

**ACTS OF ASSEMBLY
2016**

CLASS I - ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

CLASS 2 - ACTS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

No.		Category
1.	Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address	General Assembly
2.	Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery	General Assembly
3.	Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery Skye & Wester Ross	General Assembly
4.	Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery Skye & Wester Ross	General Assembly
5.	Act anent Register of Ministers Without Charges Eligible for Call	General Assembly
6.	Act anent Synods	General Assembly
7.	Act anent appointment of Principal Clerk of Assembly	General Assembly
8.	Act anent Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call – Rev. David Parker	General Assembly
9.	Act anent Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call – Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod	General Assembly
10.	Act granting Rev. Robert Walker a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll	General Assembly
11.	Act granting Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross	General Assembly
12.	Act appointing the Commission of Assembly	General Assembly
13.	Act appointing the 2017 General Assembly	General Assembly
14.	Act anent Stipend	Governance & Finance
15.	Act anent Storage of Records	Governance & Finance
16.	Act anent Chairman of Board of Trustees	Governance & Finance
17.	Act anent Membership of the Board of Ministry	Governance & Finance
18.	Act anent Editor of the Record	Governance & Finance
19.	Act anent Recognition of Candidates and Admission of Ministers	Admission & Training
20.	Act anent Admission of Rev. Alberto de Paula	Admission & Training
21.	Act anent the admission of West Church, Inverness	Admission & Training
22.	Act anent the admission of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church	Admission & Training
23.	Act anent Lyle Orr Awards	Mission & Ministry
24.	Act anent appointment of Rev. Colin Morison as Camps Supervisor	Mission & Ministry
25.	Act anent the appointment of Rev. David Meredith as Missions Director	Mission & Ministry
26.	Act anent Evangelism Support Group	Mission & Ministry
27.	Act anent Change of Name for the Missions Board	Mission & Ministry
28.	Act anent Mission Board Principles of Funding	Mission & Ministry
29.	Act anent Redevelopment status of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon	Mission & Ministry
30.	Act anent East Kilbride as a Locally Subsidised Charge	Mission & Ministry
31.	Act anent Sleat and Strath as a Locally Subsidised Charge	Mission & Ministry
32.	Act anent Campbeltown as a Locally Subsidised Charge	Mission & Ministry
33.	Act anent Assistant Minister at Back	Mission & Ministry
34.	Act anent Assistant Minister at Smithton, Culloden and Nairn	Mission & Ministry
35.	Act anent Assistant Minister at Glasgow City	Mission & Ministry
36.	Act anent the link between Glasgow City and Campbeltown	Presbyteries & Congregations

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 37. | Act anent uniting Portree and Bracadale | Presbyteries & Congregations |
| 38. | Act anent Sale of Manse at Applecross | Local Property & Assets |
| 39. | Act anent Cobham Presbyterian Church | Mission & Ministry |

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Act admitting Rev. John T. Mann to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland | Admission & Training |
| 2. | Act admitting Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland | Admission & Training |
| 3. | Act admitting Rev. James Paterson to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland | Admission & Training |
| 4. | Act admitting Rev. Robert Walker to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland | Admission & Training |
| 5. | Act anent Cobham Presbyterian Church | Mission & Ministry |
| 6. | Act anent Redevelopment status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus | Mission & Ministry |
| 7. | Act admitting Rev. John Marker to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland | Admission & Training |
| 8. | Act renaming the congregation of Gairloch and Kinlochewe | Presbyteries & Congregations |
| 9. | Act constituting the Presbytery of North America | Presbyteries & Congregations |

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS
OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
MAY 2016

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

CLASS 2 – ACTS THAT ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

Act 1 – Act anent Loyal and Dutiful Address
Number 1 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Monday 23rd May 2016

May it please Your Majesty,

We, the Ministers and Elders of the Free Church of Scotland met in General Assembly the 24th day of May 2016, humbly offer Your Majesty the expression of our continued loyalty to Your Majesty's Person and Throne and to the Constitutional Monarchy of which you are the honoured Head and Representative.

We give special thanks to Almighty God for Your Majesty's long reign over us, and for the good health and strength that have allowed Your Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to fulfil so faithfully and graciously all your considerable duties of state. We also express the deep affection in which Your Majesty is held, and the special pleasure given by the recent celebrations of your birthday. We pray, in the familiar words of the Bible, that "as your days, so may your strength be."

We continue to pray for Your Majesty and for all the Royal Family, seeking God's protection for you in these uncertain times, and asking that His gracious presence and favour will daily be with you, your children, your grandchildren, and your great-grandchildren.

We are grateful to Your Majesty for the great example you have set to our nation in the faithful performance of all your duties, and for the wisdom with which you have responded to the changes that affect so many aspects of your subjects' lives.

We would especially express our thanks that your commitment to the Christian Faith is not simply a matter of ceremonial oath, but has been openly and personally expressed in your Christmas Message and on other occasions.

We remember in our prayers Your Majesty's Ministers and Governments, both in Westminster and in Holyrood, as they discharge their responsibilities to promote the prosperity of all Your Majesty's subjects, to uphold law and order, to care for the needy, and to safeguard the peace of the Realm. We particularly pray for the education of the rising generation, for the quality of family life, and for respect for the sanctity of life, both of the unborn and of the aged.

We note with pleasure the Diamond Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which has given millions of young people opportunities for community service while gaining valuable skills and experiences.

We give thanks for Your Majesty's continued recognition of the work and ministry of the Free Church of Scotland by the visit to our General Assembly of Your Majesty's Lord High Commissioner, as we welcome Lord Hope this year. In the midst of the on-going centennial commemorations of the First World War, we recall that these visits began in the aftermath of that conflict, as a mark of recognition for the unique sacrifices made by the Scottish

Highlands and Islands. We express our thankfulness for the continued service and sacrifice of Your Majesty's Armed Forces, and also our admiration for the work of His Royal Highness the Earl of Strathearn and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales with various organisations that address the needs of wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans.

