

**ACTS OF ASSEMBLY  
2015**

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**CLASS I – ACTS THAT HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

None

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

1. Act appointing a Business Committee for the General Assembly
2. Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross
3. Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery
4. Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address to Her Majesty the Queen
5. Act anent Stipend and Related Salaries
6. Act anent Compliance and Risk Management
7. Act anent Communications Strategy
8. Act anent appointment of the Editor of *The Record*
9. Act anent Review and Oversight of Magazines
10. Act anent fixed terms of appointment for Clerks to Committees, Boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly
11. Act authorising the appointment of a Missions Director
12. Act authorising the appointment of Deacons as members of the Board of Trustees and other matters
13. Act appointing a Missions Board to replace the Home and International Missions Boards
14. Act authorising the Board of Trustees to deal with Petitions relating to Properties held under the Model Trust Deed
15. Act anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds
16. Act appointing the Judicial Commission
17. Act anent Synods
18. Act appointing Assistant Clerk of Assembly
19. Act granting Rev. Ruairidh Maclean a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll
20. Act terminating the Post of Development Officer
21. Act anent Future of Asian Outreach Work in Glasgow
22. Act anent Training of Church Planters and Evangelists
23. Act anent Ministerial Arrangements in the Redevelopment Charge of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus
24. Act anent North-East Glasgow Team Ministry
25. Act terminating the north Team-Ministry and Arrangements for Ministers and constituent Congregations
26. Act admitting the Congregation of Covenant Church, Newmilns, as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland
27. Act anent arrangements for the Congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church
28. Act renewing permission for the Appointment of an Assistant Minister for Dowanvale Free Church, Glasgow
29. Act renewing the appointment of Rev. Calum MacMillan as Assistant minister of Rosskeen Free Church
30. Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive a Report from the Missions Board regarding Ministerial Arrangements for Harris Free Church
31. Act anent Reporting of Congregations to the General Assembly
32. Act anent Regulations for appointment of a Principal of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary
33. Act appointing Rev. Iver Martin as Principal of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary
34. Act disjoining the former Congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and uniting it with the Congregation of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill
35. Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of Applications from Ministers of other Denominations for admission to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
36. Act anent Applications for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland, and Ministry Apprenticeships
37. Act anent Practical Training of Students
38. Act anent Scripture Examinations and Presbyterial Oversight of Students
39. Act anent Pastoral Care of Ministers and their Families
40. Act anent Licensing of Students
41. Act anent Award of Grants to Overseas Workers
42. Act appointing the Commission of Assembly
43. Act appointing next General Assembly

## **ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**

1. Act admitting Rev. David Macleod to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
2. Act admitting Rev. Roderick Macrae to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
3. Act admitting the Body of Christians recently disjoined from Tarbert Church of Scotland to be a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland
4. Act admitting the congregation presently known as Stornoway High Fellowship as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland
5. Act anent Negotiations with the North American Synod
6. Act anent Sale of Property and Release of Funds
7. Act admitting Rev. Aonghas Iain Macdonald as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland
8. Act admitting Rev. Andrew McMillan as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland
9. Act admitting Rev. Athole Rennie as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland
10. Act admitting the Congregation of Grace Church, Leith, as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland
11. Act admitting the Congregation of Christ Church, Edinburgh, as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland
12. Act admitting the Congregation of Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill) as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland
13. Act placing the Name of the Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call
14. Act XIV – Act anent Sale of Property

## **DRAFT ACTS SENT DOWN UNDER THE BARRIER ACT**

1. Act anent Representation of Presbyteries
2. Act authorising the Appointment of Additional Elders to the General Assembly in Cases where Elders are unable to attend for the whole Assembly.

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

**CLASS I – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT**

None

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

**Act I - Act appointing a Business Committee for the General Assembly**

(No 1 of Class II)

*Monday 18th May 2015*

The General Assembly appoint a Business Committee of Assembly, comprising the Principal Clerk, the Assistant Clerk and the Clerks of all the home Presbyteries. The Committee shall meet at a convenient point not later than 15th April annually to examine all papers in the hands of the Principal Clerk due to come before the Assembly. The Committee shall appoint its own Convener annually at its April meeting and the Principal Clerk shall act as Clerk to the Committee. The Convener shall be responsible for introducing the Lord High Commissioner to the Receiving Party and to the Moderator, as well as delegates and others to the Moderator, apart from the children receiving Youth Awards. The Committee shall present its Report to the Assembly at the first sederunt. The Report shall incorporate a Report from the Clerks' Office and shall be bound with all the other Reports to be distributed in advance of the Assembly.

The General Assembly authorise the Business Committee, to designate as routine those Petitions they consider ought to be in this category, and to recommend this to the Assembly in their Report, at which point amendments to the contrary may be given in without prior notice, the final decision on whether any Petition be so treated to lie with the General Assembly. The General Assembly instruct the Clerks' Office to amend Standing Order III.3 accordingly.

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**Act II – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross**

(No 2 of Class II)

*Monday 18th May 2015*

The General Assembly appoint Mr James M. Fraser, elder at Kiltarlity, to be General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.

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**Act III - Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery**

(No 3 of Class II)

*Monday 18th May 2015*

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

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

(No 4 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

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 2015, 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 congratulate Your Majesty on the safe birth of your great granddaughter, Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana, and pray the Lord's blessing on her and all the Royal Family. We give thanks for the continued good health of Prince Philip. We remember in our prayers His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and the busy programme he undertakes both nationally and internationally.

We express with profound gratitude to Almighty God, that this September, God willing, Your Majesty will become the longest-reigning British monarch, a long and prosperous reign with which our nation has been blessed. We are thankful that in a year of significant political events, including the Scottish referendum and the United Kingdom General Election, your majesty remains the embodiment of stability.

The Free Church of Scotland is particularly grateful to Almighty God that at a time of considerable hostility towards the Christian foundations of our society for Your Majesty's continued defence of the Faith by word and example.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of your Majesty's Armed Forces. We acknowledge the military service rendered by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales. We are thankful for the safe withdrawal of Your Majesty's forces from Afghanistan and continue to pray for the peace of that nation. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, and those who have suffered injury in mind and body. We thank Almighty God for the work of Your Majesty's chaplains to the Armed Forces, and the ministry of the Soldiers and Airmens Scripture Readers Association.

We pray for Your Majesty's Parliaments in Westminster and Holyrood, especially remembering the Prime Minister and First Minister and their Governments in the many responsibilities, at home and abroad, that devolve upon Your Majesty's servants.

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, Lord Hope, to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Your Majesty, as ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland, it is our duty and privilege, regularly to uphold your Majesty's person, family and governments, before the throne of grace. We commit ourselves and our congregations to do so in obedience to the exhortation of the Word of God, 'that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence'.

