

III.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS

1. Introduction

Over the past year the Committee have again been faced with far more work than it can reasonably cope with, and with no immediate prospect of this situation altering. Such is the backlog that the Committee have had to prioritise certain projects and put others on hold. For this reason there is little or nothing to report this year on many of the projected publications that have featured in recent reports. Like other Committees, we have been hampered by matters outwith our control, such as the ongoing effects of Covid-19 and the inclement weather which prevented the in-person attendance of most of the Committee's members at the March 2023 meeting. Despite this, the Committee members have worked diligently to cover the work that they did. Our thanks go especially to our 'temporary' Clerk, Rev. David Blunt, for the sterling work he has done for us, and we look forward to our new 'permanent' Clerk, Mr Donald Macleod (Point), taking up the reins.

We are encouraged to see that some of our men have produced materials through the self-publication channels available today, and we would encourage others to try their hand at this. There is a vast, untapped reservoir of materials from Scottish ministers and others that has not been republished in modern times, and it would be good to have some of these back in circulation.

The Committee will endeavour to do their utmost in the coming year to bring to completion some of the projects they have been working on. We look forward, with the Lord's help, to being able to present them to the Assembly in 2024 (D.V.).

2. Magazines

The oversight of the Church's magazines is one of the Committee's main responsibilities, and invariably the production and distribution of the magazines take up more than half of the Committee's annual expenditure. The magazines reflect the position of our Church, in its doctrine, worship, discipline and government, and are aimed principally at our people, yet we are thankful that they also reach Christians belonging to other churches.

2.1 Editors

The Committee are once again grateful to the editors of the *Free Church Witness* and *The Explorer*, and the editorial team of the *Free Church Witness*, for their labours in writing, obtaining and preparing material for the magazines. We encourage the people of our Church to remember these men in their prayers, that the Lord would guide them and enable them in their work.

In April the Editor of *The Explorer*, Rev. Thomas Budgen, gave the Committee notice of his resignation from the role, with the June issue to be his final one. When the Committee met on 21st April they accepted Mr Budgen's resignation and agreed on the steps necessary for the Committee to be in a position to bring a nomination for the new Editor to the General Assembly. They are pleased to be able to report that Rev. A. James MacInnes has accepted their nomination for this role and they are therefore recommending to the Assembly that Rev. A. James MacInnes be appointed as Editor of *The Explorer* magazine for a four-year term.

The Committee express their thanks to Mr Budgen for his work on the magazine since he was appointed to the post by the 2020 General Assembly.

2.2 Production

The Committee continue to be indebted to Donald Smith Graphic Design for the design and layout of both magazines and the helpful way in which Mr Smith collaborates with the editors. There have been some large fluctuations in printing prices during the past year, meaning that regular checks are required to obtain the best prices, and switching of printers is sometimes necessary. Thankfully, in this digital age, there is little difference in the quality of the printing and binding from one printer to another. From July 2017 to May 2019, Quinns, based in Belfast, were used for the printing of the magazines, and from June 2019 to June 2022 it was Helloprint, who are located in London. From July 2022 to February 2023 it was Quinns, and since March 2023 it has been Helloprint.

The Committee will continue to obtain quotes periodically from alternative graphic designers and printers, to ensure that these significant costs are kept as low as is possible while still allowing for a reasonable level of service. The Committee apologise to Congregations and individual subscribers for the late arrival of the magazines on occasion during the past year. Sometimes this was due to factors beyond anyone's control, as at the turn of the year when deliveries were delayed by a series of strikes affecting Royal Mail.

The Committee are thankful to all who have contributed material to the magazines during the past year, whether in response to requests from the editors and assistant editors or as news items. The Committee have noted requests made at the General Assembly and by members of the Committee for there to be a greater variety of contributors to the *Free Church Witness*. The Editor does encourage the Assistant Editors to approach all ministers for articles as appropriate, but it is the case that their requests often do not have the desired effect. It is good to have a variety of authors in every issue, so if individuals are asked to write an article, the Committee plead with them to attempt to do so, producing it at the length requested and by the deadline given!