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

Act 2 – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Northern Presbytery

No. 2 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Monday 23rd May 2016

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.

Act 3 – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye & Wester Ross

Number 3 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Monday 23rd May 2016

The General Assembly appoint Mr Callum Macdonald, elder at Urquhart and Resolis, to be General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, his term of appointment to be until the next General Assembly.

Act 4 – Act appointing a General Assessor to the Presbytery of Skye & Wester Ross

Number 4 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Monday 23rd May 2016

The General Assembly declare that the appointment of Mr James Fraser, elder at Kiltarlity, as General Assessor to the Free Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross, which is due to expire at this Assembly according to the terms of Act II, Class 2, 2015, shall continue until such time as the Presbytery requests its termination. They repeal the said Act II, Class 2, 2015.

Act 5 – Act amend Register of Ministers without Charges Eligible for Call

Number 5 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly amend Paragraph 2.2 of Act XXXIV, Class 2, 2012 to read as follows: The Principal Clerk shall furnish the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call. The revised Act is as follows:

The General Assembly, considering that various legislation governing the retirement and resignation of ministers, enacted over a period of thirty years, requires to be integrated and that the related legislation on membership of Presbyteries required some clarification, enact and ordain as follows:

1. Retirement

1.1 A minister may apply for permission to retire on attaining the age of 65 years.

1.2 Applications for earlier retirement on the grounds of ill health shall be subject to the rules of the Free Church of Scotland Pension Scheme or the rules of such other pension arrangement(s) as may be in place at the time.

1.3 Those ministers with qualifying service in the Free Church of Scotland Pension Scheme shall address applications for payment of retirement benefits to the trustees of the Scheme. Applications for payment of pension benefits in respect of service after 31st December 2007 shall be directed to the third party administrator. All ministers are encouraged to seek independent financial advice when considering options for retirement.

1.4 All applications for retirement must be supported by extract minutes from the relevant Kirk Session and Presbytery and these must show that the applicant has agreed to resile from his rights of active participation in the courts of the congregation - his right to respond to a specific request from the Moderator or Interim Moderator of the congregation being unchanged.

1.5 Retirement shall involve the surrender of the emoluments of the Charge, and the vacation of the manse unless the Deacons' Court permits continuing occupation for a period; the congregation shall be deemed to be and declared to be vacant by order of the Presbytery after the specified retirement date has been reached.

1.6 A minister who has retired in terms of this Act may have his name included in the Communion Roll of the congregation which he regularly attends.

1.7 For disciplinary purposes the retired minister is accountable to the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides.

2. Resignation

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

2.2 The Principal Clerk shall furnish the Board of Ministry annually with a list of all the names and addresses on the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call.

2.3 When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery (or, in the case of an International Missions Charge, the Secretary of the International Missions Board) shall inform the Principal Clerk of Assembly by Extract Minute. The Extract Minute shall include the resolution of the Presbytery to place the name of the minister either on the Register of Ministers without Charge or on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers.

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

2.4.1 Where resignation is due to a breakdown in health;

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

2.4.3 Where resignation is due to secondment by a responsible Board or Committee of the Free Church to other pastoral
or para-pastoral work;

2.4.4 Where the contract of a minister in a terminable appointment is not renewed by resolution of the General Assembly.

2.5 Placement on the Register shall not be granted where the resigning minister has accepted an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland other than by secondment as noted at 2.4.3 above.

2.6 If a minister whose name has been placed on the Register or Roll shall be admitted to the ministry or other fulltime employment of another Church other than by secondment, his name shall be removed from the Register/Roll.

2.7 A Minister whose name is placed on the Register or Roll is required to notify the Clerk of Presbytery of any change of address. If a minister takes up residence within the bounds of another Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, he shall also inform the Clerk of that Presbytery of his address and thereafter becomes under the jurisdiction of that Presbytery. In such a case the Presbytery Clerk shall advise the Principal Clerk.

2.8 In no case shall the name of a minister remain on the Register of Ministers without Charge for more than three years from the date of inclusion in the Register unless application for an extension of the period, conforming to the conditions of Paragraph 6.2.4 above, be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three-year period. When the minister resides outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, his application for retention on the Register shall be made to the Presbytery of which he was previously a member. In no case shall a name remain on the Register for more than six years.

2.9 If a Presbytery instruct that a minister's name be placed on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers, it shall remain on that Roll without limit of time, subject to the provisions of paragraph 6.2.6 above and paragraphs 2.12 and 2.13 below.

2.10 A minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers and who desires to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the General Assembly through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time, such petition to conform with the conditions of paragraph 6.2.4 above.

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

2.12 A request by an individual whose name is on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers to have his name removed therefrom shall be dealt with by the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides. That Presbytery after due investigation and on due grounds shown (such as, the individual concerned no longer associates with the Free Church of Scotland) may declare him to be no longer a minister of the Free Church of Scotland and order that his name be removed from the Roll.

2.13 Each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers who have informed them that they are resident within the bounds of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are required to make due investigation annually that such individuals continue to associate with the Free Church of Scotland and after due intimation to the individual concerned, may order their name to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found.

3. Membership of Presbyteries

3.1 Ministers retiring upon attainment of retirement age, or on the grounds of ill health, may petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they are to reside, for a seat in that Presbytery. This shall continue as long as they reside within the bounds of the Presbytery. Upon relocation to another Presbytery they must apply for a seat in that Presbytery by petition or their names shall be added to the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers. In the case of ministers who take up residence in a Presbytery other than that receiving their application to retire, an extract minute from the Presbytery receiving their application to retire in support of the Petition, shall be obtained.

