 months after which it will be expected that the associated congregation will be in a position to apply for formal status as a Free Church

congregation in its own right, subject to all the conditions applicable to existing Free Church congregations (see 2.12 below for procedure). In all cases where an associated congregation is not in a position to apply for full status after 18 months this shall be reported by the Presbytery to the General Assembly or Commission through the Home Missions Board.

4. Elders
Those men who were *bona fide* acting elders prior to the associated congregation's disjunction may continue to exercise pastoral oversight and care of the associated congregation during the period of association. It is advisable that they be allowed to attend meetings of the sister congregation's Kirk Session, particularly when pastoral matters relating to the association are to be discussed. It would also be beneficial if the local Presbytery were to make arrangements to familiarise them with matters of immediate application to eldership in the Free Church during the period of association. They may be elected as *bona fide* acting elders by the associate communicant members (as described in 6 below) on the Roll, in the first instance under the supervision of the sister congregation's Kirk Session and in terms of the procedure stated in *The Practice*, (Chapter 1, Part II, § 3) subsequent to the congregation being formally established as a Free Church congregation. All those elected as elders must answer the Questions put to elders and deacons before ordination and after ordination subscribe the Formula used in the Free Church of Scotland.
5. Deacons Court or Finance Committee or Similar
Those who formed a Finance Committee, or similar body, prior to the associated congregation's disjunction may continue to administer and oversee the fabric and finance of the associated congregation during the period of association. It is advisable that they be allowed to attend meetings of the sister congregation's Deacons' Court or Finance Committee, particularly when matters relating to fabric and finance are to be discussed. The communicant members may elect men as Deacons, in the first instance under the supervision of the sister congregation's Kirk Session, subsequent to the congregation becoming a formally established Free Church congregation. All those elected as deacons must answer the Questions put to elders and deacons before ordination and after ordination subscribe the Formula used in the Free Church of Scotland.
6. Communicants
During the period of association the communicants of the associated congregation shall be listed on the Communicants' Roll of the sister congregation as "associate communicant members", under the jurisdiction of the sister congregation's Kirk Session, but they shall be regarded as communicant members of the associated congregation. While associated they shall not be eligible to vote in any procedures of the sister congregation requiring a vote by the communicant members.
7. Continued Ministry
If the minister of an associated congregation has also been accepted into the Free Church ministry he shall be eligible for appointment by the sister congregation as "Church Planter", or in some similar designation, to the associated congregation and thus continue his ministry to the associated congregation. The minister's name shall continue to appear on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call. This arrangement shall at all times be subject to the sister congregation providing a written undertaking to the Home Missions Board that all stipend and related costs incurred in connection with the continued ministry in the associated congregation will be met from its congregational funds, these now incorporating the funds of the associated congregation.
8. Minister's relationship to local Presbytery
It is not possible for the minister, even if he be accepted into the Free Church ministry, to become a member of the local Presbytery while he remains with the associated congregation until the congregation has been established as a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. However, as an important part of the transitional process the minister ought to attend the local Presbytery where he should to be welcomed and encouraged to take a full part in discussions. He may be formally associated with the Presbytery (see *The Practice*, Chapter 1, Part II, § 3.1(12), for some or all of the meetings attended, which association shall not include

the right to vote. During this period he cannot be appointed moderator of Presbytery, Interim Moderator of a congregation, or convener of any Presbytery committee.

9. Preaching Station
A vacant associated congregation unable to submit the required level of finance to support a full ministry shall be classed as a "Preaching Station" under the immediate supervision of the sister congregation's Kirk Session and under the oversight of the local Presbytery, in accordance with Act XIII, 1863.
10. Calling a Minister
An associated congregation shall not be eligible to call a minister until such time as they are a formally established Free Church congregation, after which existing regulations for calling a minister shall apply.
11. Charity registration and Finance
During the period of association, the associated congregation shall operate under the oversight of the sister congregation and under its charity registration. Associated congregations, whether vacant or with a minister, shall administer their funds through the sister congregation's accounts, using designated or restricted funds as appropriate to retain separate visibility of their finances.
12. Application for Full Status
At the conclusion of a period of association, and provided the associated congregation has formally disjoined from its former denomination, the Presbytery may apply to the General Assembly or a duly authorised Commission of Assembly, through the Home Missions Board, for the congregation to become a formally established congregation of the Free Church. A financial schedule shall be submitted by the congregation to the Home Missions Board as part of their application for full status. The Home Missions Board shall consult with the Board of Trustees before passing the application to the Assembly for approval. No application shall be forwarded to the Assembly without the support of the Home Missions Board and the Board of Trustees. The Presbytery shall include a full report with an extract confirming the Presbytery's finding in support of the application, and the application shall state the name by which the congregation is to be known.

The Presbytery's report shall include reference to the following matters as pertinent to the congregation applying:

- The total number of regular worshippers disjoining;
- The number of communicants disjoining;
- The number of Elders among those disjoining;
- The number of Deacons (if any) among those disjoining;
- The number of Elders (and Deacons if relevant) willing to be elected to office under the terms which apply to the offices of Elder and Deacon in the Free Church of Scotland;
- The understanding of those disjoining as to the form of worship practised in the Free Church at the time of application;
- The level of income expected to be raised by those disjoining;
- The status and condition of assets belonging to, or used by, the disjoining congregation, including whether any of these may be subject to a dispute of ownership in relation to disjoining. Attention is drawn to 1.4 above and especially that congregations with assets in dispute may only follow the Associated Congregation option as detailed in 2 above.

The Presbytery shall be free to explore any other matters it may see as pertinent to the application. The report of Presbytery in support of an application shall include a report on these items.

In the case of a congregation with a minister as in 2.7 above, it shall be competent to include a request that he be retained as the minister of the formally established

congregation. The Presbytery shall provide an extract in support of the retention confirming the congregation's approval.

