

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING

Convener: Rev JNI McNEELY

Secretary: Rev TD GRIBBEN

Executive Summary of the Board's Report

1. The Board of Christian Training continues through its Committees and Union Theological College to provide training for Ministers and Church members in a variety of areas of Christian ministry and seeks to equip the Church to fulfil her mission and pastoral calling.

2. The Committee for Training and Resources reports on the plans for the Auxiliary Ministry course, the success of the Accredited Preachers Scheme and the on-going production of resources on Leadership Training and Pastoral Care in Congregations.

3. The Committee on Ministerial Studies and Development is recommending that the General Assembly approve a review of the application process for the ordained ministry and the effectiveness of a regular assessment of candidates prior to ordination. Post ordination training continues to be developed and a sustained number of Ministers are taking advantage of sabbaticals.

4. The Union Theological College Management Committee reports that curriculum issues are being discussed by the Curriculum Sub-Committee and Faculty and that a new Summer School for students is being introduced in 2012. The Training Resource Centre was officially opened and a phased programme for the restoration of the stonework of the College was considered.

Board Convener's Introduction

5. The Board has been encouraged by a number of positive developments in the past year. The response to the Accredited Preachers scheme has been overwhelming and the Board recognises that Presbyteries and Ministers have contributed to the successful launching of the scheme, through their willingness to encourage Church members to participate. The opening of the Training and Resource Centre, following the regrettable delay due to a malicious fire, has proven to be worth waiting for. The Church now has a modern centre that provides a first class facility to be used by all agencies to facilitate training. The Board continues to be optimistic in regard to the candidature for the ordained ministry as this continues to be consistent at around twenty.

6. The increasing secularisation of society and the changing environment in which Church is operating creates challenges for the future training of Ministers. The Board recognises the need for regular reviewing of the curriculum provided in Union Theological College and the considerable pressure that the Faculty is under to facilitate an effective and constructive training programme contributing towards the 'ministry formation' of students. The Board is indebted to the Faculty and adjunct lecturers at Union Theological College for the expert delivery of an academic and practical course preparing students for ordination.

7. The Rev Prof Patton Taylor, having been appointed in 2010, continues as the seconded Principal of UTC with executive responsibilities. To assist Faculty with its diverse responsibilities the Management Committee of UTC recommended to the General Board that the Very Rev Dr Alastair Dunlop be appointed as Chairman of the Faculty. It was agreed that Dr Dunlop will continue in this position as long as it is required and that the Board will keep the arrangement under review.

8. The Board presented to the General Assembly in 2009 the report of the Union Theological College Review Panel and it was agreed that a nomination for Principal of UTC with executive responsibility be brought to the 2010 General Assembly for appointment (2009 Minutes, page 95 resolution 8). In 2010 the Priorities Committee of the General Board requested that all Boards make financial savings. Due to this request the BCT agreed, as an interim measure, to set aside temporarily the 2009 decision of the GA. The temporary arrangement adopted involved the appointment of a Principal with executive responsibilities for a fixed term of three years which commenced on 1 July 2010 and terminates on 30 August 2013.

9. The Board has reviewed the arrangement accepted in 2010 and agreed that it should carry out the recommendation of the College Review Panel in 2009 and take the necessary steps to implement the decision of the 2009 General Assembly to appoint a Principal with executive responsibilities and that this appointment should take place at the 2013 meeting of the General Assembly.

10. The Executive Secretary informed the Board that, with the high number of students for the ministry entering training, projections indicate that the number of vacant charges was likely to reduce significantly over the next few years. While it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to recommend the introduction of a 'cap' on student numbers it was also recognised that this issue should be kept under review. It was further agreed that applicants be made aware that, while the Board provides training for all those who are nominated by the General Assembly and will seek to assign them to assistantships, it can give no guarantee of a 'call' on the completion of training.

11. Training for the ministry is enhanced by the assigning of students to Congregations for their student assistant year and subsequently for the duration of their licentiate assistantship. The Board recognises the contribution that experienced Supervising Ministers make to the 'on the job' training and are indebted to Ministers who invest time in mentoring and equipping assistants. It is becoming increasingly difficult to place students because of the financial constraints some Congregations are experiencing and also Congregations, that may have taken assistants in the past, are appointing Additional Pastoral Personnel. The Assignments Committee appeals to Ministers and Kirk Sessions to seriously consider the significant contribution they could make to the training of potential Ministers by offering the opportunity for an assistant to be assigned to their Congregation.