We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of your Majesty's Armed Forces. We acknowledge the military service rendered by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales. We are thankful for the safe withdrawal of Your Majesty's forces from Afghanistan and continue to pray for the peace of that nation. We remember in our prayers all who have lost loved ones in various conflicts, and those who have suffered injury in mind and body. We thank Almighty God for the work of Your Majesty's chaplains to the Armed Forces, and the ministry of the Soldiers and Airmens Scripture Readers Association

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**Act V - Act anent Stipend and Related Salaries**

(No 5 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,000 from 1st January 2015. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

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**Act VI - Act anent Compliance and Risk Management**  
(No 6 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

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, considering there is a need to raise the awareness of charity trustees at congregational and central level of their responsibilities in relation to legal compliance, instruct the Board of Trustees to conduct a careful assessment of priority areas and to develop guidance materials where appropriate.
3. The General Assembly note the development of a Conflicts of Interest Policy as a code for good governance at committee and board level. They instruct all Presbyteries to review the policy with a view to developing and adopting a similar policy to deal with potential conflicts at Presbytery level. They also support the Board's view that there is a need to develop procedures that would help address potential conflicts of interest that might arise during Assembly business and to that end instruct the Assembly Clerks' Office to undertake a review and to report to the 2016 Assembly through the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly note the Board's ongoing work in assessing the risks facing the Church. They instruct the Board to keep these risks under review.
5. The General Assembly instruct all Kirk Sessions to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the PVG Scheme, seeking advice from the Church's Compliance Officer. They note, with disappointment, that some ministers have not yet applied for membership of the PVG Scheme and, where this is the case, instruct Kirk Sessions to ensure that steps are taken to rectify the situation as soon as possible. They instruct the Board of Trustees to write to all Presbyteries asking for confirmation that all ministers within their bounds are, or have applied to become, members of the PVG Scheme. They empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this matter.
6. The General Assembly instruct the Board to keep developments in relation to safeguarding matters under review and to provide support to congregations in implementation of the Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines.

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**Act VII - Act anent Communications Strategy**  
(No 7 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly note the production of a communications strategy and endorse the aims of providing a compelling Christian voice in Scottish public life and improving internal communications across the Church. They also support the proposal to develop a pool of people from around the Church with the expertise to assist in the preparation of policy papers across a range of contemporary issues. To this end, they instruct the Board to write to Kirk Sessions setting out the disciplines to be covered and the competencies sought.

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**Act VIII - Act anent appointment of the Editor of *The Record***  
(No 8 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

1. The General Assembly note with regret the resignation of Rev. Dr Malcolm Maclean as Editor of *The Record*. They thank Dr Maclean for all his work during his tenure as Editor and are grateful to him for agreeing to continue in post for the remainder of 2015.
2. The General Assembly support the Board's recommendation that the Editorship of *The Record* should not be restricted to ministers and elders of the Free Church of Scotland.

3. The General Assembly direct that the qualifications for appointment as Editor of *The Record* shall be as follows:

3.1 The Editor shall be a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland and a person of some maturity in Christian life.

3.2 The qualifications and experience of the candidate shall be matched as closely as possible to the remit for the post as drawn up by the Board of Trustees.

3.3 The term of appointment will be for seven years, with eligibility for reappointment.

3.4 The Editor will be accountable to the Board of Trustees.

3.5 Remuneration and conditions of service shall be set by the Board of Trustees.

4. When a vacancy occurs, the following procedures will be followed:

4.1 The Secretary of the Board of Trustees will circulate all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions of the Church setting out the key elements of remit and requesting nominations for the post.

4.2 The Board of Trustees will arrange for an appropriate interview panel to meet with the short listed candidates and make recommendations thereafter to the Board.

4.3 The Board will recommend its preferred candidate to the General Assembly. The General Assembly may accept the Board's recommendation, or if not, may only choose another candidate from those previously interviewed by the Board.

5. The General Assembly repeal Act XXX, 2007, and also any other previous acts inconsistent with the foregoing.

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**Act IX - Act anent Review and Oversight of Magazines**  
(No 9 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

1. The General Assembly authorise the Board of Trustees to undertake a detailed review of the Church's publications, including *The Record*. They recognise that the time involved in conducting such a review has prevented the nomination to this Assembly of a proposed candidate to take over as Editor of *The Record*. In light of this, they empower the Commission of Assembly to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board on this topic with a view to the appointment of a new Editor who will take up the position from the beginning of 2016.

2. The General Assembly approve the clarification of the arrangements for the oversight of the Church's magazines and to that end direct that the Board shall have oversight responsibility for *The Record*, *Compass* and *Free*. The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the oversight of the Church's magazines.

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**Act X - Act anent fixed terms of appointment for Clerks to Committees, Boards,  
Presbyteries and the General Assembly**  
(No 10 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Board of Trustees that it is desirable to set fixed terms of appointment for clerks of committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly, enact that, from May 2015, the following shall apply:

1. Clerks of standing committees and boards of the General Assembly shall be appointed for an initial four year term, renewable for a further term of four years. This provision shall not apply in the case of the Board of

Trustees, the Missions Board and the Seminary Board where secretarial services are provided by the Chief Executive Officer, the Missions Co-ordinator and the Seminary Secretary respectively.

2. Clerks of Presbytery, the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly shall serve for a term of six years. A formal nominations process shall be conducted at least six months prior to the completion of these initial six-year terms with incumbents being eligible for nomination for one further six-year term. In the case of the appointment of Assembly Clerks, the nominations process shall be conducted by the Board of Trustees. Presbyteries shall conduct their own nominations process for appointments of Presbytery Clerks.

3. In order that the terms of office of the Principal Clerk of Assembly and the Assistant Clerk of Assembly do not expire at the same time, the General Assembly direct that the first term of six years for the Assistant Clerk shall begin at the 2015 Assembly and the final term of six years for the Principal Clerk shall be taken as from the 2013 Assembly.

4. The General Assembly hereby repeal all previous legislation pertaining to the periods of appointment of the clerks to committees, boards, Presbyteries and the General Assembly.

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**Act XI - Act authorising the appointment of a Missions Director**  
(No 11 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly, recognising that the part-time Missions Development Officer post is coming to an end and that it is necessary to have a dedicated resource to support the work of the Missions Board in championing the work of home and international mission throughout the Church, approve the creation of the post of Missions Director. They instruct the Missions Board to undertake a recruitment process aimed at identifying a candidate with a demonstrable passion for mission, proven pastoral experience and the requisite leadership qualities for the post. They ordain that an appointment shall be made for an initial three-year term, renewable for a further three-year term subject to a full review of the post being carried out by the Missions Board no later than six months prior to the end of the initial three-year term.

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**Act XII - Act authorising the appointment of Deacons as members of the Board of Trustees  
and other matters**  
(No 12 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

1. The General Assembly, noting the Board's recommendations in respect of the possibility of Deacons serving as members of standing committees and boards, hereby amend § 1.1.4 of Act VI, 2014 to read as follows:

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 office bearers of whom up to two might be deacons. Members shall be appointed by the General Assembly for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The General Assembly shall appoint one of the Board, who shall always be an elder, as Chairman, for a four year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three trustees.

2. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to continue its consideration of areas in the work of standing committees and boards where it might be appropriate for non-ordained members of the Church to serve in a more formal capacity and to bring forward proposals in this regard to the 2016 General Assembly.

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**Act XIII - Act appointing a Missions Board to replace the Home and International Missions Boards**  
(No 13 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly, noting that no substantive issues have been identified that would prevent the appointment of a unified Missions Board, appoint a Missions Board to discharge the functions of the Home Missions Board and the International Missions Board as presently constituted. The Board shall assume responsibility for developing appropriate denominational partnerships at home and abroad, as well as partnerships with other organisations and agencies, in order to enhance the Church's ability to reach out with the Gospel. Membership of the Board shall be eight members in total comprising six ministers and two 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.