There have also been some requests for more material for the unconverted to be included in the Free Church Witness magazine. While the Committee already produces the *Good News* magazine as a publication, specifically designed for reaching the unconverted, the Editor is happy to provide some additional material in the *Free Church Witness* addressing readers who are unconverted.

The Committee are grateful to Miss Anne MacAulay, who prepares the Puzzles Page in *The Explorer* magazine each month and marks the entries sent in by the children. We trust that she will continue to know the Lord's blessing in her work.

The editors of both magazines rely upon the grammatical skills of the proofreaders each month, and often benefit also from their comments and the advice they give when there is occasion to do so. The Committee express their indebtedness to the current proofreaders: (*Witness*) Mr Maurice Grant, Rev. Raymond Kemp, Mrs Marion Macleod, Mrs Isobel Scott; (*Explorer*) Mrs Maryanne Gillies, Miss Sandra Mackay, Miss Joan MacKintosh. Thanks are also due to Mr Ewan Wilson, who relinquished his proofreading role with the *Witness* during 2022.

The Committee are grateful to Mr Derek W. MacLean for his willingness to make the material in the Church magazines available in audio form for the benefit of the visually impaired, as and when this service may be requested.

2.3 Circulation

Most subscriptions to the magazines fall due at the beginning of the calendar year. Circulation the *Witness* at the beginning of March 2023 (with equivalent figures for 2022) were:

Category	2023	2022	Change
Congregational Bulk Orders	410	434	-24
Individual Subscriptions	60 [4]	73 [19]	-13
Individual Gift Subscriptions	21 [4]	17 [3]	+4
Airmail Subscriptions	32	36 [9]	-4
<i>Predicted Total Subscriptions for Year</i>	523	529-560	
Copies by sale or return	2	2	0
Copies sent free of charge	113	107	+6
<i>Predicted Total Circulation for Year</i>	636	638-669*	

(figures in square brackets represent the number out of the total who were yet to renew; *the actual figure at 24 September 2022 was 653)

It can be seen that there has been a further drop in most categories of subscription in 2023, compared to 2022. As has been the case for a long time, this is principally the result of the year-on-year decline in the number of households represented in our UK Congregations. Although the costs for the printing and distribution of the magazines increased again in 2022, the Committee did not increase subscription rates for 2023, there having been a 25% price increase as recently as 2021.

As well as once again encouraging Congregations to do what they can to maximise the uptake of the magazines locally, the Committee remind them that free copies of the magazines may be obtained in addition to their regular orders for distribution beyond the Congregation. Please let the Distributor know how many extra copies you require each month (contact details are found on the inside front cover of the *Witness*).

2.4 Content Review

During the past year the Committee gave consideration to a proposed questionnaire produced by Rev. David Fraser with the aim of assessing the views of readers on the content of the magazines, and particularly the *Witness*, in order that a review of the Assembly's Editorial Policy for the magazine could be advanced. Having considered the questionnaire, and having obtained the views of the magazine editors and assistant editors concerning it, the Committee agreed that members of the Committee should make known their own suggestions regarding the content of the magazines to the Committee, and that these suggestions should then be conveyed to the editors. At the same time, the Committee and the editors continue to welcome feedback on the magazines from subscribers and readers at any time.

2.5 Subscriptions and Distribution

The Committee continue to be grateful to Mrs Elizabeth Nicholson (Snizort) for the efficient way in which she carries out her work as Subscription Secretary, and the contact she maintains with readers of the magazines. Likewise, the Committee are thankful to Miss Katrina MacKay (Ayr) for her diligent work as Magazine Distributor, which includes operating a Royal Mail Online Business Account, and on occasion printing leaflets for insertion into the magazines.