13. Charity registration, Property and Trustees
- Congregations admitted to the Free Church shall adopt the Constitution as embodied in Act XIII, 2007, of the General Assembly, and shall also take steps through their Deacons' Court to apply to OSCR for registration as a recognised Charity. The Deacons' Court shall also ensure that property trustees and charity trustees are elected as soon as possible. Property to which a congregation received into the Free Church has legal title shall be taken under the Model Trust Deed wherever possible. The Deacons' Court shall consult the Principal Clerk of Assembly so that he may ascertain whether there be any impediment to this and he shall advise the Deacons' Court accordingly.

3. The Immediate Application Option

1. Requirement
- A congregation wishing to be admitted to the Free Church of Scotland, immediately on disjunction from their existing denomination, shall be required to apply to the General Assembly or a duly authorised Commission of Assembly whichever is more appropriate, as set out in 3.2 and 3.3 below. It shall not be necessary for the formal disjunction to have been concluded for any Free Church congregation to engage in discussions with the local Presbytery towards joining the Free Church, but no congregation shall be admitted by the General Assembly or Commission until formal disjunction has been completed.

2. The Local Free Church Presbytery
- On being approached by a congregation which wishes to be admitted to the Free Church of Scotland the local Free Church Presbytery shall arrange in the first place to consult with those representatives of the congregation who have made the approach and at a later stage with the congregation. The Presbytery shall ascertain the following matters pertinent to the congregation applying to join the Free Church:
- The total number of regular worshippers disjoining;
 - The number of communicants disjoining;
 - The number of Elders among those disjoining;
 - The number of Deacons (if any) among those disjoining;
 - The number of Elders (and Deacons if relevant) willing to be elected to office under the terms which apply to the offices of Elder and Deacon in the Free Church of Scotland;
 - The understanding of the congregation as to the form of worship practised in the Free Church at the time of application;
 - The level of income expected to be raised by those disjoining;
 - The status and condition of assets belonging to, or used by, the disjoining congregation, including whether any of these may be subject to a dispute of ownership in relation to disjoining. Attention is drawn to 1.4 above and especially that congregations with assets in dispute may only follow the Associated Congregation option as detailed in 2 above.

The Presbytery shall be free to explore any other matters it may see as pertinent to the application. The report of Presbytery in support of an application shall include a report on these items.

3. Process of Application
- The Presbytery, having carried out the consultation shall apply to the General Assembly, or a duly authorised Commission of Assembly, whichever is the more appropriate, on behalf of the congregation through the Home Missions Board. The Home Missions Board shall consult with the Board of Trustees before passing the application to the Assembly for approval. No application shall be forwarded to the Assembly without the support of the Home Missions Board and the Board of Trustees. The Presbytery shall include a full report on the application with an extract confirming the Presbytery's support.

4. Finance
- A congregation applying to be admitted to the Free Church in terms of the Immediate Application option shall be expected to meet the full direct costs of ministry at the level specified for Free Church congregations at the time of application, including

congregations which are vacant at the time of application and shall be required to complete a financial schedule which shall be submitted to the Home Missions Board. The Home Missions Board, after consultation with the Board of Trustees, shall have discretion to decide in all instances of congregations unable to meet the full direct costs of ministry at the time of application whether or not to support their application for admission.

5. Continued Ministry
The minister of a congregation accepted into the Free Church shall be eligible to continue his ministry to the congregation, provided he has been received into the Free Church ministry through the existing process, and provided the congregation wish his ministry there to continue. The application for admission may include a clause to this effect with accompanying extracts. This arrangement shall at all times be subject to the congregation being able to submit the required level of funding (see 3.4 above). The Home Missions Board is advised to draw up a short Financial Schedule specifically for use in this respect. No congregation accepted into the Free Church may retain a minister without submitting a schedule and until the schedule has been approved by the Home Missions Board.
6. Pastoral Oversight
As soon as possible after acceptance of a congregation's application by the Assembly or Commission the local Presbytery shall appoint an Interim Moderator, if required, along with Assessor Elders until such time as the congregation elects Elders as set out in 3.7 below. After the Kirk Session has been newly constituted a Roll of Communicants shall be drawn up. Those who were previously communicants prior to disjoining shall have their names listed on the new Roll. The Kirk Session shall proceed to make arrangements for Elders to be elected from among the Communicants listed as soon as possible after the list has been drawn up.
7. Elders
The Kirk Session shall arrange for the communicant members to elect as Elders men whose names appear on the Communion Roll (as referred to in 3.6 above), in terms of the procedure stated in *The Practice* (Chapter 1, Part II, § 3), subsequent to the congregation being formally established as a Free Church congregation. The local Presbytery is advised to make those who are eligible for election familiar with matters of immediate application to eldership in the Free Church in advance of their election. All those elected as elders must answer the Questions put to elders and deacons before ordination and after ordination subscribe the Formula used in the Free Church of Scotland.
8. Deacons Court or Finance Committee or Similar
The Kirk Session shall arrange for the communicant members on the Roll to elect men as Deacons, in terms of the procedure stated in *The Practice* (Chapter 1, Part II, § 6), subsequent to the congregation being formally established as a Free Church congregation and a Communicants Roll having been completed. All those elected as deacons must answer the Questions put to elders and deacons before ordination and after ordination subscribe the Formula used in the Free Church of Scotland.
9. Charity registration and Property Trustees
Congregations admitted to the Free Church shall adopt the Constitution as embodied in Act XIII, 2007, of the General Assembly, and shall also take steps through their Deacons' Court to apply to OSCR for registration as a recognised Charity. The Deacons' Court shall also ensure that property trustees and charity trustees are elected as soon as possible. Property to which a congregation received into the Free Church has legal title shall be taken under the Model Trust Deed wherever possible. The Deacons' Court shall consult the Principal Clerk of Assembly so that he may ascertain whether there be any impediment to this and he shall advise the Deacons' Court accordingly.