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**Act XIV - Act authorising the Board of Trustees to deal with Petitions relating to Properties held under the Model Trust Deed**

(No 14 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Board of Trustees in relation to an expedited process for dealing with petitions relating to properties held under the Model Trust Deed. They enact and ordain as follows:

1. The General Assembly, with reference to the Acts of the General Assembly hereinafter referred to and to the title deeds of properties held in terms of the Model Trust Deed, hereby nominate and appoint the Board of Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland, as successor to the General Trustees of the Free Church of Scotland in terms of Act XXIII, 2007 of the General Assembly (the said Board of Trustees being herein referred to whenever the expression "the Board of Trustees" is used), as the body to whom the General Assembly hereby delegate (but subject to the terms hereof) all the powers conferred upon or reserved to the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly by (One) (a) Condition SIXTHLY of the Model Trust Disposition (the said Model Trust Disposition being herein referred to whenever the expression "the Model Trust Deed" is used), narrated within Act XVIII, 1844: Act Anent the Trust Deed, (b) Act VIII, 1863, (c) Act X, 1875, and (d) Act IV, 1889, all as the said four aforementioned Acts are amended by Act V, 1967, (e) Act II, 1968, (f) Act II, 1982, and (g) Act XXXI, 2009 and (Two) the terms of the titles of heritable properties where the trustees holding the same are, due to such terms, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal of the properties or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, so that the Board of Trustees may hereafter (subject to the provisions for review aftermentioned) be the sole determining body in relation to the powers hereby delegated. For the avoidance of doubt, the powers hereby delegated will include powers to revoke or modify any existing determinations made in Acts or deliverances by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in regard to the matters hereby delegated.

2. Without prejudice to section 5 hereof, all applications to the Board of Trustees for authority to sell or otherwise dispose of any property where the trustees holding the same are, in terms of the title deeds, subject in any way to the regulation and direction of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly as regards the disposal thereof or the use of the proceeds of sale thereof, including, without prejudice to the foregoing generality, any property held in terms of the Model Trust Deed under the powers hereby delegated shall proceed from the Deacons' Court or Finance Committee with the concurrence of the Kirk Session and of the Congregation, and shall have obtained the sanction of the Presbytery of the bounds. Such applications shall state the reasons for the application and the purpose to which it is desired that any proceeds of sale be applied.

3. The Board of Trustees will be bound, upon making a determination hereunder, to intimate such determination forthwith by notice in writing to the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned and also to the Deacons' Court or Courts or Finance Committee or Committees of the Congregation or Congregations directly affected; on receipt by the Clerk of the Presbytery of the notice of the determination of the Board of Trustees, it will be his duty to give sufficient intimation of the same to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery thereafter; but notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 hereof, any Presbytery concerned or any Deacons' Court or Finance Committee having title or interest and who considers any such determination by the Board of Trustees to be unreasonable may within two months of the date of the meeting of Presbytery to which intimation has been made as aforesaid, lodge with the Clerks of Assembly a Petition to the General Assembly for review of any such determination; provided always that in such circumstances a review will be competent only if the Petition therefor is lodged timeously with the Clerks of Assembly and written intimation thereof given at the same time to the Board of Trustees.



4. With reference to sections 2 and 3 hereof, in any case where, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees special circumstances exist, including, without prejudice to that generality, the situation where the property is held for other than congregational purposes or a Congregation has dissolved, an application may proceed otherwise than is provided in the said section; and the whole provisions of the said section, including those relative to determination and right of appeal, will have effect with regard to such application and determination, all with such modifications as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

5. In the event of the Board of Trustees being of the opinion that any individual matter hereunder should be determined by the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, they are empowered *ex proprio motu* to bring such matter before the General Assembly or Commission of Assembly for determination.

6. Where any funds which are or may be subject to the terms of this Act are to be applied in the purchase of any heritable property, the Custodier of Titles is directed to see the transaction carried into effect and also to see that the title deeds of the new property are either (a) taken in the same terms as those of the old, or in terms of the Model Trust Deed or (b) vested in the Board of Trustees.

7. Where the proceeds of sale of a property are not to be immediately applied to the purchase of another property, they shall be deposited or invested, in the meantime, in the name of the Board of Trustees, for behoof of the Congregation.

8. It is hereby declared that any determination made under the powers hereby delegated authorising the sale or disposal of property will (unless acted upon) lapse after a period of five years from the date thereof.

9. Act VIII, 1963 and Act IV, 1889, both as amended by Act V, 1967, are hereby repealed.

10. Act XVIII, 1844 is from the date of this Act to be interpreted so that the consent of the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly, as delegated to the Board of Trustees in terms of this Act, shall be evidenced by a certificate issued by the Custodier of Titles or the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

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**XV - Act anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds**  
(No 15 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

1. **Applecross** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Lochcarron and Applecross Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Free Church Manse at Applecross, the transaction to be carried out under the supervision of the Church's Law Agent, and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the General Trustees and that the congregation have access to these funds for the repair, maintenance and development of existing congregational properties and for specific congregational projects subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

2. **Scalpay** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Scalpay Free Church and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation be given access, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to the sum of £15,000 held by the Board of Trustees, for the purpose of replenishing the congregation's savings.

3. **Perth** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Deacons' Court of Knox Free Church, Perth, and grant its crave. They authorise the congregation to have access to the surplus funds from the sale of the manse at Pitlochry held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, to facilitate the taking on of a Ministry Apprentice/Assistant to support the furtherance of the gospel in Perth.

4. **Tarbert** The General Assembly receive the petition from the Finance Committee of Lochgilphead and Tarbert Free Church at Tarbert and grant its crave. They direct that the congregation have access to the sum of £4,710.37 held by the Board of Trustees, upon application to the Chief Administrative Officer, for repairs to the church building at Tarbert.

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**Act VI - Act appointing the Judicial Commission**  
(No 16 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

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

Rev. A. J. Macdonald	[4/2]
Rev. Professor J. R. McIntosh	[4/2]
Mr J. MacRae	[4/2]
Mr D. W. Matheson	[4/2]
Rev. A. J. Howat	[4/2]
Rev. A. Cowie	[4/2]
Mr Evan MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr Norman Smith	[4/2]
Rev. Gordon Mair	[4/2]
Rev. D. C. Meredith	[4/2]
Mr Andrew Murchison	[4/2]
Dr Gordon Fraser	[4/2]
Rev. Duncan Macleod	[4/2]
Rev. I. MacAskill	[4/2]
Mr David Lipp	[4/2]
Dr James Skinner	[4/2]
Rev. John H. MacLean	[4/2]
Rev. D. G. MacDonald	[4/2]
Mr John A. Gillies	[4/2]
Mr Robert MacDonald	[4/2]
Rev. James Maciver	[4/2]
Rev. Malcolm Macleod	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Macleod (Lochs)	[4/2]
Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway)	[4/2]
Chairman:	Rev. A. J. MacDonald
Clerk:	Principal Clerk

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**Act XVII - Act anent Synods**  
(No 17 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

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.

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**Act XVIII – Act appointing Assistant Clerk of Assembly**  
(No 18 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the post of Assistant Clerk of Assembly. His duties shall be in accordance with the job description approved by this Assembly. His remuneration and conditions of service will be in accordance with current practice, his duties to commence no later than the close of this Assembly.

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**Act XIX - Act granting Rev. Ruairidh Maclean a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll**  
(No 19 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly grant Rev. Ruairidh Maclean a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery in connection with his current position as Scottish Deputation Secretary at Christian Witness to Israel and on condition that he reports annually to the Presbytery of his ministry with CWI.