3.2 All ordained ministers of the Free Church retiring, through attainment of retirement age, or for health reasons, from service in international mission fields where this has been under the supervision of the International Missions Board, may similarly petition the Presbytery within whose bounds they are to reside, for a seat in that Presbytery. In this case the supporting extract minute shall be provided by the Board.

3.3 The General Assembly further direct that ministers and missionaries serving under the oversight of the International Missions Board, who, at retirement, choose not to apply for a seat in a Presbytery shall continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. In the event of any such minister moving outwith the bounds of a Presbytery of the Free Church, he shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided. The General Assembly direct Presbyteries to keep the names of the said ministers on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers, maintained by the Clerk of each Presbytery and reviewed annually. Presbytery Clerks shall inform the Assembly Clerk at the beginning of each calendar year of the names on the said Roll. The Assembly Clerk shall maintain a complete Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers upon such information.

3.4 A minister, who has resigned his charge to accept an appointment outside the Free Church of Scotland, and who seeks a seat on the Presbytery in which he resides, may petition the General Assembly, through the Presbytery.

3.5 A Minister granted a seat in Presbytery, other than on retiral from a pastoral charge, shall continue to be a member of the Presbytery for the duration of the period in which he holds the appointment on the basis of which he is granted his seat; and on ceasing to hold such an appointment his membership of Presbytery shall lapse and his name placed on the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers in terms of paragraph 6.3.3 above unless he is inducted to another pastoral charge.

3.6 In the case of Ministers submitting Petitions for membership of Presbytery in terms of this Act, the rights of all parties to complaint and appeal shall be preserved.

3.7 The General Assembly direct that retired ministers who are granted a seat in a Presbytery, retired ministers who do not apply for a seat in Presbytery and ministers who have resigned shall be eligible for election as Ruling Elders of the congregation to which they belong, provided this be not their last charge before retirement, but they may not be elected, as Ruling Elders or appointed as Assessor Elders, either to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery and Synod, or as Commissioners to the General Assembly.

3.8 The General Assembly direct that for each Assistant Minister duly inducted and granted a seat in Presbytery, there be a corresponding Ruling Elder from the Kirk Session of the congregation in which the Assistant is placed. Corresponding elders for seats granted in terms of Paragraphs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 and for Assistant Ministers, shall retain their seats in Presbytery only for such time as seats are retained by the said ministers.

3.9 The provisions of this Act shall be without prejudice to the position of those retired ministers granted seats in Presbyteries prior to the General Assembly of 2002.

The General Assembly repeal Acts I, 1981, XIII, 1990, IV, 1991, XIX, 1999 and XIX, 2004.

Act 6 – Act anent Synods
Number 6 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

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

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

Act 7 – Act anent Appointment of Principal Clerk of Assembly
Number 7 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly appoint Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the post of Principal Clerk of Assembly to take over from Rev. James Maciver. They declare that Mr Macleod shall take up his duties from the rising of the 2017 General Assembly, and that his appointment be according to the terms of Act X, Class 2, 2015.

Act 8 – Act anent Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call – Rev. David Parker
Number 8 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly declare that Rev. David Parker's name be retained on the Register of Ministers Without Charge Eligible for Call for a second and final three-year period according to the terms of Act XXXIV, Class 2, 2012 anent Retirement and Resignation of Ministers, paragraph 2.8.

Act 9 – Act anent Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call – Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod
Number 9 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly to transfer the name of Rev. Major Colin F. Macleod from the Roll of Resigned and Retired Ministers to the Register of Ministers without Charge Eligible for Call with immediate effect.

Act 10 – Act granting Rev. Robert Walker a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll
Number 10 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly grant Rev. Robert Walker a seat in the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery.

Act 11 – Act granting Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross
Number 11 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly grant Rev. Dr Alasdair Wilson a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross whilst he resides within the bounds of the Presbytery.

Act 12 – Act appointing the Commission of Assembly
Number 12 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Thursday 26th May 2016

The General Assembly (GA) hereby appoint a Commission consisting of all the members of this GA along with Rev. Professor R. Akroyd named by the Moderator to be their Commission.

This Commission is appointed to meet at Edinburgh on Wednesday 5th October 2016 and Wednesday 1st March 2017 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 connection with unresolved matters concerning the Free Church Continuing the General Assembly empower the Commission to take all necessary and appropriate steps in the interests of the Church in connection with these matters, and declare that meetings of the Commission shall have the full powers of a General Assembly to deal with all such matters which may arise, provided always that notice of proposals in terms of this empowerment shall be sent to commissioners at least ten days before the Commission are to convene, this requirement not implying any curtailment of amendment to such proposals.

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

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 GA;

Furthermore the Commission is empowered to receive and dispose of applications from preaching stations to be raised to fully sanctioned charges submitted through the Mission Board; to link or unite two or more congregations following upon a Report from the Mission 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 Mission Board concerning an Assistant Minister for the congregation of Portree and Bracadale Free Church; 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 on its own initiative; and to receive a report from the Assembly Clerks in relation to the records of the Presbyteries in North America and other items specified in the report of the Committee appointed to examine records.

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.

Act 13 – Act appointing the 2017 General Assembly
Number 13 of Class 2

Category: General Assembly

Thursday 26th May 2016

The General Assembly appoint the next General Assembly to meet in Edinburgh on Monday 22nd May 2017 at 6.00pm.

Act 14 – Act anent Stipend
Number 14 of Class 2

Category: Governance & Finance

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly declare a stipend of £22,500 from 1st January 2016. They approve the continuance of the other categories of salary that are paid at a fixed proportion of the stipend.