Act IX - Act anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds
(No 9 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

1. **Burghead** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Finance Committee of Burghead Free Church and grant its crave. They renew authority to sell the main church building and hall at Burghead, under supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, and direct that the proceeds be used to develop and modernise the existing halls and vestry, with any remaining balance to be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation to be made available upon application for the maintenance of congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
2. **Cross** The General Assembly receive the petition of the Deacons' Court of Cross Free Church and grant its crave. They grant authority to sell the Free Church Mission House at Lionel, under supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, and direct that the proceeds of sale be applied to the reduction of the congregation's capital borrowing.
3. **Gairloch** The General Assembly receive the petition of the Deacons' Court of Fort William and Kilmonivaig Free Church and grant its crave. They renew authority to dispose of the church building and site at Gairloch, under supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer. They direct that the proceeds be held on behalf of the congregation by the Board of Trustees, and made available upon application for the maintenance of congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
4. **Arran** The General Assembly receive the petition of the Deacons' Court of Arran Free Church and grant its crave. They amend Act XXIV, § 1, 2012, to the extent that they authorise any surplus funds after the purchase of a new manse to be made available upon application for the upgrading and maintenance of congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
5. The General Assembly receive the petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. They amend Act XL, 2009, to the extent that the words "Gospel ordinances" be replaced by the words "the work of the Gospel."
6. **Scalpay** The General Assembly receive the petition of the Deacons' Court of Scalpay Free Church. They authorise the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of the Petition subsequent to a meeting of the Scalpay Deacons' Court with representatives of the Board of Trustees.

Act X - Act reappointing the Judicial Commission
(No 10 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

The General Assembly reappoint the Judicial Commission as follows:

Judicial Commission			
	Rev. A. J. Macdonald	EP	[1/1]
	Rev. Professor J. R. McIntosh	EP	[1/1]
	Mr J. MacRae	EP	[1/1]
	Mr D. W. Matheson	EP	[1/1]
	Rev. A. J. Howat	GW	[1/1]
	Rev. A. Cowie	GW	[1/1]
	Mr Evan MacDonald	GW	[1/1]
	Mr Norman Smith	GW	[1/1]
	Rev. Gordon Mair	ILR	[1/1]
	Rev. D. C. Meredith	ILR	[1/1]
	Mr Andrew Murchison	ILR	[1/1]
	Dr Gordon Fraser	ILR	[1/1]
	Rev. Duncan Macleod	N	[1/1]
	Rev. I. MacAskill	N	[1/1]
	Mr David Lipp	N	[1/1]
	Dr James Skinner	N	[1/1]
	Rev. John H. MacLean	SWR	[1/1]
	Rev. D. G. MacDonald	SWR	[1/1]

	Mr John A. Gillies	SWR	[1/1]
	Mr Robert MacDonald	SWR	[1/1]
	Rev. James Maciver	WI	[1/1]
	Rev. Malcolm Macleod	WI	[1/1]
	Mr Murdo Macleod (Lochs)	WI	[1/1]
	Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway)	WI	[1/1]
Chairman:	Rev. A. J. MacDonald		
Clerk:	Principal Clerk		

Act XI - Act reappointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery
(No 11 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 20th May 2014

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

Act XII - Act anent Reimbursement of Travel Expenses
(No 12 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly recommend to both Deacons' Courts and Presbyteries that approved mileage expenses be reimbursed at the rate of the current HMRC maximum as follows:

	Ministers' Expenses			Supply
	HMRC Rates		Minimum	
	First 10,000 miles	Above 10,000 miles	First 10,000 miles	
Car	45p*	25p*	30p	30p
Motor Bike	24p*	24p*		
Pedal Bike	20p*	20p*		
* Tax is liable if these rates are exceeded				

Act XIII - Act anent Alternative Ministerial Arrangements
(No 13 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly recognise the desirability of having a range of options available for the provision of ordained pastoral ministry in congregations. They acknowledge the difficulties faced by some congregations in meeting the full ministry levy as set from time to time by the Board of Trustees. Accordingly, they ordain that it shall be legitimate for Presbyteries to draw up and implement arrangements that would involve the provision of ministry on an alternative, sustainable funding basis that would not necessarily attract the payment of a full stipend.

1. It shall be competent for Presbyteries to use their discretion in considering the circumstances where such arrangements might be appropriate, including as a possible alternative to the dissolution of a pastoral tie following an audit and review in terms of Act I, Class I, 2013 where, in the view of the Presbytery, the congregation is non-viable.
2. Congregations in which alternative ministerial arrangements are established will be required to meet all costs incurred in the provision of such ministry. To that end, when it is considered desirable for alternative

ministry arrangements to be made for a congregation, the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court (or Finance Committee) shall complete a Schedule for submission to the Presbytery. The Schedule will set out the level of funding that the congregation is able to commit to for the funding of pastoral ministry. It will also set out a commitment to meet the central administration levy, other local ministry expenses and regular congregational expenses. The Schedule will be supplemented by a Ministry Development Plan agreed between the Presbytery, the Kirk Session and the congregation, setting out the vision for ministry in the congregation together with the practical arrangements for how that ministry will be provided, including the duration of any ministerial appointment. The Plan shall also include suitable safeguards to ensure that undue expectations are not placed on a minister appointed under such arrangements.

3. The Schedule and Ministry Development Plan shall be forwarded by the Presbytery to the Home Missions Board for its approval. If the Home Missions Board is satisfied (i) with the congregation's financial commitment; (ii) with the Ministry Development Plan; and (iii) that the proposed arrangements are consistent with the overall strategy of the Board, it shall give its approval in order that the Presbytery might proceed to implement the arrangements.