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**Act XX - Act terminating the Post of Development Officer**  
(No 20 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly thank Rev. Neil MacMillan, Development Officer, for his Report and for his faithful and versatile work on behalf of the Home Missions Board over the whole period of his appointment. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they terminate the Development Officer's post effective from 30th June 2015. They declare that Mr MacMillan's name be added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and they instruct the Home Missions Board to pay Mr MacMillan at the current rate of stipend for a period of six months from the expiry of his appointment or until his induction to another charge if earlier, according to the terms of Act IX, Class II, 2012, Paragraph Missions, 1.8. The General Assembly repeal Act IX, Class II, 2012.

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**Act XXI - Act anent Future of Asian Outreach Work in Glasgow**  
(No 21 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly thank Rev. Duncan Peters and his wife Christine for their work in Asian Outreach, Glasgow. They terminate his appointment under the terms of Act XII, Class II, 2010, Act XVI, Class II, 1999, and Act VII, Class II, 1997, and repeal the said Acts. They appoint Rev. Duncan Peters to the work of Asian Outreach in Glasgow under the general terms of Act XV, Class II, 2013 anent Church Planting and Evangelism and in association with the terms of the Board's Project Development Plan in order to secure a self-supporting Church Plant congregation under the blessing of Almighty God. They declare the appointment to be continuous with his original induction to the work. They instruct the Board in consultation with the Presbytery to appoint suitable members to an Advisory Committee to provide day-to-day management for the work until such time as Assessor Elders have been appointed by the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to form a Kirk Session with a specific and committed interest to the development of cross-cultural ministry. They further instruct the Board to make suitable arrangements for the funding of the work as required by Act XV, Class II, 2013, Paragraph 4, and they direct the Board to report to the 2016 General Assembly on such arrangements and on proposals for the overall financial strategy for the mission work of the Church. They declare that the funding of the Asian Outreach work will continue according to the current arrangements until such time as the 2016 General Assembly rules on revised funding arrangements in the context of the Board's overall financial strategy for mission work.

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**Act XXII - Act anent Training of Church Planters and Evangelists**  
(No 22 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly thank the Home Missions Board for work done liaising with the Board of Ministry to identify suitably gifted church planters and evangelists who are eager to bring the good news to communities with little or no gospel witness, and also liaising with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Board to develop training suitable to church planters and evangelists at the Seminary. They welcome the training initiatives carried out in association with Porterbrook Scotland and under the guidance of Rev. Neil MacMillan. They instruct the Board to (1) continue its communication with the Board of Ministry and the College Board in seeking to identify and

train suitably gifted church planters and evangelists; (2) co-operate with 20 Schemes to consider ways in which the Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland can support and initiate church planting or revitalisation works in those areas of greatest social need in Scotland; and (3) report on its progress to the 2016 General Assembly.

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**Act XXIII - Act anent Ministerial Arrangements in the Redevelopment Charge  
of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus**

(No 23 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly note the terms of Act XI, Class II, 2010 renewing the redevelopment status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and declare that the current five-year term of redevelopment status be extended to the date of the March 2016 Commission of Assembly. They empower the said Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Home Missions Board on future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus as required by Paragraph 5 of Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to proceed without delay to prepare such a report so that it is in the hands of the Missions Board by 1st December 2015.

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**Act XXIV - Act anent North-East Glasgow Team Ministry**

(No 24 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

1. The General Assembly note the update on the Team Ministry in the North East area of Glasgow, and in particular the ongoing vacancies in the Team. They thank the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll for its role in supporting the Team Ministry arrangements. They also thank the current Team members for their ministry. They call on the Church to continue in prayerful support of the work in the North East of Glasgow and that the ongoing vacancy in the Team will be filled.

2. The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. Noting the particular circumstances of this vacancy to which Act I, 2011, provides no remedy, they waive the requirements of Act I, 2011, § 5.5 to the extent (1) in the event of the Team Ministry arrangement being terminated at the end of the current five-year period, any minister appointed hereafter may then be appointed to one of the constituent congregations in the Team Ministry for the remainder of the period of his terminable appointment subject to the submission by the Presbytery of a suitable ministerial plan to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board and a guarantee that the congregation is able to meet the Direct Cost of Ministry, or that any shortfall will be met by the Presbytery in terms of Act XIV, 2013; (2) that similarly any presbytery worker appointed shall be permitted to complete his three-year term on the provision of similar funding guarantees to the satisfaction of the Home Missions Board.

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**Act XXV - Act terminating the North Coast Team Ministry and Arrangements  
for Ministers and constituent Congregations**

(No 25 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly note the outcome of the review of North Coast Team Ministry completed by the Northern Presbytery. They receive the Petition of the Presbytery and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they grant its crave. They terminate the North Coast Team Ministry arrangements with effect from 30th June 2015. They thank all the members of the Team for their faithful ministry in the area since the Team's inception. With effect from the same date: (1) they terminate the appointment of Rev. Howard Stone to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries. They declare that Castletown and Community congregation be granted Alternative Ministerial Arrangements according to the provisions of Act XIII, Class II, 2014 and according to the terms of the Ministry Development Plan agreed by the Presbytery, the congregation and the Home Missions Board, and under the ministry of Rev. Howard Stone with his appointment continuous with his previous induction to the charge; (2) they grant the congregation of Thurso and North Coast the status of a fully sanctioned charge with permission to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund. They terminate the appointment of Rev. Hugh Ferrier to the North Coast Team Ministry according to the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2011 anent Team Ministries with his name being added to the Register of Ministers without Charge, Eligible for Call; (3)

they instruct the Northern Presbytery to proceed immediately to take the necessary and appropriate steps to fill the vacancy in the fully sanctioned charge of Thurso and North Coast in order to secure the continuity of Rev. Hugh Ferrier's ministry there should that be the will of the congregation; (4) they grant the congregation of Wick and Keiss permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund with all the costs of ministry funded from reserves held by the congregation and with the Ministry Levy payable from the date of induction of a minister; (5) they also grant Helmsdale and Kinbrace permission to call a minister on a five-year terminable, renewable appointment according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, with the financial arrangements such that the congregation is required to remit at least 100% of the stipend payable from the date of the induction of a minister and should there be any shortfall from the requirements of the ministry and administration levies, the Northern Presbytery shall seek to secure the balance via local support or by way of an application to the Development Fund; and (6) they terminate the appointment of Mr James Morrison as Auxiliary Worker for the Team and direct that he be paid at the rate of 80% of the current stipend until the end of December 2015. They instruct the Northern Presbytery to provide pastoral support to Mr Morrison and to investigate the possibility of arriving at a local ministry arrangement in Lybster whereby he could continue to serve the Church. The General Assembly repeal Act VIII, Class II, 2011.

