

EIGHTH SESSION

Friday, 9th June, 2017

9.30am

In Private

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports pp341-349 together with the Judicial Commission Confidential Report Booklet) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Judicial Commission be received.
2. That the Judicial Commission be authorised to implement the republishing of the Code as outlined in its report.

OVERTURES: JUDICIAL COMMISSION (Reports pp350-354)

The resolutions as moved below, were tabled in the name of the Rev TD Gribben in the Supplementary Reports to the General Assembly, ppS22-S23.

(A) OVERTURES RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP OF A CONGREGATION

The Overtures anent Pars 39(1), 39(3), 41(1), 45, 45 and 195(6) of the Code (Reports pp350-351) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 39(1), 39(3), 41(1), 45 and 45 of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 39(1), 39(3), 41(1), 45 and 45 of the Code be made Interim Acts.
3. That the Overture anent Par 195(6) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

(B) OVERTURES BRINGING CLARITY TO SOME MATTERS RE COMMISSIONS AND APPEALS

The Overtures anent Pars 161(1)(g), 165(1) and (2) and 166(1) of the Code (Reports pp351-352) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 161(1)(g), 165(1) and (2) and 166(1) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

(C) OVERTURES REGARDING TRANSFER OF CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTY TO AN ASSOCIATED BODY

The Overtures anent Pars 53(a) and 57 of the Code (Reports pp352-353) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 53(a) and 57 of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 53(a) and 57 of the Code be made Interim Acts.

(D) OVERTURES REGARDING THE RIGHT OF APPEAL IN CASES OF EMPLOYMENT GRIEVANCES

The Overtures anent Pars 38 and 75 of the Code (Reports p353) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 38 and 75 of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 38 and 75 of the Code be made Interim Acts.

**(E) OVERTURE REGARDING THE RIGHT OF APPEAL
RELATING TO THE COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY**

The Overture anent Par 146(1)(c) of the Code (Reports pp353-354) was submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Overture anent Par 146(1)(c) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The Report of the **SPECIAL JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports p355) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Special Judicial Commission be received.

The Report of the **COMMISSION ON APPLICATIONS** (Reports p356) was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Commission on Applications be received.

In Public

The Memorial of Prof Fred Boal (Reports p357) was submitted by Mr C Graham.

Moved by Mr Cecil Graham, seconded by the Rev MS Gault:

1. That the Memorial be received and its prayer be granted.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev NW McAuley, seconded by the Rev AL Kirk and agreed:

1. That the Memorial be received and its prayer be not granted.

On being put to the House, the substantive motion was declared passed.

The Memorial of the Rev Dr Ivan D Neish (Reports p358) was submitted by the Rev Dr IJ Neish.

Moved by the Rev Dr IJ Neish, seconded by the Rev JR Dickinson:

1. That the Memorial be received and its prayer be granted.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, seconded by Mr Robin Tweed:

1. That the Memorial be received and its prayer be not granted, but that the Moderator's Advisory Committee appoint a Task Group to consider the qualifications of voting members and report to the 2018 Assembly.

The Proposer and Secunder accepted the amendment.

On being put to the House, the substantive motion was declared passed.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page)

Intermission

The Report of the **LINKAGE COMMISSION** (Reports pp365-391) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr WD Patton, together with the following Supplementary Report:

1. Amalgamation of Berry Street with Lowe Memorial

Further to the information given in the reports (page 370, par 21), the date of amalgamation agreed by Presbytery was 9th May 2017.

2. Additional Pastoral Personnel and Auxiliary Ministry Panel

Further to the information given in the reports concerning business assigned by the last General Assembly (page 379, par 44), it is anticipated that relevant documentation will be agreed and ready for distribution to Kirk Sessions by September 2017, if not earlier.

3. Amalgamation

Following discussions with the congregations and the Presbytery of Ards, the Commission has agreed to the Presbytery's request that Cloughey Congregation be amalgamated with Greyabbey Congregation.

WILLIAM HENRY

Additional Resolution

- 4a. That the congregation of Cloughey be amalgamated with the congregation of Greyabbey on 1st July, 2017 or other suitable date, on terms set by the Linkage Commission; and that the Linkage Commission, in consultation with the Presbytery of Ards, bring recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly concerning parish bounds for the amalgamated congregation, and for neighbouring congregations.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr WD Patton, seconded by the Rev WJ Henry:

1. That the Guidelines for Interviews at Vacancies, as amended in the Linkage Commission Report, Par 14, be adopted.

Moved as an amendment by the Very Rev Dr HA Dunlop, seconded by the Very Rev Prof JS Carson, and agreed:

1. That the Guidelines for Interviews at vacancies, as amended in the Linkage Commission Report, Par 14, be referred back to the Linkage Commission for further consideration.

