

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

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The outline Order of Business in Appendix 1 details the arrangements for the 2017 General Assembly. The General Assembly will meet in the Salutation Hotel, Perth from Wednesday 31st May to Friday 2nd June. The annual meetings of the Women's Home and Overseas Committee and all Business Sessions along with the Opening and Closing Services of the General Assembly will take place in the Salutation Hotel. The culmination of the General Assembly will be the Closing Service during which the Moderator will give his address.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

The committee recommends that the General Assembly 2018 be held in the Salutation Hotel, Perth from Wednesday June 6th until Friday June 8th. This reverts to the usual week of Assembly, beginning on the Wednesday after the first Sunday in June.

STEDFAST

Mr Alastair Wright continues as Stedfast Secretary and works well with the Stedfast Editorial Team. The Stone Agency continues to design the magazine and the General Secretary provides valuable support and advice. The June / July issue had to be cancelled due to problems with the designer. There was, however, a larger issue produced for August / September. The Team continues to commission and request material from within and beyond the Church in its effort to provide a magazine that encourages, supports and advances the life and witness of the denomination. Congregations are, as always, encouraged to give Stedfast their support.

PRAYER UNION

The committee appreciates the valuable contribution which the Prayer Union continues to make to the life of the church in providing an opportunity for focused prayer throughout the denomination. Mrs Wemyss Billows and her committee are to be commended for the quality and content of the Prayer and Study Guide which is widely used throughout the church. The Administration and Finance Committee thank the Prayer Union Committee for their written report which replaces their annual meeting and is found as Appendix 3.

COORDINATING FORUM

The Coordinating Forum continues to meet to share information on the work of presbyteries and the committees of the church. The present committee structure has been in place for a number of years and has encouraged committees to liaise and work together where appropriate. Reshaping for Mission has once again been an encouraging development.

NOMINATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

The Committee would again like to express thanks to everyone who has willingly accepted nomination to General Assembly Committees, in particular to those who have agreed to become Conveners and Vice-Conveners of Committees.

RESHAPING FOR MISSION

The group appointed by the Coordinating Forum to consider Church Planting / Revitalisation has again met on a number of occasions during the last year. Consideration has been given to the issues involved, and thanks are expressed to Rev Dr David Miller for all the work which he has undertaken. Although there have been enquiries as a result of adverts in the Church of Scotland's magazine, "Life and Work" the "Presbyterian Herald", the magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, and with the Highland Theological College and Edinburgh Theological Seminary, there have not been any applications from individuals who feel led to serve as ministers, church planters and church revitalisers within the denomination. We continue to pray for the Lord to lead suitable individuals to serve Him in such capacities.

CHURCH OFFICE

Work has now been completed on the pavement and the road surface outside the office in Newton Place. The council will be responsible for all future maintenance and our only costs will be for the maintenance of the garden area. There has been a delay in the exterior painting, but it is hoped that this will take place soon.

HIGHLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Highland Theological College continue using two rooms on the top floor of the Church Office. This has enabled them to have a satellite in Glasgow, which is much more accessible for students in the Central Belt. Video Conferencing facilities allow students to view the lectures which are taking place in Dingwall. HTC is currently looking at the possibility of moving to larger premises in the Glasgow area. We shall seek to offer the available space to other Christian organisations if it becomes available.

COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE ONE TO BE MODERATOR

The Committee to Nominate One to be the Moderator of the General Assembly is appointed every three years. That term has now been completed. The Administration and Finance Committee has given consideration to the existing arrangements which were agreed by the General Assembly in 1942. The Committee presently consists of previous Moderators of the General Assembly, the Clerks, twelve members nominated by Presbyteries and four by the Women's Home and Overseas Committee. The only adjustment to the Committee since 1942 has been to reflect the different number of Presbyteries.

For some time, it has been the case that some Presbyteries have struggled to appoint to this Committee, given that the inclusion of all the previous Moderators can mean a considerable portion of the Ministers in Presbytery are already members of the Committee.

It is therefore proposed by the Administration and Finance Committee to alter the make-up of the Committee to better serve the needs of the Church today. The Committee proposes that, from now on, this Committee to Nominate One to be Moderator will consist of the previous ten Moderators of the General Assembly, the Clerks, two representatives from each Presbytery and two representatives from the Women's Home and Overseas Committee. Those representatives appointed would serve for three years. The Moderator of the previous General Assembly to occupy the chair.

SAFEGUARDING

Beth Smith, the former director of WithScotland, the national agency responsible for the protection of children and vulnerable adults, has agreed to act as a consultant for us as we review our material. A draft report has been sent to commissioners. We continue to have Elizabeth McNaughton serve as National Co-ordinator and are grateful for all who serve as safeguarding coordinators in congregations. We do not, however, see the need to continue with Presbytery coordinators.

STATISTICS

The Committee has discussed the form which is used to gather annual statistical information from congregations. It was agreed to add a line for the number of “regular worshippers who are not yet members.” Discussion has also taken place regarding amendments to the sections covering “Sunday Schools” and “Bible Classes and Youth Fellowships” and changes have been made in these sections. Discussion regarding other changes is ongoing.