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**Act XXVI - Act admitting the Congregation of Covenant Church, Newmilns,  
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**  
(No 26 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll: Covenant Church, Newmilns and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave. They grant the body of Christians worshipping in Covenant Church, Newmilns, the status of a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Covenant Church, Newmilns (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to meet *in hunc effectum* at Dowanvale Free Church, Glasgow on Tuesday 2nd June 2015 at 6.30 pm (1) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship to welcome them formally into the Presbytery. They direct the congregation to submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Home Missions Board with income-based confirmation of their ability to meet the full costs of ministry. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

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**Act XXVI I- Act anent arrangements for the Congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church**  
(No 27 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth: Ministry at Cobham and, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant its crave to the extent that they declare the congregation of Cobham to be financially non-viable. They thank Rev. David D. Miller for his unstinting and faithful service during his twelve years as minister there. They sever Rev. David D. Miller's pastoral tie with the congregation on the said date, adding his name to the Register of Ministers without Charge, and declare that he shall be eligible for six months stipend from the date of termination according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund paragraph 6.3.5, or until his induction to another charge, whichever is sooner. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to complete the consultation process to satisfy the requirements of Act I, Class I, 2013, paragraphs 6.1.5 and 6.2.1 and to report on the completed consultation to the October 2015 Commission of Assembly. They further instruct the Presbytery to meet as soon as possible after the rising of the Assembly in order to initiate the said process.

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**Act XXVIII - Act renewing permission for the Appointment of an Assistant Minister  
for Dowanvale Free Church, Glasgow**  
(No 28 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant permission to the congregation of Dowanvale 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 2017.

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**Act XXIX - Act renewing the appointment of Rev. Calum MacMillan  
as Assistant minister of Rosskeen Free Church**  
(No 29 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, grant permission to the congregation of Rosskeen to reappoint Rev. Calum Macmillan as Assistant Minister for a further three-year term in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships.

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**Act XXX - Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive a Report from the Missions Board  
regarding Ministerial Arrangements for Harris Free Church**  
(No 30 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly thank the Presbytery of the Western Isles for the ongoing consultation with the congregation of Harris regarding future ministry in the congregation. They authorise the October 2015 Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Missions Board regarding arrangements for ministry at Harris.

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**Act XXXI - Act anent Reporting of Congregations to the General Assembly**  
(No 31 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly note that references to the percentage of stipend in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund are now obsolete and declare that the Home Missions Board should only report on cases where a review has been initiated in consultation with the Presbytery.

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**Act XXXII - Act anent Regulations for appointment of a Principal  
of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary**  
(No 32 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly approve the following regulations for the appointment of Principal to Edinburgh Theological Seminary:

**1. *The Resignation of the Principal***

A Principal who is due to retire, or who intends to resign from his duties, shall intimate this fact, whenever possible, to the Seminary Board by 1st May of the year which precedes his final year in office.

**2. *The Remit of the New Principal***

On receiving notice of such intention to retire, or on a vacancy otherwise occurring in the Principalship, the Board shall consider the remit of the Principal in the light of the most recent revision of the Five-year Plan and make any necessary adjustments.

**3. *Nominations for the New Principal***

The Seminary Board shall write to Presbyteries informing them of the impending vacancy in the office of Principal, drawing attention to the terms of the Remit and the following requirements and asking for two nominations:

3.1. The remit of the Principal is to further the key mission objectives of the Seminary.

3.2. In fulfilment of these objectives, the Principal's remit shall normally include co-ordination, administration, supervision and part-time teaching internally, and representation, promotion of the Seminary and its mission objectives externally.

3.3. All suitable candidates must subscribe to the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and be ordained ministers in the Free Church of Scotland.

3.4. As the remit of the Principal will normally including part-time teaching and supervision within the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, the Seminary Board must ensure that the teaching of core subjects is carried out by staff who are suitably qualified at postgraduate level, in terms of Act XXVI, 2014 and reformed in doctrine, worship and practice.

3.5. The Principal is expected to uphold the witness, dignity and prestige of the Seminary without detriment to good relations, and also takes note of any actions or proposed actions on the part of others that could either benefit or prejudice the Seminary.

3.6. Any new additions to the remit arising from the review of the key mission objectives contained in the Edinburgh Theology Seminary Vision Five-year Plan mentioned above.

#### **4. *Interviews for New Principal***

4.1. The Seminary Board shall appoint an interview panel from its own members, and identify a suitable list of candidates for interview from the nominations listed above, in addition to any new Seminary Board nominees.

4.2. Upon completion of all interviews the interviewing panel will 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 accept the appointment within a timeframe set by the Board.

#### **5. *Appointment of New Principal***

In the event of his willingness to take up the appointment, and if the appointee 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. The new Principal will be granted a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

#### **6. *Remuneration***

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

#### **7. *Terms of Appointment***

The newly appointed Principal must sign Terms of Appointment as agreed by the Seminary Board.

#### **8. *Term of Office***

The term of office for a Principal will normally be five years, renewable with the consent of the Principal and the Seminary Board.

#### **9. *Call to Principal***

In the event of a Principal of the Seminary accepting a Call to a pastoral charge, the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth are empowered. to loose him from his charge. The Presbytery shall immediately inform the Seminary Board of such a Call.

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**Act XXXIII - Act appointing Rev. Iver Martin as Principal of the Edinburgh Theological Seminary**  
(No 33 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

1. The General Assembly appoint Rev. Iver Martin, B.Sc., as Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary in accordance with current legislation.
2. The General Assembly hereby release Mr Martin from his present pastoral charge at Stornoway Free Church and instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to take the necessary steps to induct him to the post of Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary not later than 15th August 2015, his relationship to his present charge to continue until he be inducted to the post aforesaid.
3. The General Assembly grant Rev. Iver Martin a seat on the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth from the date of his induction for as long as he remains Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary.
4. The General Assembly direct that in the event of the termination of Mr Martin's appointment his name shall be placed on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call and he shall receive his remuneration for a period of six months from that date or until such time as

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**Act XXXIV - Act disjoining the former Congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus and uniting it with the Congregation of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill**  
(No 34 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 20th May 2015*

The General Assembly disjoin the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass from Glen Urquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church and unite the former congregation of Kilmorack and Strathglass with Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Free Church, the united congregation to be known formally as Kiltarlity, Kirkhill and Beauly Free Church, with freedom to use whatever name seems best for local publicity purposes, the united congregation having one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court. The General Assembly repeal Act XI, 2008.

Furthermore they authorise the united congregation to reclaim, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the property in Beauly in the interests of the gospel and for the good of the congregation, any transaction to be carried out under the oversight of the Free Church legal officer, and that any capital released and any interest payable upon the capital to be held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation, with the interest and capital being made available to the congregation on due application for the provision of a manse or for other congregational purposes.

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**Act XXXV- Act authorising the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of Applications from Ministers of other Denominations for admission to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**  
(No 35 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly, in view of the ongoing uncertainty of the church scene in Scotland at present, waive the requirement of Act XXXV, 2005, that authority to grant admission to ministers of other denominations lies solely with the General Assembly and empowers the Commission of Assembly at its meetings before the General Assembly of 2016, to receive and dispose of any such applications seeking admission to the Free Church ministry duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry.

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**Act XXXVI - Act anent Applications for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland  
and Ministry Apprenticeships**  
(No 36 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

1. The General Assembly remind Presbyteries to take great care when processing Applications for the Ministry to ensure that referees have the knowledge to make judgements on an applicant's character and skills, following up references where necessary, and making a proper assessment of the applicant's giftedness for teaching, preaching, inter-personal skills, Christian character and temperament.
2. The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry on routes into ministry, declare that it shall no longer be the normal requirement for applicants under the age of thirty to possess a qualification at degree level prior to being accepted as a candidate for the ministry. The General Assembly direct the Board of Ministry to advise each applicant individually on the best course of action to take preparatory to obtaining formal training for the ministry.
3. The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry to consult the Missions Board and the Presbyteries of the Church on appropriate routes into ministry and the varying types of ministry model that are biblical and necessary for the health of the church.
4. The General Assembly note Appendix One in the Report of the Board of Ministry anent Ministry Apprenticeship training and instruct the Board of Ministry to consult with Presbyteries and other Boards as appropriate and to bring forward proposals on Ministry Apprenticeship training to the 2016 General Assembly.