12. The Assignment arrangements were reviewed and it was agreed that the Assignment Committee become a sub-committee reporting to the Ministerial Studies and Development Committee. The Convener of the Assignment Committee is to be the Director of Ministerial Studies and the Secretary is the Executive Secretary of the BCT.

13. The review of the Assignments included a reconsideration of the length of assistantships. At the time of writing the exact outworking of this is still under discussion and it is hoped to report more fully in Daily Minutes.

14. The Judicial Commission requested that the BCT consider the issue of how to avoid appeals against Presbytery decisions, in relation to applicants for the Ministry and the Accredited Preachers Course, having to be addressed by Judicial Commission. The BCT agreed to recommend that a Standing Special Commission of the Judicial Commission be formed to deal with appeals and to interview the parties involved. It also suggests that training of this Commission would be necessary so that all members would be familiar with the guidelines adopted by the BCT when interviewing applicants for the Ministry and for the Accredited Preachers Course.

15. The Board has also been requested to facilitate an overture being brought to the General Assembly to clarify the position regarding students for the ministry who are also Elders. The proposal is that such students will be deemed to have resigned the duties of the eldership at the point of licensing. The appended overture to Par 209 of the Code has this effect and also tidies up the Code with reference to the transfer of credentials for those students who will be serving as Licentiate Assistants in Presbyteries other than their own, in line with the guidelines approved by the General Assembly in 2007.

16. The Board recognises the industrious and expert work done by the Director of Ministerial Studies and the Christian Training Development Officer and acknowledges that the progress of work of the BCT is expedited by its dedicated staff.

17. The Board acknowledges the significant volume of work done by the Executive Secretary of the Board, the Rev Trevor Gribben, and the professional and efficient way his duties are carried out.

COMMITTEE FOR TRAINING AND RESOURCES

1. The Committee has met twice during the year but the Panels which progress its work have met more frequently and have made significant progress in their areas of responsibility.

2. This year has seen the formation of a Panel on Auxiliary Ministers which has begun to outline the training required for this new role within our Church, which was approved in principle at the 2010 General Assembly. Much work remains to be done but there is a keen sense of anticipation of the benefits this could bring to the Church's work and witness.

3. The Committee continues to be ably served by the Christian Training Development Officer, Tom Finnegan.

Panel on Auxiliary Ministers

4. The Panel on Auxiliary Ministers, convened by Mr Ossie McAuley, has met several times since June 2011. The Panel has made much progress in defining the course content and the application process. It is planned that the first course for Auxiliary Ministers will commence in early 2014 with applications being received in the latter half of 2013. This is to allow possible candidates from the Accredited Preacher Scheme courses in Belfast, the North-West and Dublin time

to complete their course and gain some experience before considering applying. (Applicants for the Auxiliary Ministry Scheme have to already have successfully completed all stages of Accredited Preachers Scheme.) The course content is likely to include biblical theology, pastoral care, working in a team and Church life. Further training will be provided for those Auxiliary Ministers working in 'pioneering situations', and this is being discussed with representatives of the Board of Mission in Ireland.

Panel on Pastoral Care

5. The Panel completed the first and major part of its work with the publication of the booklet 'Developing Pastoral Care in our Congregations'. This was endorsed by the General Assembly in 2011, with the exhortation to all Kirk Sessions to take an honest look at how comprehensive is the care offered to all the individual members of a family unit. Rather than being satisfied with a single, and maybe infrequent contact with the one Church-going individual in a family, a new bespoke pastoral care programme should aim at making effective contact with all generations, both sexes, regular attendees and others.

6. To this end, the General Assembly requested all Kirk Sessions to examine their current provision in the light of the several suggestions in the booklet by September 2013.

7. Initial responses to the various models are being received, and to date have been positive. When a significant quantity of responses has been accumulated, the Panel will evaluate them.

8. Resources have been produced by the Panel to help equip Congregations who want to establish pastoral care teams and also to train those responsible to deliver pastoral care.

Panel on Accredited Preachers

9. Like a group of architects, this Panel was given a brief to fulfil and a blank sheet of paper. Over time it has been very rewarding to observe how, under the guidance of God, dreams and plans have become realities.