On being put to the House, the substantive motion was declared passed.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr WD Patton, seconded by the Rev WJ Henry and agreed:

2. That Ministers and Kirk Session are encouraged to consider whether the Auxiliary Ministry Scheme would be helpful in their context.
3. That Option 4, as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Linkage Commission Report, be adopted as the basis for a two part Ministerial Expenses Scheme and that it be approved for implementation in April, 2018.
4. That a change of order of permissions re Congregational Property to Congregation, Presbytery, Commission, as in the Linkage Commission Report, Pars 33-37, be approved and the Guidelines noted.
5. That the congregation of Cloughey be amalgamated with the congregation of Greyabbey on 1st July, 2017 or other suitable

date, on terms set by the Linkage Commission; and that the Linkage Commission, in consultation with the Presbytery of Ards, bring recommendations to the 2018 General Assembly concerning parish bounds for the amalgamated congregation, and for neighbouring congregations.

6. That CMF be authorised to pay inadequate expenses grants towards expenses incurred by Ministers, up to a limit of NI £5,985 or RI €10,000, within the terms of resolution 3, p.70 General Assembly Minutes, 1988.
7. That the Report of the Linkage Commission be received.

The Second Report of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE**, (Reports pp4-11) along with resolutions 38-41 (Reports p183) was submitted by the Rev Dr RA Patton, together with the following Supplementary Report:

The Church of Ireland General Synod (2016)

The Very Rev Dr Ian McNie reports:

1. The Church of Ireland Synod began with an impressive Communion Service in Limerick Cathedral, led by the Archbishop of Armagh. The liturgical warmth coupled with its Biblical emphasis and theological depth reflected a tradition like our own, which created a bond of unity in respect of the beliefs of our distinctive denominations. At the conclusion of the Sacrament the Synod adjourned to the Southgate Hotel where the business sessions would straddle three days.
2. Much of the routine work of the Synod was a reflection of our own Assembly. Announcements were made and visitors welcomed en bloc with the assurance that some would be given the opportunity to bring greetings and address the Synod at various intervals throughout its duration.
3. The Archbishop of Armagh gave his Presidential Address focusing on the issue of 'identity', highlighting the fact that "*As Christian disciples, we recognise that we do indeed have a basic identity that we must share with all others, that of being made by God in His image and likeness. This means that others – all others must be treated with a complete dignity and with an utter respect, regardless of who and what they are, what they think or what they do.*"

4. He spent some time focusing on refugees, the homeless, victims of abuse and domestic violence, calling the Church to draw alongside those who, *“barely know us, or find it hard to believe that we have anything to offer.”* He concluded, *“can we have the courage and the faith to believe that our identity is not simply among those who resemble us in ways that give us pleasure, but in those whom Christ also loves, who need His love and hence our love?”*
5. The main business commenced with the consideration of ‘The Bills’, seeking to amend parts of the Constitution, (Code). These were presented formally with little discussion as the Synod rubber-stamped these amendments. The first sign of enthusiastic debate commenced when the ‘Liturgical Advisory Committee’ sought to deal with a slight adjustment regarding ‘Intercessory prayers’ for the country within the Prayer Book, an adjustment that would more accurately reflect the National arrangements regarding Northern Ireland’s new relationship with the Economic Union in the future. Any move to change the emphasis of the Prayer Book, even with addition of simply adding brackets, was resisted and defeated.
6. The Synod’s Board of Education seeks to keep in touch with all educational developments both North and South, liaising with appropriate statutory bodies, keeping the interests of the Church to the fore and partnering with other Churches in respect of transfer representatives. It seeks to work with other Churches, including our own regarding curriculum support of the RE core syllabus in schools and seeking to uphold a credible relationship with the statutory bodies.
7. Youth and Children’s Ministry seems to follow a similar pattern to our own, with one or two Church wide events during the year and each diocese providing its own individual training and youth events. The Youth Council are currently targeting some dioceses with strategic development programmes. The ‘I believe’ twelve week course launched a year ago for use in Confirmation classes, included elements of the Apostles Creed, ten commandments and Church Catechism has been hailed as an excellent resource explaining the essentials of the faith.
8. On Friday morning a breakfast was hosted at which a representative of ‘Open Doors’ spoke of their work in standing shoulder to shoulder with those who are part of the Persecuted Church. This less formal meeting dramatically illustrated the other side of Church life, outside the talking shops of Synods and Assemblies. This theme was also