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**Act XXXVII - Act anent Practical Training of Students**  
(No 37 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly approve of proposals to give candidates for the ministry increased opportunities to earn and gain skills and experience in pastoral work through involvement in local churches during term time. The General Assembly repeal the preamble to Act XX § 6, 1985 and Act XX § 6.II.10, 1985, relating to the number of times students are permitted to preach and instruct the Board of Ministry to keep the frequency of student's preaching under regular review in conjunction with the Pastoral Theology department at Edinburgh Theological Seminary.

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**Act XXXVIII - Act anent Scripture Examinations and Presbyterial Oversight of Students**  
(No 38 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly approve of the general principles set out in Appendix Two to the Report of the Board of Ministry anent Scripture Examinations and presbyterial oversight of candidates for the ministry, namely that an annual written scripture examination shall be set and marked by the Board of Ministry, covering the whole Bible in three years, with some biblical books set for private study and some set for written examination and that presbyteries shall examine candidates orally on the doctrine of *Shorter Catechism* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and on books in practical and pastoral theology recommended by the Board of Ministry according to a three year schedule. The General Assembly enact and ordain that these shall be the regulations for Scripture Examinations and Presbytery oversight of students from this General Assembly, and empower the Board of Ministry to modify and publish amended regulations from time to time consistent with these general principles. Candidates already under the care of a Presbytery may elect to follow the previous syllabus for Presbytery oversight for one year only, by arrangement with their Presbytery. The General Assembly repeal Act XXXVI, 2011, Act XXVI 2003, Act XXIII, 2002, and any other Acts inconsistent with this new Act.

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**Act XXXIX - Act anent Pastoral Care of Ministers and their Families**  
(No 39 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly note that a Panel of Pastoral Care has been appointed by the Board of Ministry, and is available to give advice and support to ministers and their families. The General Assembly thank the members of the Panel (Rev. Angus MacRae, Rev. James Maciver, Rev. Robert MacLeod, Rev. D. Iain MacDonald, Dr Martin Walker, Dr Colin Mackay and Mrs Helen Mackay) and commend the Panel and Presbytery Pastoral Panels to the prayers of the Church.

The General Assembly instruct the Board of Ministry, through its Panel of Pastoral Care, to consult with Presbyteries as to how a more effective and practical support can be provided for ministers and their families during periods of long-term absence from work through ill health. They further instruct the Board to formulate a policy on the pastoral care of ministers, on the completion of the said consultation, showing (1) the role of the Panel in relation to the Presbytery's Pastoral Support Committees; (2) a plan for the pastoral care of ministers and their families; (3) how such a plan will be implemented; and (4) how the implementation of that plan will be monitored, assessed and reviewed.

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**Act XL - Act anent Licensing of Students**  
(No 40 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly, recognising that only those who are duly qualified should be licensed to preach the gospel, ordain that:

1. A student applying for licence shall inform the Clerk of their presbytery and the clerk to the Board of Ministry, normally by 31st December in the year prior to licence. No student should be taken on trials for licence unless the Clerk to the Board of Ministry has circulated a minimum notice of three months to each presbytery.
2. If no objection is received from any presbytery before 30th April, or as a minimum within three months of notice being given, the licensing presbytery shall be entitled to proceed.
3. The Presbytery shall fix a date for trials for license observing the following directions:
  - 3.1 the Presbytery shall meet in private when discussing each stage in the process;
  - 3.2 if the student has been resident outwith the bounds of the Presbytery they shall satisfy themselves that the applicant is a proper person to be taken upon trials for licence;
  - 3.3 no student shall be taken on trials for licence who is under twenty-one years of age;
  - 3.4 no student shall be taken on trials for licence unless he has been a communicant member of the Free Church of Scotland (or a sister church) for a minimum period of two years prior to the date of his being taken on trials, or unless the presbytery has satisfied itself with the *bona fides* of the candidate and has obtained the agreement of the Board of Ministry to proceed;
4. Any presbytery that objects to the licensing of an applicant shall be entitled to send representatives to state its objections at the bar of the presbytery to which the student has applied. These objections shall be heard when the presbytery is considering the motion to proceed to trials. If these representatives find themselves unable to acquiesce in the presbytery's decision they shall have the right to appeal; and such an appeal shall automatically sist procedure until a final decision is pronounced by the superior court.
5. Before proceeding to trials a presbytery must have before it the following documents:
  - 5.1 a completion certificate from the Senate of Edinburgh Theological Seminary indicating that the applicant has satisfactorily completed his studies, including the Free Church Ministry Module; and that his conduct, so far as is known to the Senate, is consistent with the high office he has in view;
  - 5.2 a completion certificate from the Board of Ministry;
  - 5.3 a copy of his Seminary Dissertation duly sustained. At its discretion the Presbytery may also ask for copies of any essays or assignments submitted by the student as part of his programme of studies.

6. The Presbytery shall satisfy itself that the student is competent to preach and conduct public worship, and shall normally arrange for the student to conduct public worship, including sermon, and shall appoint representatives to attend and report on the competence of the student. If they report themselves dissatisfied, the presbytery shall resolve to proceed no further and inform the student that they cannot grant him a licence in his present circumstances.

7. The General Assembly remind presbyteries to bear in mind that the student has already satisfied both the Seminary Senate and the Board of Ministry as to his academic proficiency. Trials should accordingly normally consist of oral examination, making appropriate use of the Dissertation and other written assignments submitted by the student. Trials should seek to establish that the student is in a position honestly and intelligently to sign the Formula and is a proper person to be eligible for a call to a charge. The trials should establish that:

7.1 the student has a well-informed grasp of the whole doctrine of the Confession of Faith and is prepared to subscribe to it unreservedly;

7.2 he sincerely and intelligently adheres to the principles of the Free Church of Scotland;

7.3 he has a sound working knowledge of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland and is able to play a part in church courts;

7.4 he has an evangelistic vision and sense of mission such that “zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and desire of saving souls” are “his great motive and chief inducement to enter the holy ministry”;

7.5 he has sufficient experience of human life, sufficient sympathy with his people and knowledge of practical theology to enable him to lead, counsel, encourage and warn the people of God;

7.6 he is firmly committed to maintaining the unity and peace of the Church and does not pursue practices likely to be divisive.

8. The student having gone through the trials for license, the Presbytery shall proceed as follows:

8.1 it shall take a careful and combined view of the trials;

8.2 if it forms the opinion that the student is not properly qualified to sign the Formula and to perform the duties of a minister of the Gospel it shall not grant him a licence. Since the Presbytery are the sole hearers of the trials (and therefore the only party competent to judge them) its decision shall be final. No member of the court shall have the right of Dissent and Complaint; and neither the student nor any other party shall have the right of Appeal. The Moderator of Presbytery shall, however, inform the student that he has the right to apply to be taken on trials again by this, or any other, presbytery of the Church, subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3 (2) above;

8.3 if, upon review of the trials, the Presbytery is fully satisfied with the student, the Moderator shall inform him and the presbytery shall record the decision in its Minutes;

8.4 the Presbytery shall then meet in open court;

8.5 the Presbytery shall then, or at a later public meeting of Presbytery, put to the student the Questions appointed for Probationers by Act XII, 1846. Having given satisfactory answers, the presbytery shall require the student to subscribe the Formula. No student shall be licensed will not give explicit and satisfactory answers and subscribe the Formula;

8.6 the Moderator, in the name and by the authority of the presbytery, shall solemnly license the student as a preacher of the Gospel; and the presbytery clerk shall issue him an extract of his Licence;

8.7 within one week the Clerk of Presbytery shall forward the name and address of the licentiate, with the date of his Licence, to the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly.