10. Within the past year this Panel has been able to supervise its work developing along three parallel tracks.

11. Firstly, those who were selected, from the Armagh, Monaghan and Newry Presbyteries, for training through the pilot scheme, have completed both the formal class training and the mentoring phase of their training. In addition, they were also independently assessed in taking a service and preaching by an assessor from outside their Presbytery and all were successful. The Panel was very pleased, when through a service of recognition in Ballyalbany Presbyterian Church, they became the first Accredited Preachers with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Panel trusts that they will prove a useful support to the Ministers and Congregations within their localities and that they will continue to develop their skills in leading public worship and preaching the Word of God.

12. Secondly, in the autumn of 2011, over 60 participants presented themselves for training at Union Theological College. Currently they are in the mentoring phase of their training. Given the large number within this grouping the Panel is very grateful to the many Ministers of the Church who

have willingly agreed to act as mentors – this requires that, within the Minister’s own Congregation or another, they listen to our trainees conduct three services of worship and then provide feed-back.

13. Thirdly, two further groups of trainees are undergoing training, in the Dublin area and in the North-West.

14. The Panel has been greatly indebted to the Very Rev Dr Stafford Carson who has prepared both the Trainer’s Notes and the Students’ workbooks for this course. The Panel is grateful also for several others who have agreed to teach the course in the respective venues.

15. The Panel is also deeply indebted to Mr Tom Finnegan, the Christian Development Training Officer, who has carried much of the administrative burden of this Panel, in addition to his many other responsibilities. The Panel is pleased to be in the position where its work is complete and is confident that a very good beginning has been made and that a scheme for the provision of Accredited Preachers within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has now been established.

16. The Committee agreed to discharge and thank the Panel, as its work in setting up the Accredited Preacher Scheme has been completed. A small working group of Rob Craig, Nigel McCullough, Trevor Gribben and Tom Finnegan has been set up to oversee the administration of the scheme. This working group will make decisions on items such as appointing assessors and any detailed administration work.

Panel on Leadership

17. The drive of PCI to becoming a missional Church, through culture change and mission planning, depends on missional leadership in its Congregations. Meaningful implementation of Fit for Purpose, that doesn’t merely inform the denomination but which actually transforms the denomination, depends on transformative leadership in Congregations. If the denomination is to move beyond paying lip service to these and other change initiatives in our constantly changing context, it must be recognised that the fundamental key to change is the leadership of (constant) change in our Congregations. To this end the work of the Panel continues as it researches need and identifies, provides and delivers appropriate and relevant resources and training.

18. The Panel has spent some time further researching congregational leadership within PCI. Focus Groups, with ruling elders and outside agencies which work on ministerial and leadership development within Churches, provided useful information for the Panel’s own use and for the use of the Committee on Ministerial Studies and Development.

19. A useful meeting has been held with Presbytery Christian Training Agents under the auspices of the Christian Training Development Officer. The agents have been encouraged to ask Presbyteries to consider how they may respond to the list of suggestions made in the General Assembly report of 2011 to encourage greater interest in and involvement in leadership development.

20. An initial set of resources has been produced as a starting point for Ministers, Kirk Sessions, organisations or Congregations who wish to explore and develop aspects of leadership. This series includes:

- Leadership
- Developing Leaders
- The Leadership of Kirk Sessions
- Kirk Session Away Days

These resources are available for download from the PCI website and a further series of resources is being produced on leading change. The Panel plans to hold a series of Road Shows to introduce the new resources. Seminars will be available both on their use and also to provide training in leadership issues.

21. The Panel recognises that while it can carry out research and identify or produce resources, even provide training seminars, the issue of leadership and leadership development needs to be owned across the denomination and championed by Presbyteries and Boards. The Panel recognises the vast amount of work asked of Presbyteries. It feels that the issue of leadership and leadership development is fundamentally important and is best delivered by a combination of the Panel's bottom up approach, supported systematically by Presbyteries on-going and proactive involvement. It believes that significant steps forward will be taken as the types of support systems and support structures for Ministers, Elders and Congregations put forward in last year's report are implemented.

22. As part of the structural supports to encouraging leadership and leadership development the Panel is delighted to acknowledge the rapid response to the 2011 report by the Committee on Ministerial Studies and Development and by the Director of Ministerial Studies. Changes have been introduced already to raise the profile of Ministers as leaders of Congregations and as developers of leaders within Congregations, and training opportunities identified to address this.

NJ McCULLOUGH, Convener

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT

1. The Committee met on three occasions since the last General Assembly (October 2011, February 2012 and April 2012).

2. The Director of Ministerial Studies (DMS), the Rev Ronnie Hetherington, acts as Secretary to the Committee and continues to advise prospective candidates and fulfil his duties in relation to students in training according to the Regulations of the General Assembly. The Committee again wishes to record its appreciation to the DMS for the measure of pastoral sensitivity, wise counsel and administrative ability he brings to his work.