- taken up during the Council for Mission report. This report highlighted the relatively poor response to overseas mission conferences organised by the Council, and the Synod was asked to consider what steps might be taken for a better awareness and action in the area of mission within the Church of Ireland.
9. The Church of Ireland, like ourselves, face the problems associated with uniting congregations, but as a denomination, there has been an additional ongoing debate regarding the uniting of two Southern Dioceses, both of which are numerically small, but geographically extensive. The option of appointing a Suffragan Bishop, in keeping with the practice within the Church of England, was given in principle a muted welcome, but this longstanding discussion has remained unsolved.
 10. The Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue highlighted the many ecumenical bodies with which the Church of Ireland is involved, in Ireland, the UK, Europe and the world. This commission dealt with how best to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, and a Theological lecture on the theme of Martin Luther's 'Sola Scriptura' will be held in Queens University. The Church of Ireland Historical Society and the Irish Catholic Historical Society are planning to hold a joint conference on 'Reformations' in October 2017. This Council also reported a deepening relationship between the Church of Ireland and the Moravian Church, and supported the desire to move towards 'the interchangeability of ministers'. This Council is also looking at the implications of Brexit, with particular concerns expressed in respect of a 'hard border'.
 11. Undoubtedly the most highly charged and well attended debate of the Synod, and exceptionally well handled by the Archbishop, was a Private Members Bill, calling on the House of Bishops, '*to investigate a means to develop sensitive local pastoral arrangements for public prayer and thanksgiving with same-sex couples at these key moments in their lives and to present their ideas to the General Synod, 2018*'.
 12. The Church of Ireland continues to officially uphold the Biblical teaching on marriage, '*that marriage is part of God's creation and a holy mystery in which one man and one woman become one flesh.*' It was apparent that many within the Synod were concerned for unity within the Church of Ireland, and unity within their relationship with other denominations.
 13. Prior to this debate, I was asked to extend greetings from PCI giving me the opportunity to express the view that within our Church we

- believe that we do not have the luxury of peddling our personal preferences, priorities and prejudices, or accommodating public opinion and social pressure which should not override the fundamental responsibility of the Church. As a Church our responsibility is to articulate the mind of God with conviction and clarity in a spirit of understanding, love and truthfulness as we seek to communicate the truth of what we believe and why we believe it, recognising that obedience to the authority of Scripture is fundamental to our belief and practice. Also it was appropriate at this juncture to speak in passing about the painful and fractured relationships that currently exist between PCI and the Church of Scotland in respect of decisions made at recent Church of Scotland General Assemblies over the issue of same-sex marriage.
14. As the debate ensued, many voices within the Synod were heard to speak on both sides of the argument, and the outcome was a rejection of the motion by a slender majority within both houses, the House of Clergy and the House of Laity, voting separately.
 15. From the voting pattern replicated by the speeches, it was clear that the division of opinion substantially reflected a North/South divide, but it was also obvious that many wanted to preserve the unity of the Church, both within the Church of Ireland and with its ecumenical partners.
 16. All in all, attending the Synod was an interesting and enjoyable experience as Trevor Elliott, an elder from Drogheda, and I interacted with members from all parts of Ireland. This year's Synod was unusual in so far as it did not meet in Armagh or Dublin, but Limerick, where we were the recipients of a warm welcome, not only by Church but by the City Council, and were hosted to a generous reception on the Thursday evening by the latter.
 17. Comparing the Synod to the General Assembly, there were significant similarities, but equally significant differences, the Synod having a wider spectrum of theological opinion. This has its advantages, challenging people to articulate their position with clarity, yet I could see the disadvantages, where at times the Church could be seen by secular society to send out conflicting and confusing messages regarding its understanding of Scripture, leading to a misunderstanding of the Church's distinctive role and responsibility within the world to be 'salt and light' in a society that in itself is confused and generally out of step with God's will.

TREVOR D GRIBBEN

Moved by the Very Rev Dr RA Patton, seconded by the Rev Jonathan Boyd and agreed:

32. That from 2018 onwards, the General Assembly shall include additional evening sessions, and consequential adjustments, as outlined in General Assembly Business Committee Appendix 1 – Option 1.
33. That from 2018 onwards each congregation shall be entitled to send one additional communicant member or ruling elder, aged 30 or under, to sit and deliberate alongside the representative elder and that the current arrangements for ‘named additional elders’ shall cease.
34. That the General Assembly authorise the Clerk to make all necessary amendments to the ‘Contents’ and ‘Index’ pages of the Code to reflect changes agreed by the General Assembly; and to make appropriate consequential changes to date numbering and symbols in the Appendices.
35. That the Second Report of the General Assembly Business Committee be received.