9. The General Assembly repeal Act XX, 2001, and any Acts not consistent with this Act and declare that this Act contains the whole of the Assembly’s directions relating to the Trials of Students and the Licensing of Probationers.

10. To ensure that this Act is observed, the General Assembly ordain: that it shall be printed among their other printed Acts; that it shall be made available by itself and copies shall be placed on appropriate websites and lodged with the Edinburgh Theological Seminary Senate and in the Seminary Library; and that a copy shall be transmitted annually by the Clerk to the Board of Ministry, and at the commencement of the Seminary session, to every candidate for the ministry who is entering his final year of study at Edinburgh Theological Seminary; and a copy shall likewise be sent to presbytery clerks for the use of their respective courts and members.

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**Act XLI - Act anent Award of Grants to Overseas Workers**  
(No 41 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly urge the Missions Board to consider the provision of adequate financial support for Miss Catriona Macdonald, a teacher in the Colegio San Andres, in 2016. They further instruct the Board to outline the criteria for the awarding of annual grants to overseas workers and report to the General Assembly of 2016.

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**Act XLII - Act appointing the Commission of Assembly**  
(No 42 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

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

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 7th October 2015 and Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7 o'clock in the evening, and at other times and places as may be required with power to choose their own Moderator.

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

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

Furthermore, in view of unresolved matters concerning 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 necessary and appropriate steps in the interest 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 are to convene, this requirement not implying any curtailment or amendment to such proposals.

Furthermore the said Commission are hereby authorised to receive and dispose of any applications duly submitted through Presbyteries and the Board of Ministry from ministers of other denominations seeking admission to the Free Church ministry.

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

Furthermore the Commission is empowered to receive and fully dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Missions Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Missions Board; to appoint Ministers to overseas appointments and Foreign Missionaries in the Mission Fields of the Church, to take up and dispose of a Report from the Board of Trustees on the application of Ministers to become members of the PVG scheme; to take up and dispose of a

Report from the Board of Trustees concerning the Appointment of the Editor of *The Record*; to determine any matter relating to the sale of property or release of funds which in the view of the Board of Trustees should be determined by the Commission and brought by the Board *ex proprio motu*; to receive a Report from the Missions Board on arrangements for future ministry at Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus; and to receive a Report from the Missions Board on arrangements for future ministry at Harris; to receive a Report from the Missions Board in relation to Cobham Presbyterian Church; to receive a Report from the Assembly Clerks anent the Presbytery in North America.

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

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

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

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

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**Act XLIII - Act appointing next General Assembly**  
(No 43 of Class II)

*Edinburgh, 21st May 2015*

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

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**ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY**

**Act I – Act admitting Rev. David Macleod to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 1st October 2014*

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. David Macleod, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland under the supervision of the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross.
  2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross to make arrangements for Mr Macleod to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
  3. The Commission of Assembly, in accordance with Act XXXIV, 2014, direct the Board of Ministry, in lieu of a revised Free Church ministry module currently in the process of development, to make suitable arrangements for Mr Macleod to receive mentoring in Free Church principles and practice on his anticipated relocation from the Skye and Wester Ross area.
  4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Macleod 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*.
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## **Act II – Act admitting Rev. Roderick Macrae to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 1st October 2014*

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Roderick Macrae, 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 Skye and Wester Ross to make arrangements for Mr Macrae to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
3. The Commission of Assembly, in accordance with Act XXXIV, 2014, direct the Board of Ministry, in lieu of a revised Free Church ministry module currently in the process of development, to make suitable arrangements for Mr Macleod to receive mentoring in Free Church principles and practice and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Macrae 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*.

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## **Act III – Act admitting the Body of Christians recently disjoined from Tarbert Church of Scotland to be a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 1st October 2014*

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles, and grant its crave. They establish the congregation as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as North Harris Free Church of Scotland within the Presbytery of the Western Isles. They instruct the Presbytery of the Western Isles, at the first available opportunity, to appoint an Interim Moderator and General Assessor Elders so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible. They direct the congregation to submit a Sustentation Fund Schedule to the Home Missions Board with income-based confirmation of their ability to meet the full costs of ministry. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter, subject to the approval of the Home Missions Board, to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

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## **Act IV – Act admitting the congregation presently known as Stornoway High Fellowship as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 1st October 2014*

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of the Western Isles and grant its crave. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they establish the body of Christians presently worshipping under the name of Stornoway High Fellowship as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as High Free Church, Stornoway within the Presbytery of the Western Isles. They instruct the Presbytery of the Western Isles, at the first available opportunity, to appoint an Interim Moderator and General Assessor Elders so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible. They grant authority to the newly established congregation thereafter to proceed to call a minister without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3.

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## **Act V – Act anent Negotiations with the North American Synod**

*Edinburgh, 1st October 2014*

1. The Commission of Assembly note the extract minute of the Synod of North America and thank the Synod for the action taken.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Synod to proceed with the disbursement of the funds in the Central Fund of the Synod of the Free Church of Scotland (North America) in accordance with their proposals and report to the Clerk of Assembly on completion of this.
3. The Commission of Assembly resolve to take no action with regard to the union of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island with the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada until these financial transactions are completed.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Assembly Clerk to report on these matters, with recommendations, to the next General Assembly.

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## **Act VI – Act anent Sale of Property and Release of Funds**

*Edinburgh, 1st October 2014*

### **1. *Portree Manse***

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the Report of the Custodier of Titles and thank the Custodier.
2. The Commission of Assembly waive the requirements of Act V, 1967, in this instance, on the grounds that, (a) the property was not in the possession of the congregation for the entire five-year permission lasted; (b) the Deacons' Court had inadvertently, not deliberately, failed to take account of the terms of Act V, 1967, having been engaged in attempts to recover the property during these years; (c) the minister Rev. Donald G. Macdonald was off work with illness for a prolonged period during this time.
3. The Commission of Assembly homologate the actions of the Custodier of Titles in issuing his advice, the Board of Trustees in upholding his advice and the Deacon's Court of Portree Free Church in proceeding with the sale of the manse at Portree despite permission to sell having lapsed.
4. The Commission of Assembly declare that their homologating of the action taken by Portree Free Church Deacon's Court be not seen as setting a precedent. They further call upon all Deacon's Courts and Finance Committees to take careful note of the terms of Act V, 1967, in all cases where permission to sell property has been granted by the Assembly or Commission of Assembly. To this end they instruct the Assembly Clerk to issue a copy of the said Act along with all extracts containing permission to sell property.

**2 *Pitlochry Manse*** The Commission of Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Knox's Church, Perth, and waiving the stipulation that requests for permission to sell property which is not being replaced require to be addressed to the General Assembly, authorise the sale of the manse at Pitlochry, the transaction be carried out under supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, and the proceeds to be made available to the Deacons' Court for the renovation of the church and manse at Perth, any surplus to be held by the Board of Trustees on behalf of the congregation.