3. In the academic year 2011-2012 there were 49 students under the care of Presbyteries, as listed in the appended Schedule (see Appendix 1).

MINISTERIAL STUDIES

Leadership

4. In response to the resolution passed by the General Assembly in June 2011 (Reports 2011, p 217, res 16) the Committee has been considering the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 15-18 of the report of the Panel

on Leadership (Reports 2011, pp 201-202). The Committee reports that the following action has been taken: (a) the introduction of required reading on the subject of leadership for those applying for ordained ministry; (b) the planned introduction of a 'Leadership module' as part of the Ministry training course, hopefully in the academic year 2012-2013; (c) a Board Conference, held in March 2012, which was aimed at directing and shaping the Board's vision for leadership and leadership development within PCI with particular reference to Ministers of Word and Sacrament; (d) the monitoring of existing 'Leadership components' in both the Licentiates' Course and Post-Ordination Training courses.

Interviews

5. The interviews of 24 candidates were held in Union Theological College on Tuesday, 3 April 2012. The Interviewing Panel comprised: Revs Alistair Bates, Robert Beggs, Amanda Best, Gordon Best, Robin Brown, Janice Browne, Mervyn Burnside, Jim Campbell, Rob Craig, John Coulter, Kenneth Crowe, David Cupples, Sam Finlay, Mark Goudy, William Henry, Liz Hughes, John Hutchinson, Stephen Johnston, Philip McCrea, Adrian McLernon, Ian McNie, Adrian Moffett, Colin Morrison, Dr Donald Patton, Dr Brian Savage, William Sinclair, Alan Thompson, David Thompson; Messrs Joe Campbell, Norman Graham, Roy Thompson; Mrs Isobel McAuley, Dr Lena Morrow, Ms Anne Taylor, Mrs Jayne Wright. Dr Joan McQuoid acted as Vocational Consultant, the Rev Noble McNeely as Chairman, the Rev Dr Bill Parker as Secretary, and the Rev Ronnie Hetherington as Co-ordinator. The Rev Trevor Gribben, Secretary to the Board, was also present.

6. Having completed the interviewing process, 20 candidates are being nominated to the General Assembly by the Board of Christian Training.

Application Process

7. Following discussions concerning the application process for ordained ministry it was agreed to recommend that the General Assembly approve a review of the application process and the on-going effective assessment of ministry candidates prior to ordination.

Biblical languages

8. The Biblical languages curriculum was revised for the academic year 2010-2011 and after two years is now due to be reviewed. It was agreed that the Convener undertake this review through consultation with the relevant members of staff and an appropriate cross-section of students.

Post-graduate Study

9. Increasing numbers of Ministers are undertaking, and successfully completing, post-graduate study courses. In light of this, it was agreed that the DMS should compile a database, recording information about Ministers who have undertaken such study, as the first step toward seeking to harness their insights and expertise for the benefit of the wider Church.

STUDENTS' BURSARY FUND

The Rev David Irvine reports:

10. The Students' Bursary Fund exists to make financial provision for students for the ordained ministry and their families, during their time of study.

11. In the academic year Sept 2011-June 2012 there are 47 students in receipt of grants. The cost to the Fund of grants, fees and other expenses for this period is £606,000. This is being met through offerings at services of licensing, ordination and installation of Ministers and Elders, personal and congregational donations, and by congregational assessment. Thanks are due to all members of the Church who generously support the Students' Bursary Fund.

12. All those who have responsibility for planning services of licensing, ordination and installation are asked to ensure that full use is made of the SBF literature available from reception in Assembly Buildings, especially the Gift Aid envelope. Past experience has shown that where literature is handed out at an earlier service, those attending the special service are more likely to use a Gift Aid envelope.

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

Post-Ordination Training

13. A twin-track residential is planned for 15-18 May 2012, facilitating those who were ordained in 2010 and 2011 on the respective themes 'Delivering the Vision' and 'Shaping the Vision'. A conference for those ordained in 2009 was held from 1-3 May 2012 on the theme 'When it really hurts'.

Sabbaticals and In-Service Training

14. It was agreed that all sabbatical applications should be forwarded to the DMS by Presbyteries and that the notice required prior to taking a sabbatical be reduced from 6 to 3 months.