MODERATOR’S TOUR

The Committee does not see the need for the Moderator to visit Orkney and Shetland every year. It has been agreed that visits to each will be every two years and that they alternate between Orkney and Shetland.

MODERATORIAL VISITATION

Thanks are expressed to the Moderator, Rev Alexander Ritchie, for his visits to congregations during the past year and for the encouragement he has brought. The Moderator has also willingly represented the church at a number of meetings and events.

East: Gorebridge, Leith: Ebenezer, Portobello: Wilson Memorial, Sauchie & Fishcross

West: Candlish: Wynd, Cathcart, Chryston, Dumbarton: Dalreoch, Drumchapel, Knightswood, Largs, Lochwinnoch: Calder

North: Aberdeen: Northfield, Aberdeen: Torry, Auchterarder, Balintore, Boddam, Cunningsburgh, Dundee, Lossiemouth, Montrose: Knox’s, Sandwick

QUINQUENNIAL VISITATION

During the year the following quinquennial visitations have been carried out:

East: Broxburn: St Nicholas, West Calder: Limefield, Portobello: Wilson Memorial

West: Dalreoch, Langside & Shawlands, Milngavie, Stonehouse: Paterson, Wishaw, Uddingston: Park

North: Aberdeen: Torry, Dounby, Montrose: Knox’s

STATISTICS

Presbyteries: The number of Presbyteries remains at 3.

Congregations: The number of Congregations at the end of 2016 was 53, five less than at the end of 2015 following the dissolution of Ferryden, Greenock, Newport, Perth and Whifflet. The final service has been held at Partick but the congregation is not yet dissolved.

Name of Presbytery	Number of Congregations
1. East	13
2. West	26
3. North	14

Roll of Ministers, etc.

Ministers:

	2015	2016
In Pastorate.....	17	20
Others appointments	4	3
Total	21	23
Full time Ministry Assistant	0	1
Part-time Ministers, Ministry Assistants & Pastors.....	13	12
Students.....	3	1
Probationers.....	2	2
Retired Ministers.....	27	26
Widows of Ministers.....	13	12
Widows of Pastors.....	2	2

Persons and Agencies: In the table appended to this Report the analysed details of schedules received from Congregations will be found with the corresponding figures for previous years.

Communicants: The number of Communicants on the Roll at 31 December 2016 was 2,466 compared with 2,635 at the end of 2015.

Admissions were as follows: -

	2015	2016
By Profession	36	30
By Certificate	28	42
By Resolution	22	13

Removals were as follows: -

By Death	95	93
By Certificate	21	116
Without Certificate	73	49

For the first time we asked about 'regular worshippers who are not yet members' and there were 324 people in that category.

Office-Bearers: There were 388 Elders and 255 Deacons, Managers or Board Members who are not Elders.

Baptisms: There were 12 Baptisms of children and 4 of adults.

Sunday Activities:

	2015	2016
Pre-school	57	68
P1 - 7	136	138
Congregations	29	29
Leaders	88	91
S 1 - 3	58	33
Congregations	15	18
S 4 - 6	16	26
Congregations	5	11

Midweek Organisations for Children & Young People:

Number	48	46
Membership	782	662

Adult Organisations:

Number	148	145
Membership	1,895	1,811

Roll of persons not yet Communicants: The Committee recommend to the Kirk Session the practice of keeping a careful record of all persons not yet communicants who are in any way connected with the Church either by attendance or by affiliation with any organisation of the Church.

In the name of the Committee,
GRAHAM G BROWN
IAN A BOA
JOHN O. FULTON

Convener
Vice-convener
Secretary

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017
OUTLINE PROGRAMME
SALUTATION HOTEL, PERTH**

WEDNESDAY 31st May

11.00 & 2.15 Committee on Women's Home and Overseas.

7.00 Opening of General Assembly

THURSDAY 1st June

09.45 Opening Devotions
Memorial Tributes
Reception of Delegates from other Churches
Report of Assembly Business Committee
Presentation by Christian Education & Evangelism Committee
Presentation by Administration & Finance Committee
(including Reshaping for Mission)
Presentation by Church & Society Committee
Presentation by Overseas Committee

Breaks will be: Lunch 12.30 – 1.45, Tea 4.30 – 6.00 (Meal at 5 p.m.) with tea/ coffee from 11 – 11.15 and 3.00 – 3.15 p.m.

The Annual meeting of the Friends of the Students Association will be at the close of the afternoon session.

FRIDAY 2nd June

09.45 Opening Devotions
Representative of Scottish Bible Society
Report by Committee on Women's Home and Overseas
Presentation by Ministry Committee
Presentation by Ecumenical Relations Committee
Presentation by Youth Committee
Report by General Trustees
Committee on Records and Minute Books
Any business left over from previous diets/ closing items

Breaks will be: Lunch 12.30 – 1.45, Tea 4.30 – 7.00 (Meal at 5 p.m.) and tea/ coffee from 11 – 11.15 and 3.00 – 3.15

7.00 **Closing Service**
Including Moderator's Address