**3 *Dingwall and Strathpeffer*** The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition of the Deacons' Court of Dingwall and Strathpeffer and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the the manse at Dingwall and renew authority to sell all or any part of the congregational property held in Strathpeffer, under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, the proceeds to be held by the Trustees on behalf of the congregation, and the sum lodged and any interest thereon to be made available upon due application for the purpose of purchasing land or property, or for repairing or improving congregational property, or for general congregational purposes including the funding of evangelistic or pastoral work carried out under the oversight of the Kirk Session.

**4**      *Glenelg and Arnisdale*                      The Commission of the General Assembly receive the Petition of the Finance Committee of Glenelg and Arnisdale, Lochalsh and Glenshiel Free Church and grant its crave. They authorise the sale of the Arnisdale and Glenshiel Church buildings and such proportion of the lands at Arnisdale held under trust as the congregation deems appropriate, under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, the proceeds to be held on behalf of the congregation by the Board of Trustees, to be made available upon application for the construction of a new Church at Glenelg as well as to revitalise the congregation and employ a pastoral worker, or to do otherwise as in their wisdom may seem best.

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**Act VII – Act admitting Rev. Aonghas Iain Macdonald as a Minister  
of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

1.      The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Aonghas Iain Macdonald, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2.      The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to make arrangements for Mr Macdonald 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 Macdonald has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers.
4.      The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

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**Act VIII – Act admitting Rev. Andrew McMillan as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

1.      The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Andrew McMillan, and noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2.      The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to make arrangements for Mr McMillan 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 McMillan has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4.      The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr McMillan to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available online.
5.      The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

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**Act IX – Act admitting Rev. Athole Rennie as a Minister of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

1.      The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Athole Rennie, 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 Rennie 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 Rennie has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Rennie to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available online.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

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**Act X - Act admitting the Congregation of Grace Church, Leith,  
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth and grant its crave. They establish the Congregation of Grace Church, Leith, as a fully sanctioned charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Grace Church within the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth under the ministry of Rev. Athole Rennie with the effect from the date of his signing the formula, and from that date grant him a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth. They declare that Act II, 1991, shall not apply in this instance for the duration of his ministry. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth at the earliest opportunity (1) to appoint assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of officebearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to meet with the congregation for a diet of public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Athole Rennie.

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**Act XI – Act admitting the Congregation of Christ Church, Edinburgh,  
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, and noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, establish the body of Christians worshipping in Christ Church (Edinburgh) as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be known as Christ Church (Edinburgh) within the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth under the present ministry of Rev. David Court and grant Mr Court a seat in the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth at the earliest available opportunity (1) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to meet with the congregation for a diet of public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. David Court.

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**Act XII – Act admitting the Congregation of Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill)  
as a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

The Commission of Assembly, as authorised by Act XXXVII, 2014, receive the Petition of the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and grant its crave. Noting the recommendation of the Home Missions Board, they establish the body of Christians worshipping in Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill) as a fully sanctioned pastoral charge of the Free Church of Scotland with immediate effect. They declare that the new congregation shall be

known as Hope Church (Blackwood and Kirkmuirhill) Free Church of Scotland within the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll under the present ministry of Rev. Ian Watson, and grant Mr Watson a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll. They instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to meet at the earliest available opportunity (1) to appoint general assessor elders to the Kirk Session so that the congregation may proceed to an election and ordination of office-bearers as soon as practically possible; and (2) to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Ian Watson.

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**Act XIII – Act placing the Name of the Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg on the Register of Ministers eligible for Call**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

The Commission of Assembly instruct the Clerk of Assembly to add Rev. Benjamin van Rensberg's name to the Register of Ministers eligible for Call with immediate effect and to inform the International Missions Board accordingly.

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**Act XIV – Act anent Sale of Property**

*Edinburgh, 4th March 2015*

**Kinloch Manse** - The Commission of Assembly authorise the sale of the Manse of the Kinloch congregation under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer, and direct that the proceeds of sale be held by the Board of Trustees to be made available to the congregation for the purchase of a suitable manse or the erection of a new one, with any surplus to be used towards the reduction of the existing loan debt.

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**DRAFT ACTS SENT DOWN UNDER THE BARRIER ACT**

**Act I – Act anent Representation of Presbyteries**

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act:

The General Assembly, with the consent of Presbyteries enact and ordain as follows:

1. Each Presbytery of the Church shall be represented in the General Assembly by a number of the Ministers and occupants of appointments as Course Organisers in Edinburgh Theological Seminary within the Presbytery, including Assessors and Ministers without charge who have been duly granted seats in the Presbytery, equal to but not greater than the number of Congregations and academic appointments as Course Organisers within the bounds of the Presbytery as set at any time by the General Assembly, together with an equal number of Elders who are *bona fide* acting Elders of Congregations of the Free Church of Scotland in the same or other Presbyteries, and who shall have signed the Formula.

2. The term Congregation in this Act shall mean a body of Members of the Free Church of Scotland which is under the care and oversight of its own Kirk Session, including Kirk Sessions requiring Assessor Elders, and holding at least one service of public worship every Lord's Day. A consolidated Charge, if and when there shall be two or more Kirk Sessions, shall count as one Congregation for the purpose of Assembly representation. The provisions of Act XIII, 1863, "Declaratory Act anent Preaching Stations, Kirk Sessions therein, and Position of Elders in such Kirk Sessions", shall continue to apply.

3. The proportion of qualifying Congregations and academic appointments shall be set by the General Assembly from time to time without recourse to the Barrier Act through the report of the Board of Trustees.
4. The General Assembly ordain that the proportion be set at 60% of Congregations as these are defined in 2 above, with effect from the General Assembly of 2017, subject to the finding of the 2016 Assembly anent this Overture.
5. The General Assembly repeal Act I, Class I, 1942.

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**Act II – Act authorising the Appointment of Additional Elders to the General Assembly in Cases where Elders are unable to attend for the whole Assembly.**

*Edinburgh, 19th May 2015*

The General Assembly, in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency and equity in the election by Presbyteries of their Commissioners to the General Assembly, hereby pass the following Overture to Presbyteries under the terms of the Barrier Act.

The General Assembly, with the consent of Presbyteries enact and ordain as follows:

1. In order to reduce the problem of a shortage of available elders, Presbyteries shall be authorised to elect elders who cannot attend for the duration of the Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 2 below.
2. In electing its Commissioners a Presbytery shall ascertain which days of the Assembly elders it wishes to commission are able to attend. If a Presbytery resolves to elect elders unable to commit to the whole of the Assembly, the Presbytery shall be free to appoint the required number in addition to those attending for the duration to make up the total allocation for each day of the Assembly. The Presbytery shall record this information in their minutes and on the Form of Commission produced by the Assembly Clerks' Office. The total number of elders allocated to each Presbytery shall not be exceeded on any day or sederunt of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall make every effort to ensure that the majority of their elected Commissioners are able to attend for the duration of the Assembly. Presbyteries shall not commission any elder for less than one whole day of the Assembly's meeting. Presbyteries shall ensure that the number of commissioners allocated to them shall not be exceeded at any meetings of the Commission of Assembly.
3. The stipulation contained in current Standing Order 5.8.2 shall continue to be observed, namely, "*That on a division being called for the Clerk shall announce that no member ought to vote against a motion or amendment who has not been in attendance during the discussion thereof.*"