4. In all cases, the appointment of a minister under an alternative arrangement as envisaged by this Act shall terminate on expiration of the term set out in the Ministry Development Plan unless the appointment is renewed following a formal review of the Plan by the Presbytery and Kirk Session.

5. The stipend paid to a minister under such alternative ministerial arrangements shall be calculated by taking the level of financial commitment made by the congregation as a proportion of the full, direct costs of ministry and applying that proportion to the equal dividend. If, for example, the level of commitment after payment of the administration levy is 50% of the direct ministry costs, the stipend shall be set at 50% of the equal dividend.

6. If for a sustained period of six months a congregation's cumulative remittances remain below the level of the agreed commitment, the stipend paid to the minister shall be reduced proportionately. This provision shall be incorporated within the terms of appointment set out in the Ministry Development Plan.

7. Ministers appointed under alternative ministerial arrangements shall have the same rights with regard to the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of their congregation and to the other courts of the church as other ministers in pastoral charges.

8. Where alternative ministerial arrangements are implemented in a settled charge, the original induction of the minister to the charge shall remain valid but the terms of the appointment will be superseded by the terms set out in this legislation and by the arrangements agreed within the Ministry Development Plan.

9. Ministers appointed to a vacant congregation under this legislation shall be elected and inducted to the pastoral charge of the congregation in the same way as other ministers.

10. Ministers appointed to a ministry in terms of this Act shall be entitled to the same expenses from the congregation as other ministers in pastoral charges in accordance with the regulations currently prevailing.

11. Ministers appointed to a ministry in terms of this Act shall be permitted to engage in other employment provided that the Presbytery and Kirk Session are satisfied that such employment in no way hinders or conflicts with the discharge of the duties he is expected to undertake in his ministerial appointment. The specific conditions to be applied to other employment shall be contained within the Ministry Development Plan.

12. The General Assembly instruct the Home Missions Board to monitor the implementation of the approved Procedure to serve as the basis for the oversight and periodic review of such alternative ministerial arrangements.

13. The General Assembly instruct the Home Missions Board to keep the implementation of the provisions of this Act under review and to bring a report on the same to the General Assembly every three years.

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly note that the current five-year term of the work of Asian Outreach comes to an end at the 2015 General Assembly. 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 regarding the future of the work of Asian Outreach. They instruct the Board to report jointly to the 2015 General Assembly on this remit and on the end-of-five-year-term review.

Act XV - Act anent Ministerial Arrangements in East Sutherland and authorising an Alternative Ministry in the Congregation of Golspie
(No 15 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

1. The General Assembly note the report of the Northern Presbytery regarding ministerial arrangements in East Sutherland and in particular the fact that a proposed linked charge of Golspie and Clyne would not be financially viable. They thank the Presbytery for the work done in pursuing a workable ministerial arrangement in East Sutherland. They close this remit in the light of the proposals regarding the congregation of Golspie.
2. The General Assembly note that fulltime ministry was no longer viable in the congregation of Golspie following the Review and Audit of the congregation of Golspie carried out in terms of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 6.1. They receive the Petition of the Northern Presbytery: Ministerial Arrangements in Golspie and grant its crave. They declare the appointment of Rev. Eric Paterson to be according to the terms of the Ministry Development Plan agreed jointly by the Presbytery and the Board. They further declare that the new arrangements be effective for a period of three years from 1st July 2014 subject to the Home Missions Board receiving all the documentation required by Act XIII, 2014, and the associated Procedure Document.

Act XVI - Act anent Ministerial Arrangements for the Church Extension Charge of Dunfermline
(No 16 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly thank Rev. Douglas Campbell for his service in the Church Extension congregation at Dunfermline and wish him well in his new post as School Chaplain to Scotch College, Melbourne, Australia. They note the progress made in Dunfermline and instruct the Board to make the necessary arrangements for a new appointment to replace Mr Campbell as soon as possible so that the momentum of the work is not lost.

Act XVII - Act anent Ministerial Arrangements for the Redevelopment Charge of Elgin and Forres
(No 17 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly note that Rev. Colin Morison has reached the end of his third and final five-year term of ministry at Elgin and Forres under the provisions of Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges. They terminate Mr Morison's appointment under the provisions of the said Act effective from 30th June 2014. They receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross: Elgin and Forres, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They declare the appointment of Rev. Colin Morison to be a three-year terminable appointment according to the terms of Act XIV, Class II, 2014 anent Establishing Locally Subsidised Charges, effective from 30th June 2014, and that his appointment be continuous with his original induction to the charge.

**Act XVIII - Act anent Appointment of an Assistant Minister to the Congregation of
St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh**
(No 18 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Assistantship, St Columba's, Edinburgh, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of St Columba's Edinburgh to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2016.

**Act XIX - Act anent Appointment of an Assistant Minister to the Congregation of
Greyfriars-Stratherrick Free Church, Inverness**
(No 19 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross: Assistantship, Greyfriars-Stratherrick, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Greyfriars-Stratherrick to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2016.

**Act XX - Act appointing an Assistant Minister to the Congregation of
Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan Free Church**
(No 20 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross: Assistantship, Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2016.

**Act XXI - Act renewing the Appointment of Rev. Murdo Macleod as Assistant Minister of the
Congregation of Smithton-Culloden and Nairn Free Church**
(No 21 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross: Assistantship, Smithton-Culloden Free Church, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant permission to the congregation of Smithton-Culloden and Nairn to reappoint Rev. Murdo Macleod as Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships.

Act XXII - Act anent Appointment of Ministers to Centrally Supported Congregations
(No 22 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly declare that no further appointments be made to centrally supported, beyond those already approved congregations, whilst the current financial limitations and the moratorium on new appointments remain

in place. They encourage all Redevelopment Charges, Church Extension Charges, and Special Arrangements congregations to make every effort to meet the direct cost of ministry by January 2015 with the assurance that the Church will continue to give financial support to existing appointments for the remainder of the current five-year term.