Act 15 – Act anent Storage of Records
Number 15 of Class 2

Category: Governance & Finance

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly instruct Presbyteries to identify a suitable public archive for storage of records and to pass records of churches within their bounds to the public storage where the records are 100 or more years of age with the proviso that Presbyteries are permitted at their discretion to pass records which are less than 100 years old to the same public storage. They further instruct Presbyteries to ensure that (i) where records are being kept locally, they ensure the place of storage is known, suitable and secure; and (ii) that where no suitable storage is available for records not deposited in a public archive such records are passed to the church offices in Edinburgh for storage until such time as they are eligible for storage in a public archive.

Act 16 – Act anent Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Number 16 of Class 2

Category: Governance & Finance

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly, noting the difficulties referred to by the Board in respect of identifying a suitable successor to Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, waive Paragraph 1 of Act XXIII, Class II, 2007, declare that the term of Mr James Fraser as Chairman of the Board is extended until the close of the 2019 General Assembly.

Act 17 – Act anent Membership of the Board of Ministry
Number 17 of Class 2

Category: Governance & Finance

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly, noting the need to strengthen the close working relationship between the Board of Ministry and Edinburgh Theological Seminary, and recognising how this relationship can be developed further by having the ETS Principal and one other member of the Senate on the Board, amend Act VI, Class 2, 2014, section 1.2.3, on the membership of the Board of Ministry by replacing the existing section of the Act with the following: “*Membership*: Nine members in total including the Principal of ETS (or his nominee) and one other member of the ETS Senate appointed annually by the Senate on an ex officio basis. The remaining membership of the Board of Ministry shall comprise three ministers and four elders appointed by the General Assembly for a four-year term renewable for one further term of four years. The Chairman shall be appointed from the membership of the Board by the General Assembly for a four-year term, renewable for one further term of four years. The quorum shall be three members of the Board.”

Act 18 – Act anent Editor of *The Record*
Number 18 of Class 2

Category: Governance & Finance

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Dr I. D. Campbell as Editor of *The Record* effective from 1st January 2016. They declare that Dr Campbell’s appointment be according to the terms of Act VIII, Class 2, 2015.

Act 19 – Act anent Recognition of Candidates and Admission of Ministers
Number 19 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Thursday 26th May 2016

The General Assembly note the advice of the Board of Ministry that existing legislation on the Recognition of Candidates for the Ministry and on the Admission of ministers and probationers of other churches be repealed and replaced with a comprehensive Act Anent Admission to the Ministry. Accordingly, the General Assembly enact and ordain as follows an Act Anent Admission to the Ministry:

The General Assembly direct that all Applications for Recognition as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland from those not already ordained to the ministry shall be processed by the Board of Ministry observing the following directives:

1.1 The Board of Ministry shall publish and regularly update a *Candidate Application Form*. The Form shall consist of Part A for the use of the candidate and Part B to be completed by a conjunct meeting of the applicant's Kirk Session and the relevant Presbytery or Committee of Presbytery who shall oversee the initial stages of the application process. To comply with civil legislation, the form shall include information on the immigration and nationality of the applicant and shall also gather information on their previous education and experience, their understanding of the gospel and theological views, their vision for ministry including their wholehearted commitment to the authority of scripture and the doctrines of the Reformed faith. The application must be supported by suitable references and indicate that the candidate complies with PVG legislation.

1.2 Applicants must be communicant members of the Free Church of Scotland and should normally have a minimum two-year association with the Free Church or a similar sister church before being given recognition.

1.3 Where the relevant Presbytery approves an application the Board of Ministry shall interview the applicant and come to a view on recognising him as a candidate for the ministry. The Board shall have the right to require an additional appraisal of the candidate including an assessment day or conference when gifts and calling may be tested. The Board are authorised to require medical information if they regard this as necessary to ensure that a candidate is able to carry out the duties of a minister or to ensure that adequate support and provision is made. The Board may require some candidates to undertake preliminary studies (which may be a first degree) or to take part in an apprentice in ministry post or the equivalent if they shall see fit. Candidates should demonstrate an ability to benefit from the ETS course. However, candidates are not required to hold a first degree. The Board may regard candidates over the age of 30 years as a mature student and may adjust the requirements of their course accordingly. In coming to a view on the application, the Board shall properly assess the candidate's Christian character and temperament as well as his giftedness and sense of call.

1.4 Once a candidate is recognised the Board shall ensure that he receives adequate mentoring and oversight before and during his period of study. The candidates shall also receive pastoral oversight from his home Presbytery in accordance with Act XXXVIII, 2015. The Presbytery shall inform the Clerk to the Board of Ministry and the candidate's Director of Studies at ETS of any concerns they may have concerning the welfare and the life and conduct of the candidate so that appropriate support may be provided and any necessary action taken.

1.5 All candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally pursue the full programme of studies at Edinburgh Theological Seminary. The General Assembly declare that, in normal cases, candidates for the Free Church ministry should obtain a B.Th., MTh or L.Th., or their equivalent as a necessary vocational qualification. The Board of Ministry may make alternative arrangements such as agreeing to bi-vocational training with the agreement of the relevant Presbytery, part-time studies or a modified training course in special cases.