Intermission

GENERAL COUNCIL – debate resumed (see page)

Section 5 of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp120-179) along with resolutions 29-37 (Reports pp192-183) was submitted by the Rev NAL Cameron, together with the following Supplementary Report:

Since the submission of the General Council’s report the Nominations Committee has had further meetings and is now able to bring nominations for all the vacancies for Convenerships of Councils and Committees. An appropriately amended resolution is appended.

Revised Resolution

31. That the following resignations be accepted (or noted) and appointments made:
 - (a) the resignation of the Rev AV Stewart as Convener of the Discipleship Committee on 3rd August, 2016 be noted, that

- he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev Mark Goudy be appointed in his place;
- (b) the resignation of the Rev RJ Hyndman as Convener of the Worship Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev WJ Murdock be appointed in his place;
 - (c) the resignation of the Rev Dr JA Curry as Convener of the Leadership Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that The Rev JE McDowell be appointed in his place;
 - (d) the resignation of the Rev TC Morrison as Convener of the Youth, Children's and Family Strategy Coordination Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev SD Finlay be appointed in his place;
 - (e) the resignation of the Rev Dr Graham Connor as Convener of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev TC Morrison be appointed in his place;
 - (f) the resignation of the Rev BD Colvin as Convener of the Home Mission, Irish Mission and Deaconess Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev RI Carton be appointed in his place;
 - (g) the resignation of the Rev Stephen Simpson Convener of the Council for Mission in Ireland on 31st December, 2016 be noted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Very Rev Dr FP Sellar be appointed in his place;
 - (h) the resignation of the Rev Andrew Faulkner as Convener of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev AAP Baxter be appointed in his place;
 - (i) the resignation of the Rev Dr WJM Parker as Convener of the Ministerial Studies and Development Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev Andrew Faulkner be appointed in his place.

JONATHAN A CURRY

Licensed Amendment to Resolution 33 (Page 183)

“That the General Assembly instruct the Guysmere Centre Task Group to further investigate economically viable options for retaining the Guysmere site, consulting with the Presbytery of Coleraine and Limavady (and any other parties the Task Group deems appropriate), and to report to the 2018 General Assembly to enable a decision to be made regarding the sale, or otherwise, of the site.”

JIM A McCAUGHAN

Moved by the Rev NAL Cameron, seconded by the Very Rev Dr IJ Patterson and agreed:

36. That the General Assembly encourage Presbyteries to adopt some of the good practice suggestions outlined in the Report of the Engagement and Consultations Task Group in order to improve engagement in their meetings and also with Congregations.
37. That the General Assembly direct the Engagement and Consultations Task Group to consider and report back on the issue of the role of Presbyteries as agents for missional strategy.
38. That the General Assembly approve the new Consultations Process as in Engagement and Consultations Appendix 1 and direct that it be used by all Presbyteries from 1st January 2018 onwards.
39. That the following resignations be accepted (or noted) and appointments made:
 - (a) the resignation of the Rev AV Stewart as Convener of the Discipleship Committee on 3rd August, 2016 be noted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev Mark Goudy be appointed in his place;
 - (b) the resignation of the Rev RJ Hyndman as Convener of the Worship Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev WJ Murdock be appointed in his place;
 - (c) the resignation of the Rev Dr JA Curry as Convener of the Leadership Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that The Rev JE McDowell be appointed in his place;
 - (d) the resignation of the Rev TC Morrison as Convener of the Youth, Children’s and Family Strategy Coordination

- Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev SD Finlay be appointed in his place;
- (e) the resignation of the Rev Dr Graham Connor as Convener of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev TC Morrison be appointed in his place;
 - (f) the resignation of the Rev BD Colvin as Convener of the Home Mission, Irish Mission and Deaconess Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev RI Carton be appointed in his place;
 - (g) the resignation of the Rev Stephen Simpson Convener of the Council for Mission in Ireland on 31st December, 2016 be noted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Very Rev Dr FP Sellar be appointed in his place;
 - (h) the resignation of the Rev Andrew Faulkner as Convener of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev AAP Baxter be appointed in his place;
 - (i) the resignation of the Rev Dr WJM Parker as Convener of the Ministerial Studies and Development Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and that the Rev Andrew Faulkner be appointed in his place.

40. That the nominations to the General Assembly Commissions, Councils and Committees (as tabled by the Nominations Committee) be approved.

Moved by the Rev NAL Cameron, seconded by the Very Rev Dr IJ Patterson and agreed:

41. That the General Assembly agree that the Guysmere Centre be sold at the appropriate time.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev JA McCaughan, seconded by the Rev SA Morrow and agreed:

41. That the General Assembly instruct the Guysmere Centre Task Group to further investigate economically viable options for retaining the Guysmere site, consulting with the Presbytery of Coleraine and Limavady (and any other parties the Task Group deems appropriate), and to report to the 2018 General Assembly

to enable a decision to be made regarding the sale, or otherwise, of the site.