2.6 Spanish Translation of the Witness

In July 2022 Mr Joel Suarez, who is studying at the Free Church Seminary in preparation for the ministry, informed the Committee of his desire to translate the *Free Church Witness* into Spanish to reach the Spanish-speaking Congregations of our Church, by an online publication initially, with the intention of improving communication and fellowship between the different Congregations of our Church. The Committee were happy with the idea of a print-only publication and that Rev. Jorge Ruiz, with the Rubí Kirk Session, should supervise the translation work. Mr Suarez then prepared a back-issue of the *Witness* for online publication and forwarded it to the Committee. The Committee were pleased with the result and

approved Mr Suarez to translate further issues. This is an encouraging development, which has the potential to spread the testimony of our Church further afield in lands where there seems to be a growing interest in the Reformed faith and our Presbyterian principles.

2.7 Good News Magazine

The most recent issue of the *Good News* magazine was published at the end of 2021. 15,000 copies of this issue were ordered from the printer. Our Home Mission Worker placed an order for 10,000 copies, and from the remaining 5,000 copies a free copy was sent to all UK subscribers to the *Free Church Witness*, enclosed with the January 2022 issue, with a total of 2,305 copies being sent to eleven congregations who had made orders. Due to a (welcome!) mistake by the printer, 5,000 extra copies of this issue were received free of charge, which the Home Mission Worker has been able to make use of.

In March Mr Morrison indicated that he had only 6,000 copies of the magazine left and would need at least another 10,000. The Committee are therefore making plans for a further issue to appear later in 2023. The Committee are grateful to the Home & Foreign Missions Committee and to local Congregations for their continued interest in the magazine as an evangelistic tool. We pray that as they into people's hands, the Lord will get its message into these same people's hearts!

3. Publications

3.1 Booklets

Finding Out About Series

The various booklets in the Finding Out About series, the first of which was published in 2010, are at the following stages of development:

Title	Author	Status
<i>The Five Points of Calvinism</i>	Rev. John W. Keddie	Published (2010)
<i>The Lord's Supper</i>	Rev. John Morrison	Published (2011)
<i>Baptism</i>	Rev. John Macleod	Published (2015)
<i>Worship</i>	Rev. James Clark	Published (2015)
<i>Presbyterianism</i>	Rev. David M. Blunt	Published (2017)
<i>Elders</i>	Rev. John W. Keddie	Text agreed - in preparation for publication
<i>Deacons</i>	Rev. John W. Keddie	Text agreed - in preparation for publication
<i>Church Membership</i>	Rev. William Macleod	Text submitted and under consideration
<i>Marriage</i>	Rev. Graeme Craig	Text submitted and under consideration
<i>Funerals</i>	Rev. James I. Gracie	Text submitted and with PQRM Committee
<i>Scripture - The Bible</i>	Rev. John Morrison	Text in preparation
<i>The Sabbath/Lord's Day</i>	Rev. Jonathan Mattull	Text in preparation
<i>God's Covenant</i>	Rev. Robert McCurley	Text in preparation

Until the booklets on *Elders* and *Deacons* have been published, work on the other projected titles has been suspended at the Committee level, apart from the work on *Funerals*. The Committee do however encourage the authors who are preparing texts for consideration by the Committee to continue with their work.

The Committee have given significant attention to the *Funerals* document over the past year. They have requested the Public Questions, Religion & Morals Committee to consider several points raised by members of the Committee in connection with the draft text, particularly in regard to practice at funerals and the issue of cremation. The PQRM Committee have suggested some rewording of the text and are presently considering some further possible adjustments. When the PQRM Committee have finished their deliberations, the Committee will consider their suggested amendments with a view to finalising the text, which will then be sent to the author Rev. James Gracie for his approval.