1.6 Where a candidate has already completed first degree level theological studies and the Board of Ministry is satisfied as to the quality of both teaching and achievement, the candidate shall normally be required to study under the oversight of the Board for two academic years. The Board shall determine the nature of the course to be taken and what supplementary training the candidate may require in terms of academic and practical study and shall take note of requests from the candidate for particular areas of supplementary training. In exceptional cases the Board, with the agreement of the relevant Presbytery, may agree to reduce the necessary additional training to one academic year. This would normally only be applicable to a candidate holding a theological qualification at post-graduate level and possessing extensive pastoral or practical experience. The Board shall have regard to the theological content of any previous study to ensure that each candidate for the Free Church ministry is adequately prepared for ministry having obtained an adequate training that is Confessional and Reformed as a strong basis for their future pastoral ministry. In the case of a modified course of study, the Board of Ministry will liaise with the Senate of the Seminary to facilitate the delivery of the course and any necessary supplementary training.

1.7 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to study courses in language and literature in both Old Testament (Hebrew) and New Testament (Greek) studies. The Board of Ministry, in conjunction with the Senate and teaching staff at ETS, may agree to concessions in language study particularly in the case of mature students.

1.8 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to attend the Free Church Ministry Module and any other vocational training and instruction that may be arranged and required.

1.9 Candidates for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall normally be required to participate in term-time and summer placements as arranged by the Board of Ministry.

1.10 Each candidate shall normally be required to submit a Dissertation as part of their studies in accordance with the regulations for the qualification they are enrolled in.

1.11 The Board of Ministry shall make appropriate financial provision for students and probationers in terms of the legislation of the church. Candidates who fail to enter the ministry may be liable for the repayment of funds received from SAAS or funds received from the Board in terms of the undertakings made between the candidate and the Church.

1.12 The General Assembly declare that the foregoing provisions contain all the legislation of the Church relating to Applications for Recognition as a Candidate for the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland. The General Assembly repeal (in as much as they have not already been repealed) Act XX, 1985; Act XIX, 1987; Act XXIII, 1989; Act XXI, 1991; Act XVI, 1992; Act XV, 1996; Act XIX, 2001; Act XXVIII, 2004; Act XXXII, 2014 and Act XXXIII, 2014.

The General Assembly direct that all Applications from Ministers or Probationers of other churches seeking admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland shall be processed by the Board of Ministry observing the following directives:

2.1 The Board of Ministry shall publish and regularly update a *Minister or Probationer's Application Form*. The Form shall consist of Part A for the use of the minister or probationer and Part B to be completed by the Presbytery or committee of Presbytery through whom the applicant is making application. The Presbytery shall oversee the initial stages of the application process. To comply with civil legislation, the form shall include information on the immigration and nationality of the applicant. The form shall gather information on their previous education and experience, their previous experience or work and ministry, their understanding of the gospel and theological views, their vision for ministry including their wholehearted commitment to the authority of scripture and the doctrines of the Reformed faith, together their reasons for wishing to leave their previous church and enter the ministry of the Free Church. The application must be supported by suitable references. This will normally include certification of their credentials and good standing within their past denomination. The candidate must declare their compliance with PVG legislation.

2.2 If the Presbytery supports the application and is satisfied that the applicant is a suitable person to hold a ministerial charge in the Free Church of Scotland, and if the applicant gives an unqualified agreement to the questions put to licentiates and is willing to sign the formula, then the Board shall agree to interview the applicant and come to a decision on the application.

2.3 The Board shall have the right to require an additional appraisal of the candidate including an assessment day or conference if deemed appropriate. The Board are authorised to require medical information if they regard this as necessary to ensure that a candidate is able to carry out the duties of a minister or to ensure that adequate support and provision is made in each case. The Board may require some applicants to undertake further theological studies. In coming to a view on the application the Board shall properly assess the candidate's reputation and history of service in the church of Jesus Christ along with their gifts and character.

2.4 Where the Board is satisfied with the applicant and approve the application they shall process the application through the General Assembly or the Commission of Assembly in terms of the following protocol:

2.4.1 The Board of Ministry shall give sufficient prior notification to Presbyteries of all applications from ministers of other churches being reported to the General Assembly or its Commission.

2.4.2 The relevant Presbytery and the Board of Ministry are responsible to process the whole application with due diligence on behalf of the denomination. For reasons of confidentiality nothing more than the name of the applicant, the Presbytery they are applying through, and the date when their application will be disposed of, is required by way of notification to other Presbyteries.

2.4.3 To assist all parties the following deadline shall apply to all applications. Papers relating to an application must be in the hands of the Board of Ministry not less than six weeks prior to the meeting of the General Assembly or its Commission. The Board shall be responsible to give notice to Presbyteries at least one month before the application is finally disposed of. Otherwise the application will await the next available Commission or General Assembly.

2.4.4 The full application papers need not be made available to the Assembly or its Commission in instances where the responsible Presbytery and the Board of Ministry has no hesitation in recommending that the application be received. A précis setting out the main aspects of the application shall be sufficient in such cases. In cases where dissent had been recorded, or reservations have been expressed, by either the Presbytery or the Board of Ministry, the full application shall come before the Assembly or its Commission.

2.5 In cases where it is clear that the applicant – either because of his age or particular circumstances – is neither interested in, nor able to take up a charge in the Free Church, then the decision to require a medical certificate or to interview the applicant shall be at the discretion of the Board.

2.6 The Board of Ministry shall not approve an application unless they are satisfied that the minister or probationer possesses educational qualifications and professional training comparable to those required of applicants for Licence by the Free Church of Scotland unless appropriate steps are taken to correct any deficiency. The Board shall ascertain that the minister is fully committed to maintaining the peace and unity of this Church and does not hold opinions or follow practices likely to be divisive.

2.7 The General Assembly directs the Board of Ministry that applicants for ministry in the Free Church from other denominations shall normally study the Free Church Ministry Module. The Board shall ensure that the minister or probationer has such knowledge of the *Practice of the Free Church of Scotland* as to render him a competent person to act as Moderator of a Kirk Session and to assume the responsibilities which normally fall upon Free Church ministers in the courts of the Church. The Board may also set suitable guided reading or require essays on aspects of Free Church history and theology or other relevant subjects, as they shall see cause. The Board may in certain circumstances require the completion of a placement under the supervision of an experienced minister of the Church.

