Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2018 — 2018

ANNUAL REPORTS

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Notes: (i) **Business commences at different times each day. There are new business sessions on the Tuesday and Thursday evenings.**

(ii) **An "Introduction to Assembly Business" will be given in the Assembly Hall on Tuesday at 10am.**

(iii) **Communion will be held on Tuesday at 11.45am and Worship on Wednesday and Thursday at 12.15pm and 2.45pm respectively.**

(iv) **Figures in brackets refer to page numbers in the Annual Reports.**

Tuesday

GA Business Committee – Initial Report

Presbyteries

Trustees

General Council (Section 1)

Public Affairs

People Matter to God

Linkage Commission

Wednesday

Congregational Life and Witness

Training in Ministry

Listening to the Global Church

General Council (Section 2)

Memorials Transmitted

General Council (Section 3)

Thursday

Equipping the Church

Global Mission

Mission in Ireland

General Council (Section 4)

Overtures

Friday

Judicial Commission

Special Judicial Commission

Commission on Applications

General Council (Section 5)

Social Witness

GA Business Committee – Final Report

NOTES

MONDAY, JUNE 4

Assembly Buildings

7.00 p.m. –

Service of Worship
Constitution of Assembly
Election of Moderator

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

10.30 a.m. –

1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE:
   Initial Report and Resolutions 1-6 (pages 5-15
   and 143).

2. Reports of Presbyteries (pages 161-170).

3. Reception of Corresponding Members and
   Delegates.
   Church of Scotland: Rt Rev Susan Brown; Rev Dr John McPake;
   Rev Dr George Whyte
   United Reformed Church: Rev Kevin Watson
   Church of Ireland: Rt Rev John McDowell; Mrs Margaret Fullerton
   The Methodist Church in Ireland: Rev Aian Ferguson,
   Mrs Lynda Neilands
   Religious Society for Friends: Sheena Bell
   Irish Council of Churches: Rev Brian Anderson
   Presbyterian Church of Wales: Rev Brian H Jones
   CCAP, Synod of Livingstonia: Rev John Gondwe
   CCAP, Synod of Zambia: Rev Sevatt Kabaghe
   Presbyterian Church of East Africa: Rev Alfred Mugendi Kanga
   Presbyterian Church of South Sudan: Rev Peter Gai Lual Marrow
   Presbyterian Church of Pakistan: Rev Maqsood Kamil
   Church of North India, Gujarat Diocese: Rev Manojkumar Victorbhai
   Gohil
   National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon: Rev Joseph Kasaab
   Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary: Dr Imad Shehadeh
   (Please note: some of the above are waiting on the granting of a Visa. Any
   changes or additions to the above will be reported in the Supplementary
   Reports.)

(11.30)   Short Intermission.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

11.45 a.m.   Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
including the Memorial Roll.

1.00 p.m.   LUNCH.

2.00 p.m. –

4.   TRUSTEES: Report and Resolutions (pages 171-176).

(2.30)   5.   GENERAL COUNCIL: Section 1 of Report and Resolutions 7-15 (pages 1-4, 15-67 and 143-144). Support Services Committee; United Appeal Committee; Guysmere Redevelopment Task Group; Priorities Committee; Memorial Record.

(3.30)   Tea/Coffee Break.

4.00   6.   COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS: Report and Resolutions (pages 177-195).

Lapsed Business (if any).

5.30 p.m.   DINNER.

7.00 p.m. –

7.   CSW ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION
– **People Matter to God**

8.00   8.   LINKAGE COMMISSION: Report and Resolutions (pages196-227).

(9.00)   Close of Business

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

9.30 a.m. –

9.   COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS: Report and Resolution (pages 228-254).

(10.45)   Tea/Coffee Break.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

11.15   10.   COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY: Report and Resolutions (pages 255-279).

12.15 p.m. –   **Worship.**

1.00 p.m.   LUNCH.

2.00 p.m. –

         11.   LISTENING TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH
               – **Streams in the desert**

(3.00)   Tea/Coffee Break.

3.30   12.   GENERAL COUNCIL: Section 2 of Report and Resolutions 16-19 (pages 68-78 and 144).
              Moderator's Advisory Committee; Dialogue and Resources Task Group; Human Identity Task Group.

         13.   MEMORIALS TRANSMITTED (pages 158-160).

4.30   14.   GENERAL COUNCIL: Section 3 of Report and Resolutions 20-28 (pages 79-101 and 144-145).
              Doctrine Committee; Relationships with Other Denominations Task Group; Church Relations Committee.

Lapsed Business (if any).

(6.00)   Close of Business

6.00 p.m. –   The Youth Assembly team will host an Assembly Fringe event in the new ground floor conference area. The theme will be 'Together: Connecting the Generations' and will include the launch of a brand new video aimed at inspiring inter-generational mindsets within congregations, as well as sharing stories and ideas. A light tea will be served on arrival.

7.45 p.m. –   **Evening Celebration: Building Relationships**

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

1.45 p.m. –

    15. CTM ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION
        – Equipping the Church for Effective Ministry
        ** in the 21st Century**

2.45 p.m. –   **Worship.**

(3.30)   Tea/Coffee Break.

