

**XII.**  
**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BUILDING PROJECTS**

1. The Special Committee on Building Projects was revived by the Commission of Assembly in November 2011, with a rôle similar to the remit of the original Committee. All Presbyteries were instructed to commission up to two persons from within their bounds to serve as members of the Committee on Building Projects, having skills in the disciplines of building design and construction or in finance and project management.

2. The same meeting of the Commission of Assembly simultaneously approved the establishment of a special fund to be known as the Central Building Fund. In recent months this Fund has made considerable progress, buildings having been purchased to serve as manses in four of our Congregations to date. Current civil legislation requires vendors of dwelling houses to provide a professionally prepared 'Home Report' and these have fully met the needs of Deacons' Courts, our commercial financial lenders and the General Trustees when considering the structural quality and suitability of potential manse buildings. Although there was some enthusiasm for the provision of both manse and church buildings in the original Report to the Commission of Assembly when the Central Building Fund was proposed, it has become evident in practice that accommodation for our ministers is the most pressing objective on the part of Deacons' Courts. There has, therefore, not been any need hitherto to convene a meeting of the Special Committee on Building Projects. The draft Rules for the Central Building Fund require, however, that were a congregation to propose a new-build project for either church or manse, advice on suitability and design quality must be sought from the Special Committee prior to consideration of the project by the Finance Committee. It is therefore important that Presbyteries notify the Convener of any changes which may occur concerning those whom they have nominated to represent them as members of the Committee.

JOHN MACKENZIE, *Convener*

**PROPOSED DELIVERANCE**

1. The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Special Committee on Building Projects;
2. The General Assembly instruct the Committee to continue to report progress to the General Assembly;
3. The General Assembly instruct Presbyteries to notify the Convener of any changes which occur in respect of those who represent them on the Special Committee.