2.8 The General Assembly declare that only the General Assembly or its Commission of Assembly shall admit ministers from other churches. The General Assembly authorise all future meetings of the Commission of Assembly to receive and dispose of all such applications as a matter of routine.

2.9 The General Assembly declare that the foregoing provisions contain all the legislation of the Church relating to Applications from Ministers or Probationers of other churches seeking admission to the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland and accordingly repeal Act XXXV, 2005; Act XXXIV, 2013; and Act XXXIII, 2014.

Act 20 – Act anent Admission of Rev. Alberto de Paula
Number 20 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Thursday 26th May 2016

1. The General Assembly receive the application from Rev. Alberto de Paula, 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 General Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, to make arrangements for Mr de Paula to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly thereanent.

3. The General Assembly declare Mr de Paula to be the minister of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church upon his signing the Formula under the direction of the Presbytery.

4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr. de Paula to avail himself of the online course in Free Church Practice and Principles under the supervision of Professor John Angus Macleod.

Act 21 – Act anent the admission of West Church, Inverness
Number 21 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly grant the body of Christians worshipping in West Church, Inverness, 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 West Church, Inverness (Free Church of Scotland) within the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Macmillan. They grant Mr Macmillan a seat in the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross. They instruct the Presbytery of Inverness, Lochaber and Ross to meet at the earliest available opportunity: (i) 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 (ii) to appoint a meeting with the congregation for a diet of public worship to welcome them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Andrew Macmillan.

Act 22 – Act anent the admission of Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church
Number 22 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly grant Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church 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 Broughty Ferry Presbyterian Church within the Presbytery of the Edinburgh and Perth under the ministry of Rev. Alberto De Paula on his successful application to be admitted as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland. They declare that the minister's appointment be without restriction according to the provisions of Act I, Class I, 2013 anent Sustentation Fund, Paragraph 3.3. They instruct the Presbytery of the Edinburgh and Perth at the earliest available opportunity to (i) 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 (ii) to meet with the congregation for public worship with a view to welcoming them formally into the Presbytery and recognising the ministry of Rev. Alberto De Paula.

Act 23 – Act anent Lyle Orr Awards
Number 23 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly, noting the recommendation of the Mission Board, declare that the Lyle Orr award system, and the associated exploration project, be discontinued, effective from the rising of this General Assembly.

Act 24 – Act anent Appointment of Rev. Colin Morison as Camps Supervisor
Number 24 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. Colin Morison as Camps Supervisor in August 2015 and they commend him to the prayers of the Church.

Act 25 – Act anent the Appointment of Rev. David Meredith as Missions Director
Number 25 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly note the appointment of Rev. David Meredith as Missions Director on 5th October 2015 according to the provisions of Act XI, Class II, 2015 as amended by Act, Class II, 2016. They instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to induct Rev. David Meredith to the post of Missions Director on a date not later than 31st July 2016. They grant Mr Meredith a seat on the said Presbytery effective from the date of his induction.

Act 26 – Act anent Evangelism Support Group
Number 26 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly declare that the Evangelism Sub-Committee, so designated by Act XXVII, Class II, 2007, be disbanded effective from the rising of the 2016 General Assembly. They approve of the revised financial arrangements for evangelism support whereby funds allocated to the Sub-Committee for the support of evangelism will continue to be allocated by the Board from its budget for this purpose.

Act 27 – Act anent Change of Name for the Missions Board
Number 27 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly declare that the name of the Missions Board, appointed according to the terms of Act XIII, Class II, 2015, is changed from Missions Board to Mission Board. They amend the said Act XIII, 2015, accordingly. They instruct that all legislative and formal documentation be amended to reflect this change.

Act 28 – Act anent the Mission Board Principles of Funding
Number 28 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly approve the Missions Board's Principles of Funding document for the apportionment of the discretionary part of its budget to the mission work of the Church. They instruct that this Principles of Funding document be adopted by the Church. The Principles of Funding are as follows:

1. *Word Based Ministry.* The Missions Board will offer financial support primarily for the purpose of establishing, equipping and sustaining ministries that are Word-based.
2. *Partnerships.* The Board is committed to the local oversight and pastoral care of missionaries and missionary projects. Nevertheless, it recognises that in many cases it is not able to provide the necessary level of local oversight and care required due to limited financial and management resources. The Board will, therefore, set up suitable arrangements with partner missionary agencies and / or indigenous churches who have the resources to provide the necessary spiritual and practical care for those operating abroad. A list of suitable theological and missiological partner agencies will be compiled by the Board and reviewed on a regular basis. Such partner agencies may also provide support funding for missionaries as part of the arrangement.
3. *Funding.* The Board will offer financial support of up to 50% of the package required, for fixed-term missionary projects. In some cases, the Board may provide up to 100% of the funding package for a time-limited

period. The Board will establish levels of funding on a case by case basis. The Board will also provide assistance in the process of identifying and accessing other funding sources.

The Board is committed to time-limited funding in its support of its projects. Successful applications and proposals for funding will be for a fixed term and funding awarded will be for the duration of the fixed term. An application for an extension of the current funding can be submitted at the end of a current term. The Board will not commit to open-ended support of missionaries.

Funding for mission projects is largely dependent on income from congregations through the Missions Levy and the Missions Fund. The Board's ability to give financial support to its mission projects in the longer term will depend on income from these sources. The Board will fulfil the Church's financial commitment to its mission projects arising from General Assembly directives and the terms of legacy funding.