4.00   16. COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL MISSION: Report and Resolutions (pages 280-313).

Lapsed Business (if any).

5.30 p.m.   DINNER.

7.00 p.m. –

    17. COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND: Report and Resolutions (pages 314-354).

8.00   18. GENERAL COUNCIL: Section 4 of Report and Resolutions 29-32 (pages 102-113 and 146). General Data Protection Regulation Task Group; Engagement and Consultations Task Group; Central Prayer Coordination Task Group; Use of Congregational Property by Outside Bodies Task Group; Charity Registration Task Group; Holding Trustees Task Group.

    19. OVERTURES: On the Books (pages 375-379)

    20. OVERTURES: Ad-Hoc (pages 149-157).

Lapsed Business (if any).

(9.00)   Close of Business.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

NOTES

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

In Private

9.30 a.m. –

21. JUDICIAL COMMISSION: Report and Resolution (pages 355-356).

22. SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMISSION: Report and Resolution (page 357).

23. COMMISSION ON APPLICATIONS: Report and Resolution (page 358).

In Public

(10.00) 24. GENERAL COUNCIL: Section 5 of Report and Resolutions 33-38 (pages 114-142 and 146-148). Nominations Committee; 2017 Special Assembly Task Group; Review of Moderator's Year Task Group; Reformation Celebration Task Group; Historical Archiving Task Group; Ad-Hoc Business.

(11.00) Tea/Coffee Break.

11.30 25. COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL WITNESS: Report and Resolutions (pages 359-374).

Lapsed Business (if any).

(1.00) 26. GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Final Report and Resolutions (to be tabled).

CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Times in brackets may be anticipated but should not be passed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE

A Guide to Assembly Procedure

1. **Members of Assembly** consist of all ministers in active duty or retired and some elders, ex officio, together with a representative elder from each established Congregation plus other elders commissioned by Presbyteries to correspond with the number of ministers serving in special appointments. The Assembly quorum is fifty members.

    (a) Deaconesses, Licentiates, Presbytery representatives of Presbyterian Women and youth, representatives of SPUD and some others are invited to "sit and deliberate" as associates – i.e., to take part with members freely in debate but without voting. In addition to a representative elder, Kirk Sessions have been given permission to name a further person aged up to 30 years of age who may sit and deliberate. This person may be an elder or simply a communicant member.

    (b) While members should bear in mind any opinions or concerns of their Congregations, Kirk Sessions or Presbyteries, neither ministers nor elders attend as "delegates", obliged to vote as instructed by any of these. The Assembly should be a gathering of fully responsible, free Christian men and women, always open to spiritual guidance and information on a Church-wide basis, not a device for counting up decisions already made elsewhere.

2. *The Moderator* chairs the Assembly and is in charge of proceedings, but should not take sides in debates. Former Moderators may deputise from time to time, should the Moderator wish to take part in debate or to withdraw from the House.

    (a) When the Moderator rises to speak at any point all other members must yield to the Chair.

    (b) Members should stand when the Moderator enters or leaves at the beginning or end of proceedings. Members may enter or leave at any time during proceedings, but should do so with as little disturbance as possible. It is a courtesy in so doing to give a slight bow to the Chair.

    (c) The recommended form of address to the House is simply "Moderator" (not "Mr." Moderator, etc). Speakers should face towards the House and the microphones, not towards the Moderator.

3. **Councils and Commissions:** Work for which the Assembly is responsible is generally entrusted to various General Assembly Councils and Commissions. These must each present a report to the Assembly. Councils normally have a number of General Assembly Committees working under them, along with permanent Panels and ad-hoc Task Groups. A Commission of Assembly is entrusted with the executive powers of the Assembly, within the terms of its appointment. Members of Commissions, Councils and General Assembly Committees are appointed by the Assembly itself, on the nomination of the General Assembly's Nominations Committee. Councils and Commissions are led by a Convener, supported by a Secretary, with the latter often being a senior member of staff. In what follows the word "Councils" covers Councils, Commissions and the General Assembly Business Committee.

4. **Reports of Councils:** While the Assembly is obliged to "receive" the report of each Council, it does not "adopt" or accept responsibility for the contents of any report. Reports carry only the authority of the Council concerned and not of the Assembly.

   (a) If found too unsatisfactory the report, or a section of it, may be received and referred back. This is done by an amendment to the resolution "That the report of the [name of Council] be received". Any matter to which the Assembly is to be committed must be stated in a specific resolution. Resolutions should be kept to conclusions, rather than include arguments in support such as are appropriate to reports and speeches. Similarly, speeches in the Assembly carry the authority only of the speaker.

   (b) Reports are first of all "presented" and the appended resolutions "proposed" en bloc, usually by a Council Convener who will make a speech in support highlighting aspects of the Council's work. The resolutions are then "seconded" en bloc, usually by another officer of the Council, who again speaks in support and usually addresses a different aspect of the Council's work. There is then an opportunity for questions to be asked. Routine and non-controversial resolutions have been grouped into one consolidated resolution for each Council, where appropriate.