Ministers with Staff Teams & Additional Pastoral Personnel

15. Before the end of 2012 the Committee plans to provide courses that will give basic training for Ministers who have the responsibility to manage staff teams and/or additional pastoral personnel.

Pre-Retirement Residentials

16. The Very Rev Dr John and Mrs Rosemary Dunlop and the Rev Bill and Mrs Margaret Sanderson facilitated two residentials in November 2011 and February 2012. The residentials continue to be very beneficial to those who attend. The Committee wishes to record its appreciation to the facilitators for the significant role they play in the success of such residentials.

WJM PARKER, Convener

UNION THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

1. The College continues to fulfil a strategic role both in its core function of training and equipping PCI's future Ministers and in its provision of theological education for others. Student numbers continue to be encouraging. In the 2011-12 academic year the student body has comprised a total of 292 students (95 part-time, 197 full-time) of whom 46 are PCI ministry students.

Curriculum Sub-Committee

2. An on-going conversation is developing between the Sub-Committee and the Faculty about respective roles, ministerial formation, the proposed Summer School and other ways in which the theological curriculum can be tailored to prepare students for effective Christian ministry.

3. The Vision Statement in the College Handbook has been amended to consist of 3 sections: section 1 "What We Are" being the previous Vision Statement, a new section 2 "Why We Exist" (see below – para 4) and a new section 3 "How We Do This" which incorporates revised departmental mission statements.

4. "Union Theological College exists to train men and women for effective Christian ministry and leadership by:

- Walking humbly with God
- Loving God's people
- Studying and understanding God's Word
- Communicating the Gospel faithfully and relevantly
- Enabling the Church to fulfill its calling"

5. It is planned to hold an annual Summer School in September each year, beginning in 2012 with a 1-week event comprising 3 days for 1st and 2nd year ministerial students plus the existing 2-day retreat for all ministerial students.

Finance, Property and Administration Sub-Committee

6. The Training and Resource Centre was officially opened on Monday 12 September by the Very Rev Dr J Stafford Carson and has proved of great benefit. Now based in the TRC are the Professor of Practical Theology, the Director of Ministerial Students and the Christian Training Development Officer, along with associated secretarial staff. The Committee is most grateful to Mr Desmond Fulton who has overseen the work in a meticulous and gracious way.

7. In the course of completion of the TRC project, dry rot was discovered in the Chapel lobby. Work which commenced on 19 September 2011 subsequently uncovered a spread of the rot to parts of the Organ Loft. This necessitated the temporary removal of the organ and an extension to the remedial work. Progress has been slow due to the proximity of the Chapel which, due to the size of the student body, is required for lectures during semesters.

8. Following the report to the 2011 General Assembly about the condition of the stonework of the College, Alastair Coey Architects Ltd provided the Committee with a budget costing for a phased programme of stonework restoration over a number of years. The costs (excluding VAT, professional fees or any grants that may be available) are as follows:

• Phase 1: Purchase (rather than hire) of scaffolding to be sold on completion of the restoration	£24,000
• Phase 2: Portico at the main entrance	£360,000
• Phase 3: North west wing and elevation	£304,000
• Phase 4: South west wing and elevation	£317,000
• Phase 5: South elevation (not including any structural intervention)	£439,000
• Phase 6: Courtyard	£387,000
Total budget cost:	<u>£1,831,000</u>

9. The current level of grant assistance is 35% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £50,000 for each phase, giving a maximum grant assistance of £250,000 over phases 2-6. All repair work will be eligible for VAT. A conservative estimate of professional fees and VAT would add c£500,000 to the total budget cost. The Committee will start to consider the way forward when all the work associated with the TRC has been successfully concluded.

10. Protective fencing has been put in place, and emergency repairs carried out, to ensure that no health and safety risk is posed by the condition of the stonework. No action is deemed necessary at present in regard to the relatively recent structural movement on the south side (accommodation and administration block) of the building.

11. The installation of a new line by Virgin Media in order to upgrade internet service for the College was delayed due to collapsed cabling in the courtyard. However, it is anticipated that the new line will soon be fully operational with significant benefits for students, staff and residents.

12. Negotiations have continued regarding a formal lease with Fitzroy Avenue Presbyterian Church, the occupants of first floor offices at 26 College Green.