4. *Short Term Mission Grants* The Board will make budgetary provision annually (2-3% of overall budget) up to a maximum of £5,000 initially to distribute to Free Church members doing short-term mission work in various parts of the world. The financial support offered will not exceed £500 to any individual. This does two things: (i) it shows the Board is interested and supportive of all Free Church missionaries whether short or long-term, and (ii) it allows the Board to contribute a nominal fee to mission endeavours which would not qualify for larger funding.

5. *Financial Sustainability* The Board will strive to achieve the financial sustainability of all its projects and of its combined total remit. This will be achieved through careful project-led funding and budget planning aimed at realising a balanced budget from year to year. Applications and proposals will be considered by the Board on a regular basis and prioritised in line with the Board's strategy. The Board will set out a timetable for such planning and agree a budget with the Board of Trustees each year.

6. *Commitment to Communicate* The Board is committed to communicate the work undertaken through all its ministry, mission and missionary activities effectively within the Church and beyond.

Act 29 – Act anent Redevelopment Status of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon

Number 29 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly declare that the redevelopment status of the congregation of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon, granted according to the terms of Act XIV, Class II, 2011, and Act XXXIV, Class II, 1988 anent Redevelopment Charges, has expired. They approve of the Missions Board's decision to grant the congregation 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, paragraph 3.4.

Act 30 – Act anent East Kilbride as a Locally Subsidised Charge

Number 30 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly note that the current three-year term of locally subsidised ministry at East Kilbride, according to the provisions of Act XIV, Class II, 2013, terminates at this Assembly. They declare that the locally subsidised arrangements be extended for one year until the 2017 General Assembly. They instruct the Missions Board to consult with the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll and report to the 2017 General Assembly on future ministerial arrangements at East Kilbride.

Act 31 – Act anent Sleat and Strath as a Locally Subsidised Charge
Number 31 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly note that the current three-year term of locally subsidised ministry at Sleat and Strath, according to the provisions of Act XIV, Class II, 2013, terminates at this Assembly. They declare that the current ministerial arrangements, under the provisions of the said Act, be extended for a second and final three-year term.

Act 32 – Act anent Campbeltown as a Locally Subsidised Charge
Number 32 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly grant the congregation of Campbeltown the status of a Locally Subsidised Charge for a three-year term according to the provisions of Act XIV, Class II, 2013.

Act 33 – Act anent Assistant Minister at Back
Number 33 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly grant permission to the congregation of Back 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 2018.

Act 34 – Act anent Assistant Minister at Smithton, Culloden and Nairn
Number 34 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly grant permission to the congregation of Smithton, Culloden and Nairn to appoint a second Assistant Minister in accordance with the terms of Act XVIII, Class II, 2013 anent Assistantships, such permission to lapse at the General Assembly of 2018.

Act 35 – Act anent Assistant Minister at Glasgow City
Number 35 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly grant permission to the congregation of Glasgow City 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 2018.

Act 36 – Act anent the link between Glasgow City and Campbeltown
Number 36 of Class 2

Category: Presbyteries & Congregations

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly disjoin the preaching-station of Campbeltown from Glasgow City Free Church in order to allow Campbeltown to develop its future ministry independent of Glasgow City Free Church. They repeal Act II, Class 2, October 2012 Commission of Assembly.

Act 37 – Act anent uniting Portree and Bracadale
Number 37 of Class 2

Category: Presbyteries & Congregations

Wednesday 25th May 2016

The General Assembly unite the congregation of Bracadale with the congregation of Portree with one Kirk Session and one Deacons' Court. They declare that the consolidated charge be known as Portree and Bracadale Free Church within the Presbytery of Skye and Wester Ross.

Act 38 – Act anent Sale of Manse at Applecross
Number 38 of Class 2

Category: Local Property & Assets

Tuesday 24th May 2016

The General Assembly note the sale of the Manse at Applecross in accordance with permission granted by Act I, Commission of Assembly, October 2003. They further note that a petition from the Deacons Court of Lochcarron and Applecross addressed to the 2015 General Assembly, seeking a revision of the terms of the said Act regarding the use of funds raised from the sale of the manse, was withdrawn but yet inadvertently included in Act XV, Class II, 2015 anent Sale of Properties and Release of Funds. They therefore revise Act XV, Class 2, 2015 to the extent that Paragraph 1 is deleted. The revised Act XV is as follows:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.

Act 39 – Act anent Cobham Presbyterian Church
Number 5 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Tuesday 24th May 2016

1. The General Assembly receive the Petition of Mr R.I. Haffenden and others regarding the finding of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly and the dissolution of the congregation of Cobham and grant its crave.
2. The General Assembly declare that the decision of the October 2015 Commission of Assembly regarding Cobham Presbyterian Church is *ultra vires*.
3. The General Assembly note the findings arising from the due process of consultation followed in the meetings of the Kirk Session of London City Presbyterian Church, the Kirk Session of Cobham Presbyterian Church, and the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth, held on 10th September 2015, 11th September 2015, and 22nd September 2015 respectively, together with the situation now prevailing as a result of the Commission's finding.

4. The General Assembly declare the congregation of Cobham to be united with the congregation of London City Presbyterian Church. They further declare that the united charge be known as London City Presbyterian Church under the present ministry of Rev. Andrew Pearson, with one Kirk Session exercising oversight of the combined congregation and with one Deacons' Court exercising fiduciary responsibility over the combined assets.
5. The General Assembly instruct the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of the united charge to consult with the Board of Trustees concerning the loan from the Board of Trustees to the congregation of Cobham Presbyterian Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 until the pastoral tie of Rev. David D. Miller was severed with the congregation, and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse.
6. The General Assembly repeal Act 19, Class 2, 2013.