Act XXIII - Act appointing Mr Clive Bailey as Camps Supervisor
(No 23 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly appoint Mr Clive Bailey as the new Camps Supervisor with immediate effect and commend him to the prayers of the Church.

Act XXIV - Act changing the name of the Free Church of Scotland College to Edinburgh Theological Seminary
(No 24 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly in accordance with Act XXXVIII, 2013, direct that the Free Church College be now known as Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

Act XXV - Act Changing the Name of the College Board to Seminary Board
(No 25 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly also direct that the College Board be now known as the Seminary Board.

Act XXVI - Act anent Staffing Arrangements for Edinburgh Theological Seminary and the Status of Rev. Daniel Sladek
(No 26 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

1. The General Assembly approve the discontinuation of the automatic conferral of the title of Professor and direct that staff who have responsibility over specific departments and who are appointed after 2013 be referred to as Course Organisers. The title of existing Professors shall remain the same as at present.

2. The General Assembly furthermore declare:

2.1 The Senate will consist of all Course Organisers.

2.2 The role of Principal and his relation to Seminary, Senate and Seminary Board will be the same as that of his relation to the Free Church College at present.

3. The General Assembly in accordance with Act XXXVII, 2013, which directs 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”, hereby repeal Act XIX, 1998, and Act XXV, 2000, and approve that as of this date:

3.1 It will be the responsibility of the Seminary Board to oversee and determine the appointment of lecturing staff at the Seminary.

3.2 Staff appointed to the teaching faculty will belong to one of four categories:

3.2.1 **Course Organisers** A Course Organiser will normally be a Head of Department, departments to be apportioned by the Seminary Board according to current circumstances. They have the responsibility of ensuring that courses are taught to the required standard. Only Course Organisers will be members of Senate.

3.2.2 **Part-time Core Lecturers** A Part-time Core Lecturer will teach components of a course for at least one semester.

3.2.3 **Part-time Module Lecturers** A Part-time Module Lecturer will be invited to teach specific modules in a course, less than one semester in length, on a guest and invitation basis.

3.2.4 **Temporary Replacement Lecturers** A Temporary Replacement Lecturer belongs to a list of persons able and willing to provide cover in the case of long-term absences (more than two weeks) of lecturers in an emergency or due to sick leave.

3.2.5 The number of Course Organisers and Part-time Core Lecturers and their particular roles will be determined by the Seminary Board, in liaison with the Senate, according to current needs and financial constraints.

3.2.6 At least two Course Organisers (who are Heads of Departments) will be ordained ministers of the Free Church of Scotland.

3.2.7 All Core Lecturers must subscribe to the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and must be office bearers in a church which, to the satisfaction of the Seminary Board, exercises biblical discipline in matters of heresy or immorality.

4. **Process of Nomination – Course Organisers and Part-time Core Lecturers** The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the appointment of Course Organisers and Part-time Core Lecturers to Edinburgh Theological Seminary:

4.1 Candidates who are nominated must normally already possess, or be willing to work towards, a degree at postgraduate level in disciplines relevant to their nomination.

4.2 On at least a bi-annual basis the Seminary Board shall write to Presbyteries asking them to nominate candidates whom they deem to be suitable for academic posts in the Seminary. In so doing, each Presbytery will give reasons for their nominations.

4.3 Members of the Seminary Board may also nominate suitable candidates, giving reasons for their nominations.

4.4 The Seminary Board will write to each candidate informing them that they have been nominated and asking them to indicate their willingness, in principle, to teach at the Seminary, either on a full-time or part-time basis. If a candidate is willing, he should submit his CV to the Board, to be kept *in retentis* until such time as an appointment is required.

4.5 A Course Organiser or Course Lecturer who is due to retire, or who intends to resign from his academic duties, shall intimate this fact whenever possible to the Seminary Board not later than 31st December, prior to the end of the academic year.

5. **Process of Retirement or Resignation**

5.1 When a Course Organiser, who is a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and inducted to his position at the Seminary, receives a Call to a pastoral charge, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth have the authority to loose him from his charge. The Presbytery shall immediately inform the Seminary Board of this fact.

6. **Process of Appointment** When there is a vacancy for a Course Organiser or part-time Core Lecturer, the following procedure shall apply:

6.1 The Seminary Board will intimate the impending vacancy to the Clerk of Senate at the University of Glasgow, inviting the Faculty to nominate a representative to be associated with the Board in making a new appointment.

6.2 The names which have been previously nominated will be interviewed by a panel appointed by the Seminary Board, with the representative from Glasgow University in attendance.

6.3 The interview panel must bear in mind that all suitable candidates must subscribe to the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and must be office bearers in a church which, to the satisfaction of the Seminary Board, exercises biblical discipline in matters of heresy or immorality. It is the Board's responsibility to ensure that the teaching of core subjects is carried out by staff who are reformed in doctrine, worship and practice.

6.4 Upon completion of all interviews the interviewing panel will, after ascertaining that each of the candidates are acceptable to the University of Glasgow, make a recommendation to the Seminary Board. If the Seminary Board agrees with the recommendation, the successful candidate will be informed as soon as possible as to the Board's decision and asked to indicate his willingness to accept the appointment within a timeframe set by the Board.

6.5 If the appointment is for a Course Organiser, and where the Course Organiser is already an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, he will be inducted to the position by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth after following a procedure on the analogy of a call to a pastoral charge, all parties retaining the right of Appeal or Dissent and Complaint to the General Assembly.

6.6 A full time Course Organiser will be remunerated at a salary set by the Seminary Board in keeping with its budget constraints. The total remuneration package of a full time Course Organiser must not be less than that of a minister in the Free Church of Scotland.