HA DUNLOP, Convener

APPENDIX 1

SCHEDULE OF STUDENTS

ARDS	Fiona Forbes	Union
	Robert Hamilton	Union
	Edward Kirwan	Union
	Stuart McCrea	Union
	Gary McDowell	Union
	Jeff McWatters	Union
ARMAGH	Keith Ward	Union
	Philip Cleland	Union
	Russell Edgar	Union
BALLYMENA	Simon Hamilton	Union
	Michael Currie	Union
	Ross Kernohan	Union
	Adrian Adger	Union

	Philip Kerr	Union
	Norman Kennedy	Union
	Philip McClelland	Union
	David McMillan	Union
	Stephen Orr	Union
	Matthew Simpson	Union
NORTH BELFAST	Gareth Simpson	Union
	Michael Fryer	Union
SOUTH BELFAST	Jonathan Abernethy-Barkley	Union
	Chris Barron	Union
	David Cromie	Union
	Corrina Heron	Union
EAST BELFAST	Andrew Boreland	Union
	Stephen Cowan	Union
	David Currie	Union
	Mark McMaw	Union
	Trevor McNeill	Union
CARRICKFERGUS	Mark Dodds	Union
	Alan Moore	Union
	James Warburton	Union
COLERAINE & LIMAVADY	Chris Cordner	Union
	Ivan Linton	Union
	Gordon McCracken	Union
DOWN	Gary Ball	Union
DROMORE	Nathan Duddy	Union
DUBLIN & MUNSTER	Damien Burke	Union
	Kevin Hargaden	—
	Reuben McCormick	Union
	John O'Donnell	—
IVEAGH	Graham Mullan	—
NEWRY	Jeffrey Blue	Union
TEMPLEPATRICK	Mark Johnston	Union
TYRONE	Nigel Kane	Union
	Philip Leonard	Union
	Ben Preston	Union
	Roland Watt	Union

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received
2. That the following candidates, their nomination having been sustained by the Board of Christian Training, be accepted as students for the Ordained Ministry, and placed under the care of their Presbyteries:

Name	Congregation	Presbytery
Matthew Boyd	High Kirk	Ballymena
Alan Burke	First Dunboe	Coleraine & Limavady
David Clarke	Culnady	Tyrone
Gerard Clinton	Drogheda	Dublin & Munster

Richard Cronin	Dun Laoghaire	Dublin & Munster
Alan Dickey	Bloomfield	East Belfast
David Gray	Kirkpatrick Memorial	East Belfast
Martin Gray	Howth & Malahide	Dublin & Munster
Bryan Kee	Albany	Tyrone
David Kelly	Stormont	East Belfast
Stephen Kennedy	Bessbrook	Newry
Stephen Lowry	Hamilton Road	Ards
Robert McClure	Ballywatt	Coleraine & Limavady
Alistair McCracken	Stormont	East Belfast
Susan Moore	McCracken Memorial	South Belfast
Bobby Orr	Ballynure	Carrickfergus
Jonathan Porter	Clontibret	Monaghan
Michael Rutledge	Newcastle	Iveagh
John Torrens	First Garvagh	Coleraine & Limavady
Brent van der Linde	Fitzroy	South Belfast

3. That the General Assembly request the Board of Christian Training to finalise a job description for the previously agreed position of Principal of Union Theological College with executive responsibility, and agree that the post be advertised and a nomination brought to the 2013 General Assembly for appointment.

4. That the General Assembly request the Board of Christian Training to carry out a review of the application process for the ordained ministry and of the on-going effective assessment of ministry candidates prior to ordination.

5. That the General Assembly encourage Ministers and Kirk Sessions to seriously consider the significant contribution they could make to the training of potential Ministers by offering the opportunity for an assistant to be assigned to their Congregation.

Leadership Development and Pastoral Care

6. That the General Assembly commend to Ministers and Kirk Sessions the resources and training opportunities on leadership development and pastoral care offered through the Board of Christian Training.

Accredited Preacher Panel

7. That the General Assembly welcome the accreditation of the first group of Accredited Preachers and commend both the course and the new Accredited Preachers to the Church.

General

8. That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme be 0.25p per £ of stipend.

9. That the assessment for the Students' Bursary Fund be 5.25p per £ of stipend.

10. That the Board of Christian Training, together with the appropriate working Committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 285 of the Code, as follows:

OVERTURE TRANSMITTED**Anent Par 209 of the Code**

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in Par 209 of the Code the following be added prior to the end of the sentence “and also transmit credentials to the Clerk of Presbytery within whose bounds the Licentiate will be serving as Licensed Assistant. Any student who is a ruling elder will be deemed to have resigned the duties of the eldership at the date of licensing.”

TD GRIBBEN