3.2 Books

History of the Division of 2000

Last year we were able to report that the draft manuscript on *The History of the Division of 2000* was now complete and that it had been circulated to the proofreaders and to the members of the Committee. Since then Rev. Trevor Kirkland has been added as a proofreader for this final proofreading, alongside Rev. David Blunt and Mr Maurice Grant. At the time of writing, the Introduction and seven chapters (out of twenty-five) have been proofread and returned to the principal author, Rev. James Gracie. When the proofreading is complete, a foreword, preface, acknowledgements, glossary, bibliography and index(es) will be added. Once the Committee are satisfied with the text the manuscript will be passed to the Legal Advice & Property Committee.

Subordinate Standards & Authoritative Documents of the Free Church of Scotland

Progress has been made on this important project. Last year's Report indicated that all the required documents had been digitised and that Rev. John Keddie was setting up a file for eventual printing and publication. Mr Keddie had highlighted some aspects of the content requiring decisions by the Committee, and having sought guidance from the Assembly Clerks' Department, the Committee resolved as follows:

- (i) that the words of the proof texts belonging to the various documents, as well as their Scripture references, are to be included in the publication, as in the edition published by the Free Church in 1933, but the italics in the words of the proof texts are not recommended for inclusion;
- (ii) that where lists of signatories to documents are identical, the later instances should be excluded from the publication and replaced by a reference to the first list;
- (iii) that the items that often follow the Shorter Catechism, namely *The Ten Commandments*, *The Lord's Prayer* and *The Creed*, should be excluded from the main text of the publication but possibly included as an appendix;
- (iv) that the order of the documents in the publication should be that found in the edition published by the Free Church in 1933;
- (v) that the document *A Solemn Acknowledgment of Publick Sins and Breaches of the Covenant* should be included in the publication.

The Committee instructed the Convener and the Clerk to add the words of the proof texts to the draft. To date, preparation of the words of the proof texts used in the Shorter Catechism has been completed, with the Larger Catechism and Westminster Confession of Faith now being worked on.

Principles, Beliefs and Practice of the FC(C)

Rev. Trevor Kirkland and Rev. Raymond Kemp are continuing to work on the text of this document, the purpose of which is to identify and explain the Church's principles, beliefs and practice, both for our own people and those belonging to other denominations. There is nothing new to report on this project.

The British Embassy to the Holy See: A Reappraisal

Mr Lindsay MacCallum has himself added the new material referred to in last year's Report to the draft of *The British Embassy to the Holy See*. Rev. Trevor Kirkland is now a proofreader for the document, in addition to Rev. David Blunt, but it has not been possible to make progress with the proofreading.

3.3 Storage, Distribution and Retail of FC(C) Publications

The Committee are very pleased that after a long search for someone willing to be responsible for the storage, distribution and retail of the Committee's stock of FC(C) publications, Mr Thomas Keddie, who is fifteen and attends the Duthil-Dores Congregation, has agreed to take on this work. When the necessary preparations for the operation of the bookstore on the Church website are complete, Mr Keddie's work will

include receiving and dispatching online orders. The Committee are thankful to Rev. Davide Ratti for looking after the storage, distribution and retail of the Church's publications in an interim capacity over the last two and a half years.

3.4 Denominational Emblem

The 2022 General Assembly approved a new design of the traditional burning bush emblem to serve as a denominational emblem, and recommended it for use in the Church. There has been a gradual take up of the new design and the Committee hope that this take up will increase, so that it becomes firmly associated with the denomination. The new denominational emblem, along with the new denominational imprint, *George Wishart Press*, will appear on the Church's future publications.

4. Website and Social Media

4.1 Website

In their 2022 report, the Committee gave a brief account of the history of the preparation of the Church's new website. It was as long ago as their 2019 report that the Committee indicated their recognition of the need for a redesign or rebuild of the existing site. We are thankful to be able to state in this year's Report that the new website was finally launched on 11th February, and that, apart from the usual issues that require attention after a site has gone live, the new site appears to be working satisfactorily and has met with a favourable reception.

