

I.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS & NOMINATIONS

(A) ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS

1. Introduction

Since the meeting of the General Assembly in May 2021 the Committee, in common with everyone else, have faced challenges and difficulties. Routine tasks have proved difficult, and meetings have required more careful planning than would ordinarily have been the case. Nevertheless, even in the midst of such difficulties, the Committee have sought to continue their work in an orderly fashion that reflects the fact that God is a God of order. As we survey the past twelve months, we have many reasons to express our thanks to the Most High: *Hitherto hath the Lord helped us* (1 Samuel 7:12).

In accordance with Standing Order I.5, the Committee notified Presbyteries of their representation in the Assembly.

In accordance with Act II Class II 2002, the Committee nominated a Moderator-Designate.

2. General Assembly

The Report of the Committee presented to the General Assembly spoke of “the fervent prayer of the Committee that the 2022 General Assembly will be a ‘normal’ Assembly”. It has been with real thankfulness to the Most High that we have been able to plan for this year’s event to be held, once again, in the familiar setting of Liberton Kirk, Edinburgh. We are very grateful to the Minster and Congregation of Liberton Kirk for placing their beautiful building at our disposal and for their help and guidance in matters practical.

Mr Derick Gillies having indicated that he was unavailable to act as Assembly Officer this year, the Committee took steps to identify a suitable replacement. The Committee are grateful to Mr Donald John Morrison for agreeing to undertake this role and are also very grateful to his various assistants for the time they so freely give to help the Assembly.

The Committee were very thankful for the Zoom facility which allowed the General Assemblies of 2020 and 2021 to meet by conference call. Following a number of representations, the Committee gave consideration to adopting a hybrid format whereby Commissioners who were not physically present in Edinburgh could also participate in the General Assembly. The Committee were unanimously of the view that, whilst they sympathise with those Commissioners who may have difficulty attending, the introduction of such a system would not be wise. The General Assembly of 2021 had demonstrated that, whilst it was useful in an emergency, an online meeting, in whole or in part, had not proved a very successful or appropriate method of dealing with more complex matters.

For obvious reasons, the timetabling of the Assembly follows a similar pattern each year. The Committee, in giving guidance to the Assembly Clerks’ Department, review matters each year and suggest changes where appropriate. At the time of writing, it is still unclear how many visitors and delegates may be able to attend the Assembly from outwith the Church. This will obviously affect the number of speakers, who may be fewer in number than on previous occasions. It is anticipated that the Assembly will have completed their business by lunchtime on Thursday, allowing most Commissioners sufficient time to return home that day.

It is expected that catering during the Assembly will follow a similar pattern to previous years. A Moderator's reception will be held on the Monday evening.

We hope to be able to broadcast the Assembly proceedings and details will be provided on the Church's website nearer the time of the Assembly.

3. Assembly Clerks' Department

The Committee are once again indebted to Mr Murdo Murray (Stornoway), for all the work he undertakes on behalf of the Department. Quietly behind the scenes he organises the preparation and printing of papers for Committees and the General Assembly. His assistance is all the more valuable as it is discharged with cheerful efficiency, and the whole Church owes him an enormous debt of gratitude.

The Committee are pleased to have identified a new Assembly Office Manager in the person of Mrs Isobel Ann Macleod, Snizort. Mrs Macleod, who is also Clerk to the Welfare of Youth & Education Committee, takes up her office duties at this Assembly.

As the Assistant Clerk of Assembly will be the retiring Moderator at this Assembly, the Committee thought it appropriate to seek out the services of an appropriate individual who would be able to assist at the Clerk's table this year and this is referred to in the Proposed Deliverance.

4. Committee Structure

The Committee conducted a review of the manner in which Committees are working and agreed that it would be helpful to widen the discussion. To this end, a meeting was held in Inverness in November 2021 to which all the Standing Committees were invited to send a representative. These discussions culminated in a document outlining some changes in the structure of Committees being prepared and submitted for further scrutiny to the other Standing Committees. At the time of writing the Committee are still awaiting responses. As it will not be possible to bring forward mature proposals in time for this Report, a Supplementary Report will be brought to the Assembly.

5. Meetings of the Commission

During the past year there was no urgent business to be brought before the Commission of Assembly, and therefore the Commission did not meet. Whilst the Commission of Assembly will continue to be available to meet under the terms of its appointment for urgent business if required, it is hoped that meetings will continue to be infrequent.