6.7 A Part-time Core Lecturer will be remunerated by way of honoraria at a level set by the Seminary Board.

6.8 Each newly appointed Course Organiser and Part-time Core Lecturer must sign Terms of Appointment as agreed by the Seminary Board.

6.9 The term of office will normally be five years for a Course Organiser, renewable with the consent of all parties.

6.10 The term of office for a Part-time Core Lecturer shall be one year, renewable with the consent of all parties.

6.11 Where the Course Organiser or Part-time Core Lecturer is not an office-bearer in the Free Church of Scotland, the Seminary Board must ensure that his Terms of Appointment state the procedure which must be taken to suspend him from his position in the event of him falling short of behavioural or theological standards of morality and orthodoxy, pending appropriate disciplinary procedures.

6.12 Whilst the Course Organiser may exercise discretion to invite guest lecturers on an occasional basis he does not have the authority to appoint a Part-time Core Lecturer in his subject except on a temporary replacement basis in the case of an emergency or due to ill health. The final responsibility for all appointments (Course organisers and Part-time Core Lecturers) lies with the Seminary Board.

6.13 If, by way of partnership agreements, a Part-time Core Lecturer is offered by another institution on a temporary basis, the proposal shall be discussed and approved at the Senate before being forwarded to the Seminary Board for their final approval. The name of the Lecturer being proposed by the partner Institution and his CV will be sent to the University of Glasgow for their approval together with details of the proposed arrangement under which he will operate. The Lecturer must subscribe to the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and must be an office-bearer in a church which, to the satisfaction of the Seminary Board, exercises biblical discipline in matters of heresy or immorality.

6.14 The Seminary Board will include in its report to the General Assembly all courses together with Course Organisers, Part-time Core Lecturers and Module lecturers. The General Assembly will have the final authority over appointments.

7. ***Process of Appointment - Part-time Module Lecturers and Temporary Replacement Lecturers*** The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the appointment of the Part-time Module Lecturers and Temporary Replacement Lecturers to Edinburgh Theological Seminary:

7.1 ***Temporary Replacement Lecturers*** It will continue to be the responsibility of the Senate, in consultation with the Seminary Board, to arrange for emergency cover in the event of a Course Organiser's illness or temporary absence from work. A list of appropriate personnel will reviewed annually and reported to the Seminary Board.

7.2 ***Part-time Module Lecturers*** When a continued need for a Part-time Module Lecturer arises in any department at the Seminary, the Course Organiser concerned shall bring the matter to the attention of the Senate.

7.3 If the Senate judge that an appointment is appropriate they shall ask the Course Organiser to nominate a suitable part-time Module Lecturer, and seek the approval of the Seminary Board for an appointment.

7.4 Except in the case of occasional guest lecturers, all Part-time Module Lecturers must subscribe to one of the reformed confessional standards or the Doctrinal Statement of Affinity to which the Free Church of Scotland belongs, a copy of which is annexed to this Report.

7.5 The Senate shall recommend to the Seminary Board that an appointment be made; and that the nominee of the Course Organiser be appointed.

7.6 The Seminary Board shall have the final authority in appointments. They may decide to endorse the Senate's recommendation; or find that an appointment is inopportune or inappropriate; or ask the Course Organiser (through the Senate) to propose another nomination.

7.7 The Board shall determine the duration of the appointment, which shall be for a maximum of one year. The appointment may be renewed for further periods subject to the consent of all parties.

7.8 The Board, in consultation with the Senate, shall determine the rate of remuneration of part-time lecturers and review it annually.

7.9 Each part-time lecturer shall work under the supervision and according to the instructions of the relevant Course Organiser.

7.10 In the event of a dispute between a lecturer and a Professor or Course Organiser the matter shall be referred in the first instance to the Senate. An appeal may be taken from the Senate to the Seminary Board, whose judgement shall be final.

7.11 The term of appointment for part time lecturers will be renewed annually and they will be required to sign the Confession annually.

8. The General Assembly direct that the status of Rev. Daniel Sladek will now be Course Organiser and Lecturer in Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology.

Act XXVII - Act uniting the Congregation of Tarbat with the Congregation of Tain and Fearn
(No 27 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

The General Assembly receive the Petition from the Northern Presbytery and grant its crave. They unite the congregation of Tain and Fearn Free Church with the congregation of Tarbat Free Church, under one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court, the united charge to be known as Tain and Fearn Free Church.

Act XXVIII - Act anent Synods
(No 28 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 21st May 2014

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

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

Act XXIX - Act anent Requirements for the Licensing of Mr Joe Barnard
(No 29 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

The General Assembly note that the Board of Ministry has recognised Mr Joe Barnard as a Candidate for the Ministry and that he may be in a position to complete his studies under the Board in the calendar year 2014. If this should arise the General Assembly waive the normal requirement of Act XX, 2001 that a student apply for licence by 31st December in the year prior to licence. They authorise the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross (or any other Presbytery as may be the case) to take Mr Joe Barnard on trials for licence, upon due application, these oral trials to be of a substantive nature and not a mere formality. At the time of his application for licence the General Assembly instruct Mr Barnard to provide the relevant Presbytery with representative samples of his work in Theological Studies along with one major piece of work equivalent to a College Dissertation.

Act XXX - Act anent Requirements for the Licensing of Mr David Kirk
(No 30 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

The General Assembly note that the Board of Ministry has recognised Mr David Kirk as a Candidate for the Ministry. They note that the applicant has been found qualified to enter into ministry without any further academic or practical preparation and without the need to complete the Free Church ministry module. The General Assembly note that Presbyteries have been informed of his intention to apply for licence in 2014. Accordingly the General Assembly waive the normal requirement of Act XX, 2001, requiring that a student apply for licence by 31st December in the year prior to licence and any other requirements of that Act normally applicable to students enrolled at the Free Church College. They authorise the Presbytery of the Western Isles (or any other Presbytery as may be the case) to take Mr David Kirk on trials for licence, upon due application, these oral trials to be of a substantive nature and not a mere formality. The General Assembly instruct Mr Kirk to provide the relevant Presbytery with representative samples of his work in Theological Studies along with one major piece of work equivalent to a College Dissertation.