The Committee's sincere thanks are due to Mr Sam Gerdt, who set up the new site – a task which, for unforeseen technical reasons, required vastly more time and effort than was envisaged at the beginning. It now falls to the Committee to consider such matters as the extent of Mr Gerdt's ongoing involvement with the site and how best the site may function in the service of the Church. They aim to reach some decisions on this at their June meeting, and the members of the Committee have been requested to submit their personal suggestions for the operation and development of the new site. The Committee recognise the importance of new material being added to the site regularly, so that visitors have a reason to return.

The Committee are grateful to Rev. David M. Blunt, Editorial Overseer, and Rev. Andrew R. Allan, Website Digital Content Editor, for their continuing work on the Church website, and all who over the past year have provided new content. They are especially grateful to Rev. Bert Pohl, who created the previous website in 2013 and served as its Technical Overseer, for the invaluable work he performed in this role.

4.3 Social Media

At the beginning of April the Church's Facebook page had 1,670 followers, compared with 1,370 (2022). The Church's Twitter account had 958 followers, compared with 837 (2022). When new material, such as intimations and reports of Church events, is uploaded onto the Church's website, Facebook and Twitter are used to highlight it and provide a link to it.

The Committee thank Rev. David M. Blunt, Social Media Overseer; Mr Derek W. MacLean, Digital Content Editor (Facebook platform); and Mr Alastair Manderson, Digital Content Editor (Twitter platform) for their contributions to these platforms.

5. Spring Conference

The 2023 Spring Conference took place on 7th April in the Westhill Church, Inverness, the same venue as the previous year. The theme was *Patrick Hamilton and George Wishart*, two of the early Scottish reformers and martyrs. The Committee thank the speakers, Rev. John Keddie (Rtd) and Rev. Trevor Kirkland (Ballyclare & Doagh), and Rev. Greg MacDonald (Cross), the Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly, who kindly chaired the Conference.

The Committee also thank all who helped with this year's Conference, and in particular the following: Mr Lindsay MacCallum, for his work as booking secretary; Mr Neil Smith, for broadcasting and recording the

addresses; Miss Joan MacKintosh, for organising and running the children's programme and providing the morning and afternoon refreshments.

As usual, the Committee will review the Conference in depth at their June meeting, but it appears that the addresses were well received and led to profitable discussion. Approximately forty-five people of all ages attended the conference, which is down on last year's figure of around fifty adults plus children. For the first time the addresses at the Conference were broadcast using Zoom, allowing people unable to be present at the venue to hear them live. This is not supposed to be a substitute for actual attendance at the Conference, however, and enjoying the benefit of partaking in its worship and fellowship. The Committee therefore continue to encourage ministers to promote attendance at the Conference by people in their Congregations.

6. Publications Committee of the Presbytery of the USA

We are grateful to Rev. Jonathan Mattull (St. Louis) for the following report:

The Publications Committee of the Free Presbytery of the United States of America give thanks to the Lord for his merciful kindness. At the close of 2022, we were able to publish a reader's edition of the Greek New Testament. This presents the Received Text with several tools to assist the reading of God's word in the original Greek. The margin of each page supplies an English gloss for every word that occurs less than thirty times in the New Testament. Additionally, the original preface to the 1633 edition of the *Novum Testamentum Graece* is included, along with a brief introduction, setting forth the biblical principles behind the Received Text of the New Testament. We extend our gratitude to all who sought the blessing of God upon this work. While we give thanks that the volume is selling very well, we ask that prayers would continue to the end that God would bless the study of his word to the advancing of his praise.

We are grateful to note the Lord's mercy upon the publishing of the metrical Psalter with notes by John Brown of Haddington and David Dickson. By the time of the Assembly, it is possible that the volume will be back from the printers. With the interest in Psalm-singing growing in various parts of the world, we pray that this volume will be used of the Lord to promote the worshiping of God in the beauty of holiness. Please pray that the Lord would sustain and bless the labours of all who serve on the Committee and who provide invaluable service through their sacrificial and voluntary labour for these projects.