ACTS OF THE COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY

Act 1 – Act admitting Rev. John T. Mann to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland Number 1 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 7th October 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. John T. Mann, resigned Church of Scotland minister, 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 Northern Presbytery to make arrangements for Mr John Mann to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter by extract minute to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Mann has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Mann to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 2 – Act admitting Rev. Malcolm Macleod to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland Number 2 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 7th October 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Malcolm Macleod, minister in the Associated Presbyterian Church, 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 the Western Isles to make arrangements for Mr Macleod to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. 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.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Macleod to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 3 – Act admitting Rev. James Paterson to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
Number 3 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 7th October 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. James Paterson, minister in the Church of Scotland, 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 Paterson to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Paterson has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Paterson to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 4 – Act admitting Rev. Robert Walker to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
Number 4 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 7th October 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. Robert Walker, minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, and, noting the recommendation of the Board of Ministry, admit him as an ordained minister of the Free Church of Scotland, with effect from his signing the Formula.
2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Glasgow and Argyll to make arrangements for Mr Walker to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.
3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Paterson has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Walker to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.
5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held in retentis.

Act 5 – Act anent Cobham Presbyterian Church
Number 5 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 7th October 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly, noting the finding of the last General Assembly in regard to Cobham Presbyterian Church (Act XXVII, Class 2, 2015), in particular the declaration that the congregation to be financially non-viable, declare that the said congregation be dissolved with effect from 31st October 2015. They direct the Kirk Session and Deacons' Court of Cobham to meet prior to this date to record the Commission's finding and to complete such actions as may be required in relation to 2) – 5) below.

2. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to make arrangements for the pastoral care of communicant members and adherents at Cobham. They direct the Presbytery to oversee the transfer of names presently on the Communion Roll of Cobham Presbyterian Church to the Communion Roll of London City Presbyterian Church by 31st October 2015, without prejudice to the right of any communicant to request a Disjunction Certificate from the Cobham Kirk Session before this date.

3. The Commission of Assembly direct that the entire assets which pertain to Cobham Free Church be allocated to the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth under the supervision of the Church's Compliance Officer. The Commission further direct that, after repayment of funds lent to Cobham Free Church, the payment of ministry stipendiary expenses for the year 2015 and any other loans made for the purchase of the manse, the resultant asset value be distributed by the said Presbytery to further gospel work within their bounds, in accordance with the joint resolution of the Presbytery and the Board of Trustees and include some element to London City Presbyterian Church in recognition of their past endeavours to establish the Cobham congregation.

4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Board of Trustees to take the necessary steps to dissolve the Cobham Free Church charity.

5. The Commission of Assembly direct the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth to report on these matters above to the next Commission of Assembly through the Missions Board.

Act 6 – Act anent Redevelopment Status of the Congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus
Number 6 of Class 2

Category: Mission & Ministry

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

1. The Commission of Assembly declare that the Redevelopment Status of the congregation of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus in terms of Act XXXIV, Class 2, 1988 is now terminated.

2. The Commission of Assembly further declare that the ministry of Rev. Dr John S. Ross in the congregation shall continue until his retirement at the age of 70 with the full costs of ministry being borne by the congregation for the remainder of his ministry.

Act 7 – Act admitting Rev. John Marker to the Ministry of the Free Church of Scotland
Number 7 of Class 2

Category: Admission & Training

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

1. The Commission of Assembly receive the application from Rev. John Marker, resigned minister in a Congregational Church, 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 Marker to sign the Formula under their supervision and thereafter to notify the Principal Clerk of Assembly by extract minute.

3. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Principal Clerk of Assembly, upon notification that Mr Marker has signed the Formula, to place his name on the Register of Ministers Eligible for Call.

4. The Commission of Assembly instruct Mr Marker to avail himself of Free Church Practice and Principles when the course becomes available on line.

5. The Commission of Assembly order the supporting documents to be held *in retentis*.

Act 8 – Act renaming the Congregation of Gairloch and Kinlochewe
Number 8 of Class 2

Category: Presbyteries & Congregations

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

The Commission of Assembly declare that the name of the congregation known as Gairloch and Kinlochewe Free Church be changed to that of Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon Free Church to reflect the change in the composition of the congregation.

Act 9 – Act constituting the Presbytery of North America
Number 9 of Class 2

Category: Presbyteries & Congregations

Wednesday 7th October 2015

1. The Commission of Assembly, noting the information received by extract from the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada, namely that the Free Church congregation at Toronto, Canada, is due to be admitted into the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America on 14th October 2015, and that as a result of this admission the congregation of Livonia will be the sole remaining Free Church congregation in the said Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada, dissolve the Synod of North America effective from 14th October 2015.
2. The Commission of Assembly declare that the Presbytery of the Great Lakes and Western Canada and the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island be united to form one Presbytery comprising the congregations of Livonia, Eastern Charge, Western Charge, and Central Charge, the Presbytery to be known as the Presbytery of North America, with its seat at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
3. The Commission of Assembly direct that the Presbytery holds its first meeting at Charlottetown not later than 31st October 2015, the Moderator to be Rev. Kent Compton, and authorise this and future meetings to use electronic media for attendance and participation as required, provided always that the requirements for a quorum be fulfilled. They further direct that the Presbytery appoints its Clerk at the aforesaid meeting.
4. The Commission of Assembly instruct the Clerk to ensure that the records of the Presbytery are made available annually at the General Assembly for examination.
5. The Commission of Assembly declare that the Presbytery of North America be associated with the Western Synod.
6. The Commission of Assembly amend Act 6, Class 2, 2002 to the extent that all references to the Synod of North America be deleted.