Act XXXI - Act anent Requirements for the Licensing of Mr Andrew Longwe
(No 31 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

The General Assembly note that the Board of Ministry has recognised Mr Andrew Longwe as a Candidate for the Ministry and that he is expected to complete his studies for the ministry before the end of 2014. The General Assembly waive the normal requirement of Act XX, 2001, requiring that a student apply for licence by 31st

December in the year prior to licence. They authorise the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth (or any other Presbytery as may be the case) to take Mr Andrew Longwe on trials for licence in the normal way, upon due application, subject to his completion of the prescribed training course.

**Act XXXII - Act anent Modified Courses for Applicants to the Ministry who have completed
Degree Level Theological Studies**
(No 32 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry, in consultation with the Seminary Board and other Boards to explore the recruitment, training and assessment of church planters and evangelists, to study and report on apprentice in ministry or similar training for those contemplating embarking on theological studies, and to bring forward proposals (if appropriate) on training and entrance into alternative ministry arrangements such as part time and auxiliary ministry, and to report the same to the 2015 General Assembly.

In the case of all applications from students not ordained to the ministry, the General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to follow the following directives:

1. All applicants not ordained to the ministry will normally be expected to complete a full BTh course at the Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
2. Where applicants have already completed degree level theological studies and where the Board of Ministry is satisfied as to the quality of both teaching and achievement, they should be required to successfully complete at least two academic years (September to May) at the Seminary in order to allow the Seminary to have input into their preparation for ministry, to allow applicants time to prepare adequately for all aspects of Free Church Ministry, to become known to the church more widely, to fulfil their required placements, and to gain supplementary training in academic and practical areas of ministry preparation. The Board of Ministry should ascertain the actual content of the course(s) completed so as to ensure that their training has included robust confessional, reformed biblical and practical theology designed for a full-time teaching and pastoral ministry. Applicants themselves should be given the opportunity to indicate any supplemental training they wish to receive – in both academic and practical areas.
3. In very exceptional circumstances, where the criteria in 9.2 have been met and where the applicant has completed post graduate studies and has proved to the satisfaction of the Board of Ministry that he has extensive pastoral experience, this requirement may be reduced to one academic year (September – May). This rare arrangement will be with the agreement of the Board of Ministry and the Presbytery. The Board of Ministry should ascertain the actual content of studies completed so as to ensure that their training has included confessional, reformed biblical and practical theology designed for a full-time teaching and pastoral ministry. Applicants themselves should be given the opportunity to indicate any supplemental training they wish to receive in both academic and practical areas.
4. In each case, the Board of Ministry will liaise with the Senate at the Seminary to facilitate the delivery of such supplementary training.

**Act XXXIII - Act anent Requirements for Applications from Ministers for
Admission to the Free Church Ministry**
(No 33 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

The General Assembly direct the Board of Ministry that applicants for ministry in the Free Church from other denominations, as part of their welcome to the Church, should normally undertake a revised Free Church Ministry Module together with suitable essays on Free Church history/theology.

**Act XXXIV - Act anent Proposals to Dissolve the Synod of North America and to Unite the
Constituent Presbyteries**
(No 34 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

1. The General Assembly, noting the particular circumstances in the Synod of North America as brought to their attention, appoint the said Synod to meet at a date not later than 30th June 2014 to appoint interim moderators and assessors to the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and its congregations as may be or may become necessary.
2. The General Assembly recommend that the Synod of North America be dissolved and that the two Presbyteries be united subject to their agreement, and instruct them to give due consideration to this matter, to prepare a plan of union for the two Presbyteries, and to report to the Commission of Assembly in October 2014.
3. The General Assembly authorise the Commission of Assembly in October 2014 to receive and dispose of a Report from the Synod of North America.
4. The General Assembly recognise the particular circumstances of the North American congregations and acknowledge that the movement of these congregations with indigenous denominations might be an appropriate step.

Act XXXV - Act Granting a Seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to Rev. Colin Macleod
(No 35 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 22nd May 2014

The General Assembly grant to Rev. Colin Macleod a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll so long as he remains resident within the bounds of the Presbytery undertaking the work determined by the International Missions Board on condition that he submit an Annual Report through the Glasgow and Argyll Presbytery to the International Missions Board.

**Act XXXVI – Act renewing Mr James Fraser’s Term of Appointment
as Chairman of the Board of Trustees**
(No 36 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2014

The General Assembly approve the recommendation that the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board of Trustees be extended for two years beyond his second four-year term, which is due to expire at the 2015 General Assembly. They waive the specific requirement of Act XXIII, Class II, 2007 appointing the Board of Trustees, which states that the Chairman shall be appointed for a four year term, renewable by the General Assembly for one further term of four years, and declare that Mr Fraser’s extended term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall expire at the 2017 General Assembly.

Act XXXVII - Act appointing the Commission of Assembly
(No 37 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2014

The General Assembly did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint a Commission consisting of all members of Assembly with the addition of Rev. David Randall, 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 twelve or more of their number, whereof four 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 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 XXXVIII - Act appointing the next General Assembly
(No 38 of Class II)

Edinburgh, 23rd May 2014

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 18th May 2015 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act I - Act admitting Rev. David Court to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. David Court, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, and being satisfied that he has demitted his charge and status as a minister of the Church of Scotland, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland under the supervision of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to make arrangements for Mr Court to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Court has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and specifically the congregation of St Columba's, to give such pastoral and other support as may be deemed necessary to assist his integration into the practices of the Free Church of Scotland.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act II - Act admitting Rev. David S. Randall to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. David S. Randall, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, and being satisfied that he has demitted his charge and status as a minister of the Church of Scotland, 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 Glasgow and Argyll.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll, to make arrangements for Mr Randall to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Randall has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Randall 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 III - Act admitting Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg 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 van Rensberg submits two essays on Free Church Practice and Principles 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 van Rensberg 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 van Rensberg has signed the Formula, to authorise the International Missions Board, to place the name of Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg on their Roll of Missionaries and treat him as a missionary seconded to the United Church of Istanbul, and require an Annual Report from Mr van Rensberg.