Production of *The Master's Trumpet* continues on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Each issue provides material that sets forth the doctrine, piety, worship, principles, and heritage of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). We pray that the articles, sermons, and other material would edify the Lord's people.

There are a number of projects in development. Particular updates will be provided at www.grangepress.com. The Presbytery's Committee again thank the brethren for their prayerful support. May all be to the glory of God.

The Convener of the Publications Committee is Rev. Robert McCurley and the Clerk is Mr John Uselding. The Presbytery's publishing imprint is Grange Press.

7. *Annals of the Free Church of Scotland 1900-2000*

The Working Group on the *Annals*, consisting of Mr Maurice Grant, Rev. David S. Fraser and Rev. Murdo A.N. Macleod, has not been able to make much headway of late. Progress on the project was largely stalled during Covid-19, and even afterwards. The pandemic had the effect of delaying the publication of the 1921 Census returns, released under the 100-year rule. The results were eventually published on 30th November 2022, on the *Scotland's People* website.

Mr Grant had intended to devote time to noting the results of greatest interest to the *Annals*' project, but now feels that because of his age and indifferent health he must discontinue his involvement. He therefore placed his resignation into the hands of the Committee in March. The Committee accepted Mr Grant's resignation with regret, and wish to express their sincere thanks to him for his painstaking and persevering efforts on this project. They are grateful to Rev. Murdo A.N. Macleod for his willingness to do what he can to assist with the project and trust that the Working Group will be able to take it forward.

8. Media Officer

The Committee are thankful to Rev. Murdo A.N. Macleod, the Church's Media Officer, for his work over the past year. They trust that he will continue to enjoy the Lord's help in performing this role, which he does alongside his many other duties.

HENRY J.T. WOODS, *Convener*
LINDSAY MACCALLUM, *Vice-convener*

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

- 1.1 The General Assembly receive and adopt the Report of the Committee on Publications and thank the Committee and especially the Convener, Vice-convener and Clerk *pro tem*;
- 1.2 The General Assembly note that Mr Donald Macleod (Point) has been appointed as the new Clerk to the Committee, and pray that he will know the Lord's help in this role;
- 2.1 The General Assembly thank Rev. David M. Blunt for his work as Editor of the *Free Church Witness*;
- 2.2 The General Assembly thank Rev. Trevor Kirkland, Rev. James Clark and Rev. James MacInnes for their work as Assistant Editors of the *Free Church Witness*;
- 2.3 The General Assembly note Rev. Thomas Budgen's resignation as Editor of *The Explorer*, and thank him for his diligent work in this role since his appointment to it by the 2020 General Assembly;
- 2.4 The General Assembly appoint Rev. A. James MacInnes as Editor of *The Explorer* magazine for a term of four years;
- 2.5 The General Assembly thank Mr Donald Smith of Donald Smith Graphic Design for his work on the design and layout of the *Free Church Witness*, *The Explorer* and the *Good News* magazine;
- 2.6 The General Assembly thank all those who write articles for the Church's magazines;
- 2.7 The General Assembly thank Miss Anne MacAulay for her work in providing the Puzzle Page for *The Explorer*;
- 2.8 The General Assembly thank the proofreaders of the magazines for their work;
- 2.9 The General Assembly note that subscriptions to the *Free Church Witness* continue to decline; they encourage the Committee and Congregations to do what they can to extend its readership and reach;
- 2.10 The General Assembly pray that the Lord will guide the Committee in their oversight of the content of the Church magazines;
- 2.11 The General Assembly thank Mrs Elizabeth Nicolson for her diligent work as Subscription Secretary for the magazines;