6. Archive Facilities

The Committee have held discussions with a view to securing suitable premises for storing official records and other materials. Whilst the Committee are not yet in a position to bring firm proposals, they are confident that matters will be advanced in the coming year.

7. Clerks to Committees

The Committee are happy to report that Rev. Calum Smith has agreed to Clerk the Public Questions, Religion & Morals Committee. They are still seeking the services of someone to Clerk the Publications Committee and would be grateful for any suggestions of suitable individuals who could undertake this important work. Thanks are owed to those who have assisted over the year, especially to Rev. David Blunt who has continued to carry the burden of the Publications Committee.

(B) NOMINATIONS

The Committee, having duly considered the returns from Presbyteries in regard to the filling of impending vacancies in Committees, agreed to recommend the lists of Committees and Clerks to the General Assembly as in the Proposed Deliverance. A note of other Special Committees for which Nominations have not been sought is added for convenience

A. JAMES MACINNES, *Acting Convener*

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**(A)**

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report (A) Assembly Arrangements of the Assembly Arrangements & Nominations Committee and thank the Committee, especially the Convener and the Assembly Clerks' Department;
2. The General Assembly welcome the appointment of Mrs Isobel Ann Macleod as Assembly Office Manager and thank her for assistance in preparing and printing documents for the Assembly;
3. The General Assembly thank Mr Murdo Murray for his continued willingness to assist in helping in the preparation and printing of papers for Committees and the General Assembly;
4. The General Assembly appoint Rev. James I. Gracie as Assistant Clerk *pro tem*, for this Assembly;
5. The General Assembly record their thankfulness to the Most High for being able to meet once more in person following the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic;
6. The General Assembly thank the Minister and Congregation of Liberton Kirk, Edinburgh, for again affording us the kind use of their buildings for the Assembly;
7. The General Assembly thank Mr Donald John Morrison, Assembly Officer, and his assistants, for making their services available to the Assembly;
8. The General Assembly welcome the practical arrangements made both for the Assembly itself and the Moderator's reception;
9. The General Assembly approve of the arrangements made for the public broadcasting of the Assembly;
10. The General Assembly note with approval the advice given anent Commissioners who are not physically present in the Assembly and the decision to make no change to the Standing Orders which allow only Commissioners physically present to participate in the Assembly;
11. The General Assembly thank all those who contribute to the efficient functioning of the various Committees of Assembly, especially the respective Committee Conveners and Clerks;
12. The General Assembly note with interest the update on a possible location for storing official records and other materials and encourage the Committee towards a final resolution of this matter;
13. The General Assembly thank the Deacons' Court of Inverness, Free Greyfriars, for the use of their Westhill building for the meetings of Standing Committees of Assembly.

(B)

The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report (B) Nominations of the Assembly Arrangements & Nominations Committee and thank the Committee, especially the Vice-convener;

The General Assembly appoint Standing and other Committees and Clerks to these Committees in accordance with the following lists:

GROUP 1
FINANCE & SUSTENTATION
LEGAL ADVICE &
PROPERTY

Ministers

Mr Raymond A. Kemp [4]
Mr Thomas I. Budgen, *Vice-convener*,
Legal Advice & Property Committee [3]
Mr Murdo MacIver, *Vice-convener*,
Finance & Sustentation Committee [2]
Mr Murdo A.N. Macleod, (supernumerary)
Convener, Finance & Sustentation Committee [1]
Mr William B. Scott [1]
Mr Iain Smith, (supernumerary)
Convener, Legal Advice & Property Committee [1]

Elders

Mr Donald MacDonald (Stornoway), [3]
Mr George MacMillan [3]
Mr Colin Crichton [2]
Mr Colin MacDonald (Duthil-Dores) [2]

The General Treasurer is *ex officio* an Adviser to the Finance & Sustentation Committee
The Principal Clerk is *ex officio* an Adviser to the Legal Advice & Property Committee
A General Trustee member is *ex officio* an Adviser to the Finance & Sustentation Committee

GROUP 2
PUBLIC QUESTIONS, RELIGION & MORALS
PUBLICATIONS
TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY & ADMISSIONS