5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.
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Act IV - Act authorising the Church Extension of Dunfermline to appoint its own Kirk Session

Edinburgh, Wednesday 2nd October 2013

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXIX, 2013, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They authorise the Church Extension Charge of Dunfermline Free Church to appoint its own Kirk Session according to the provisions of Act XXVII, Class II, 1989, paragraph 2.5(a), the initial membership to be appointed in consultation with the Presbytery, and with the appointment of Assessor Elders as required.

Act V - Act authorising the Church Extension Charge of St Andrews to appoint its own Kirk Session

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXIX, 2013, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They authorise the Church Extension Charge of St Andrews Free Church to appoint its own Kirk Session according to the provisions of Act XXVII, Class II, 1989, paragraph 2.5(a), the initial membership to be appointed in consultation with the Presbytery, and with the appointment of Assessor Elders as required.

Act VI - Act uniting the Congregation of Kilmallie with the Congregation of Ardnamurchan, Acharacle and Strontian

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Free Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross and grant its crave. They unite the congregation of Kilmallie with the congregation of Ardnamurchan, Acharacle and Strontian, the united congregation to be known as Kilmallie and Ardnamurchan Free Church as one congregation with a single Kirk Session and a single Deacons' Court, and under the present ministry of Rev. Christopher MacRae.

2. The General Assembly direct that all invested funds previously held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the charges comprising the new united congregation shall be available to the Deacons' Court of the united congregation for congregational purposes upon due application to the Board of Trustees and upon condition that the support of the Presbytery is secured for the release of any sum in excess of £50,000 presently held on behalf of Ardnamurchan, Acharacle and Strontian.

Act VII - Act renewing Permission for the Congregation of Downvale Free Church, Glasgow, to appoint an Assistant Minister

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXIX, 2013, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They renew permission to the congregation of Downvale Free Church Glasgow to appoint an Assistant Minister in accordance with Act XVIII, 2013, the permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2015.

**Act VIII - Act appointing Rev. Daniel Sladek as Lecturer in Old Testament, Exegesis and Theology
in the Free Church College and other purposes**

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

1. The General Assembly receive the Supplementary Report of the College Board.
2. The Commission of Assembly approve the appointment of Rev. Daniel Sladek as Lecturer in Old Testament Language Exegesis and Theology at the Free Church College for the period from the rising of this Commission until the close of the academic session on 31st August, 2016, under terms and conditions agreed by the College Board, Mr Sladek and the Board of Trustees.
3. The Commission of Assembly hereby release Mr Sladek from his present pastoral charge at Duirinish and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps to induct him to the post of lecturer in Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology on 23rd October 2013, in Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church, at 7.00pm, his relationship to his present charge to continue until he be inducted to the post aforesaid.
4. The Commission of Assembly grant Rev. Daniel Sladek a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth from the date of his induction for as long as he remains lecturer in Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology at the Free Church College.
5. The Commission of Assembly direct that in the event of the termination of Mr Sladek's appointment he shall receive his remuneration for a period of six months from that date or until such time as he receives a new appointment, whichever is sooner.
6. The Commission of Assembly, amending Act IV, Class II, 1979, Section V, paragraph 1, appoint Rev. Daniel Sladek to be a member of the College Senatus for as long as he remains in his current position as lecturer in Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology.

Act IX - Act anent Release of Funds

Edinburgh, 2nd October 2013

1. ***Lochgilphead Manse*** The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of Lochgilphead and Tarbert at Lochgilphead and grant it crave. They repeal Act XXIV, § 6, Class II, 2012 to the extent that they authorise the congregation to apply the proceeds of the sale of the Lochgilphead manse for congregational purposes and to refund to the Campbeltown congregation a sum equivalent to half the value of the Tarbert manse.
2. ***Kilwinning*** The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Ayr and Kilwinning at Kilwinning and grant its crave. They authorise the release from the sums invested on behalf of the former congregation of Kilwinning and Saltcoats, now part of the united congregation of Ayr and Kilwinning, the sum of £4,000 to be used (1) towards the maintenance of the ministry in East Kilbride Free Church in accordance with Act XIV, 2013; and (2) for local congregational purposes.

Act X - Act admitting Rev. Michael Braeutigam to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 5th March 2014

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Michael Braeutigam, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.

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

Act XI - Act admitting Rev. Paul Clarke to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 5th March 2014

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Paul Clarke and, noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, to make arrangements for Mr Clarke to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Clarke has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act XII - Act admitting Rev. Ian Watson to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland

Edinburgh, 5th March 2014

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Ian Watson, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to make arrangements for Mr Watson to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Watson has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act XIII - Act anent Sale of Property

Edinburgh, 5th March 2014

1. ***Kilmaluag*** The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Trotternish Deacons' Court, and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Kilmaluag Free Church building, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Church's Solicitor. They direct that the proceeds of the sale be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Congregation, to be made available to the Congregation for the maintenance of the other Church buildings, the interest to be added to the capital.

2. ***Duirinish*** The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Duirinish Free Church of Scotland and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the manse building in Lonemore, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Compliance Officer or the Church's Solicitor. They direct that the proceeds of the sale be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation, to be made available to the congregation in order to provide a replacement property and for the maintenance of the other Church buildings, the interest to be added to the capital.