- 2.12 The General Assembly thank Miss Katrina MacKay for her diligent work as Magazine Distributor;
- 2.13 The General Assembly note the projected new issue of the *Good News* magazine to be published later in the year, and pray that the Lord will guide the *Free Church Witness* editorial team as they undertake work on it;
- 3.1 The General Assembly note the information regarding the various titles in the *Finding Out About* series, and the lack of progress with the majority of them; they urge the Committee to bring the booklets on *Elders* and *Deacons* to publication as soon as possible, and pray that the Lord will guide the Committee as they work towards a final text of the booklet on *Funerals*;
- 3.2 The General Assembly note that there has been progress on the final proofreading of the *History of the Division of 2000*; they once again urge the Committee to complete the remaining work on this publication as soon as possible and forward the manuscript to the Legal Advice & Property Committee for their scrutiny;
- 3.3 The General Assembly note the progress made in the preparation for publication of the *Subordinate Standards & Authoritative Documents of the Free Church of Scotland*; they thank Rev. John Keddie for his diligent work on this project and pray that the Lord will assist the Committee as they seek to bring the project to completion;
- 3.4 The General Assembly note the ongoing preparation of a handbook on the *Principles, Beliefs and Practice of the FC(C)*;
- 3.5 The General Assembly note that further material has now been added to the document *The British Embassy to the Holy See: A Reappraisal*; they encourage the proofreaders in their work and urge the Committee to bring this work to a state of readiness for publication as speedily as possible;
- 3.6 The General Assembly note with pleasure that the Committee have found someone to take on permanent responsibility for the storage, distribution and retail of the Committee's stock of FC(C) publications, including sales via the Church website; they thank Mr Thomas Keddie for his willingness to take up this role and pray that he will know the Lord's help and blessing as he carries it out;
- 3.7 The General Assembly are thankful that a number of Congregations, Courts and Committees of the Church are now making use of the new burning bush design approved by the 2022 General Assembly as the denominational emblem; they encourage remaining Congregations, Courts and Committees to do so where possible;
- 4.1 The General Assembly give thanks to the Lord that the new Church website has now been launched. They thank Mr Sam Gerdt in particular for his patient labours in bringing the site to a state of readiness, and others who played a part in its preparation. They note the Committee's deliberations as to how the new Church website may best function, and pray that the Lord would guide them in the operation and development of the new site;
- 4.2 The General Assembly acknowledge their gratitude to Rev. Bert Pohl, the creator of the previous Church website who served also as its Technical Overseer, for the invaluable work he performed for the Church;
- 4.3 The General Assembly are grateful to Rev. David M. Blunt, Editorial Overseer, and Rev. Andrew R. Allan, Website Digital Content Editor, for their work on the website, and all who over the past year provided new content for it;

- 4.4 The General Assembly are pleased that the Church's Facebook page and Twitter account have both increased their following over the past year. They thank Rev. David M. Blunt, Social Media Overseer, Mr Derek W. MacLean, Digital Content Editor (Facebook platform), and Mr Alastair Manderson, Digital Content Editor (Twitter platform), for their work in maintaining an appropriate presence for the Church on social media;
5. The General Assembly note that the Spring Conference took place on 7th April. They thank Rev. Greg MacDonald for chairing the Conference, Rev. John Keddie and Rev. Trevor Kirkland for their addresses, and all who in any way contributed to the organisation and running of the Conference. They pray that the Committee will be guided in their review of the Conference and that it will continue to be a spiritually profitable event for our people. They urge ministers to promote the Conference in their Congregations;
6. The General Assembly rejoice with the Publications Committee of the Presbytery of the United States of America to see two of their projects come to fruition; they pray that the Lord will bless the Committee's worthy efforts to promote our Reformed and Presbyterian heritage;
7. The General Assembly note the resignation of Mr Maurice Grant from the Working Group on *The Annals*. They express their sincere thanks to Mr Grant for his painstaking and persevering efforts on this project. They are grateful to Rev. Murdo A.N. Macleod for his willingness to do what he can to assist and trust that the Group will be directed by the Lord as they endeavour to carry this project forward;
8. The General Assembly thank Rev. Murdo A.N. Macleod for his work as Media Officer.