Ministers

Mr James Clark, *Convener*,
Public Questions, Religion & Morals Committee [4]
Mr Henry J.T. Woods, *Convener*,
Publications Committee [3]
Mr David S. Fraser, *Convener*,
Training of the Ministry & Admissions Committee [2]
Mr Warren E. Gardner [1]
Mr Calum Smith [1]

Elders

Mr Alan Wilson [4]
Mr Lindsay MacCallum, *Vice-convener*,
Publications Committee and *Vice-convener*,
Public Questions, Religion & Morals Committee [3]
Mr John M. King [3]
Mr Donald A. Robertson, *Vice-convener*,
Training of the Ministry & Admissions Committee [1]
Mr Donald Morrison (Shader) [1]

The Editor of the *Free Church Witness* is *ex officio* an Adviser to the Public Questions, Religion & Morals Committee
The Magazine Editors are *ex officio* Advisers to the Publications Committee
The Principal of the Seminary is *ex officio* an Adviser to the
Training of the Ministry & Admissions Committee

GROUP 3
WELFARE OF YOUTH & EDUCATION
HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONS
ASSEMBLY ARRANGEMENTS & NOMINATIONS
ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Ministers

Mr Kenneth M. Macdonald, *Convener*,
Ecumenical Relations Committee and
Vice-convener, Home & Foreign Missions
Committee [3]

Mr Timothy J. McGlynn, *Convener*,
Welfare of Youth & Education Committee and
Vice-convener, Ecumenical Relations Committee [3]

Mr Gavin Beers [3]

Mr A. James MacInnes, *Convener*,
Home & Foreign Missions Committee and
Vice-convener, Assembly Arrangements &
Nominations Committee [2]

Elders

Mr Calum Macleod, *Convener*, Assembly
Arrangements & Nominations Committee [4]

Mr Gordon Furzer [3]

Mr Iain A.C. MacPherson [3]

Mr Norman Smith, *Vice-convener*,

Welfare of Youth & Education Committee [2]

Mr James Wanliss [1]

The Editor of *The Explorer* is *ex officio* an Adviser to the Welfare of Youth & Education Committee
The Assistant Clerk of Assembly, the Moderator of the immediately preceding Assembly
and the Moderator of the last-but-one Assembly are *ex officio* Advisers to the
Assembly Arrangements & Nominations Committee

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PSALMODY

Ministers

Mr William B. Scott, *Convener* [4]

Mr Calum Smith, *Vice-convener* [4]

Elders

Mr Donald Martin [4]

Mr Derek W. Maclean [3]

Mr Graham Sinclair [3]

CLERKS TO COMMITTEES

Mr Murdo Murray, *Clerk*, Finance & Sustentation Committee

Mr Murdo Murray, *Clerk*, Legal Advice & Property Committee

Rev. Calum Smith, *Clerk*, Public Questions, Religion & Morals Committee

TBA, *Clerk*, Publications Committee

Rev. Andrew R. Allan, *Clerk*, Training of the Ministry & Admissions Committee

Mrs Isobel A. Macleod, *Clerk*, Welfare of Youth & Education Committee

Mr Donald John Morrison, *Clerk*, Home & Foreign Missions Committee

Rev. Andrew R. Allan, *Clerk*, Psalmody Committee

Assistant Clerk, *Clerk*, Assembly Arrangements & Nominations Committee

Principal Clerk, *Clerk*, Ecumenical Relations Committee

Mr John N. Gillies, *Clerk*, General Trustees

Other Committees have been appointed by the General Assembly as follows:

PANEL OF CONSULTANTS ANENT ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL IMPROPRIETY INVOLVING ADULTS

Mr Colin MacDonald (Dores)
Dr Andrew Naylor

Mrs Marion Macleod (Glasgow)
Mrs Maurine Murray (Brora)

GENERAL TRUSTEES

Dr Andrew Naylor (Outer Hebrides Presbytery), *Chairman*
Mr Lindsay MacCallum (Northern Presbytery), *Vice-chairman*
Mr Murdo MacDonald (Inverness Presbytery)
Mr Thomas MacInnes (Skye & Lochcarron Presbytery)
Mr John N. Gillies (Southern Presbytery)

ADVISORY PANEL ON BUILDING PROJECTS

Rev. Kenneth M. Macdonald, *Convener*
Mr John Smith
Mr Norman Smith
Mr Iain A.C. MacPherson

Mr Sanders Fraser
Mr Murdo MacDonald (Aultbea)