5. **Questions to Commissions or Councils:** These should quite strictly be asked only for further information or explanation, whether of something in the report or not in the report but for which the Council carries responsibility; they should not be rhetorical or debating "questions" to score a point. Questions should be written out and placed in the box provided as early as possible during the Assembly. They may also be submitted by e-mail to the Deputy Clerk (deputyclerk@presbyterianireland.org) in advance of the Assembly or during the Assembly, up to 15 minutes before the report in question is scheduled. Questions will normally be limited to two per person and ten minutes in all, unless the Moderator judge that a particular subject merits an extension of these limits.

6. **Resolutions** of Councils: These are then taken in succession, as printed in the General Assembly Reports, and on occasion also in the Supplementary Reports. Resolutions are called by number. Those wishing to speak should at once come forward, or otherwise indicate to the Moderator their desire to speak: it will be helpful if they move in good time to sit on one of the seats reserved for the purpose on the front row, ready for the Moderator to call them. The final resolution of a Council is "that the report of the [name of Council] be received". This is the point where members may discuss (not ask questions about) any matters in the report or for which the Council should bear responsibility, but which do not arise under any previous resolution.

7. **Timings during debate:** Unless otherwise arranged, speeches are limited as follows:
Presenting a group of reports and resolutions   7 minutes
Seconding a group of reports and resolutions   7 minutes
All other speeches   4 minutes

(a) If lapsed business accumulates, these timings may be shortened.
(b) A flickering light is given 1 minute before the end, a steady light for 30 seconds and a buzz when the time is up. Before commencing, speakers should announce their name and Congregation (or PW, SPUD etc) and Presbytery. Apart from the proposer (or alternatively the seconder) having the right to speak again in closing the debate, no one may speak twice in debating any one resolution or amendment, except to clarify some misunderstanding.

8. **Alternative** format: The Assembly may decide from time to time to conduct a particular item of business using an alternative format. This is usually on the recommendation of the General Assembly Business Committee. In such circumstances alternative rules of debate and timings may apply.

9. **Amendments: These** may be moved without prior notice by any member so as to change the terms of a resolution within its general scope but not so as to introduce another subject. Before debate on an amendment commences, the amendment must be given in writing to the Clerk's desk (or be submitted electronically to deputyclerk@presbyterianireland.org).
   (a) Amendments may be submitted to the Clerk of Assembly in advance of the business concerned, and if received in sufficient time and licensed by the General Assembly Business Committee, will take precedence over any other amendments.
   (b) At least one day's notice must be given of an amendment which would substantially affect the scope of a motion or overture. A plea for the outright rejection of a resolution is not an amendment.
   (c) An amendment, if seconded, must be dealt with before further debate on the original resolution or consideration of any further amendment. If passed, the amendment is then put as a substantive motion, when one more amendment may be considered. If the first two amendments are rejected, one more amendment may be considered before reverting to the original resolution.

10. **Additional resolutions: When a matter is not covered by existing resolutions from a Council** an additional resolution may be submitted by any member or associate as notice of motion for license. Unless there are exceptional circumstances these should be received by the Clerk at least one week before the Assembly. Resolutions rescinding or reversing a previous decision of the Assembly require notice of motion to be first given and accepted at the preceding annual meeting. Those invited to sit and deliberate may "present" resolutions or amendments in the usual way, but these must be formally proposed and seconded by a member of Assembly before being debated.

11. **Voting:** This will normally be by voice, when the Moderator calls for those in favour to say "Aye" and those against to say "No". The Moderator may also call for a standing vote, with voting cards displayed, to be counted. A vote by ballot will be held when asked for by not fewer than twenty-five members or at the discretion of the Moderator, by the use of voting tickets, to be counted by tellers. Only the votes of those present on the ground floor of the Assembly Hall will be counted. Proxy voting for an absent member is not allowed. A member who has spoken or voted against any decision may intimate his or her personal dissent or protest immediately after the decision has been pronounced, but does not thereby free himself or herself from obligation loyally to implement the decision taken.

12. **Overtures: These are** proposals for a change in the Code, the Church's Constitution and Government. Changes in rules, of which notice has been given in the printed Reports, may be adopted forthwith if approved by a two-thirds majority, or without such notice if approved with no one voting against. If approved by a lesser majority it is "placed on the books", to be decided upon at the following Assembly. This applies also to rules governing the Central Ministry Fund and other Ministry Funds. In the Basic Code, where immediate operation is desirable, the change may be adopted temporarily during the intervening year as an "Interim Act". If an overture contemplates a significant constitutional change it must also be sent down to Presbyteries to be voted on during the intervening year.

13. **Memorials:** These are petitions to the Assembly, usually from some person or body who is not a member of Assembly, such as a subordinate court of the Church, a Church member or group of members, or persons unconnected with the Church. Procedures and forms are laid down by which the circumstances of the Memorial are outlined and a definite request or "prayer" is stated. A Memorial is also the procedure by which someone, whether member of the Assembly or not, asks for exemption from some Church rule on the plea of special circumstances.