The Proposer and Seconder accepted the amendment.

On being put to the House, the substantive motion was declared passed.

With the leave of the House, **Resolutions 34 and 35** (Reports p183) were withdrawn.

Moved by the Rev NAL Cameron, seconded by the Very Rev Dr IJ Patterson and agreed:

42. That Section 5 of the Report of the General Council be received.

OVERTURES: AD HOC (Reports pp184-194)

The resolutions as moved below, were tabled in the name of the Rev TD Gribben in the Supplementary Reports to the General Assembly, ppS21-S22.

(A) OVERTURES ON THE BOOKS FROM THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND MARRIAGE TASK GROUP

The Overtures anent Pars 85, 137, 16(3), 16(4), 47(1), 51(1), 52, 33, 61 and 97, 61, 62, 72, 81(6), 97(h), 97(j), 98, 128(1), 46(h), 46(h), 59(2)(a), 76(e), 137, 72(e), 74, 132(5), 134(3), 36(f), 57(3) and (6), 73(d), 82(3) and (4), 57(5), 76(b), 79(e) and 116(2) of the Code (Reports pp184-188) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 85, 137, 16(3), 16(4), 47(1), 51(1), 52, 33, 61 and 97, 61, 62, 72, 81(6), 97(h), 97(j), 98, 128(1), 46(h), 46(h), 59(2)(a), 76(e), 137, 72(e), 74, 132(5), 134(3), 36(f), 57(3) and (6), 73(d), 82(3) and (4), 57(5), 76(b), 79(e) and 116(2) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year be enacted as the law of the Church.

(B) NEW OVERTURES

(I) GENERAL

The Overtures anent Pars 35, 47(2)(f), 65(2), 85(1), 173, 222(3), 239(2), 260(b) and 260(d) of the Code (Reports pp189-190) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 35, 47(2)(f), 65(2) and 85(1) of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 35, 47(2)(f), 65(2) and 85(1) of the Code be made Interim Acts.
3. That the Overtures anent Pars 173, 222(3), 239(2), 260(b) and 260(d) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

(II) COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS

The Overture anent Pars 85(5)(6) and (7) of the Code (Reports p191) was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overture anent Par 85(5)(6) and (7) of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overture anent Par 85(5)(6) and (7) of the Code be made an Interim Act.

(III) COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND

The Overtures anent Pars 36(f), 201 and 305(11) of the Code (Reports pp191-192) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overture anent Par 36(f) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

2. That the Overture anent Par 36(f) of the Code be made an Interim Act.
3. That the Overtures anent Pars 201 and 305(11) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

(IV) COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL MISSION

The Overture anent Par 290(4) of the Code (Reports p192) was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overture anent Par 290(4) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

(V) COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY

The Overtures anent Pars 190(2)(a), 193(1)(b), 219(5), 219(3), and 219A(i) of the Code (Reports pp192-194) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 190(2)(a), 193(1)(b), 219(5), 219(3), and 219A(i) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

(VI) LINKAGE COMMISSION

The Overtures anent Pars 57(5), 76(b), 198(10) of the Code (Reports p194) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 57(5) and 76(b) of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 57(5) and 76(b) of the Code be made Interim Acts.

3. That the Overture anent Par 198(10) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND – debate resumed (see page)

The Report of the **TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND** (Reports pp359-364) was submitted by Mr Douglas Crowe, together with the following additional Supplementary Report:

Rule 7(1) of the General Investment Fund provides that;

“The Trustees may transfer to the Fund by way of appropriation or otherwise any property immediately prior to the commencement date vested in the Trustees upon the various trusts upon which the same may be held except the property so held by them in trust for or for the purposes of the Commutation Fund, the Fire Insurance Fund, the Belfast Presbyterian College and the Magee Theological College.”

At present the Trustees therefore maintain separate Investment Portfolios for the General Investment Fund, The Commutation Fund and the Magee Fund with Newton Investment Management Limited.

It is unclear whether Rule 7 restricts the aforementioned Funds from investing in the General Investment Fund or whether it was only the original capital of those funds that cannot be invested. To clarify the position and to simplify the administration of the Funds the Trustees wish to remove Rule 7(1). This would permit the Commutation Fund, Fire Insurance and Magee Fund to invest in the General Investment Fund rather than having separate investment portfolios. These Funds would then have separately identifiable shares in the General Investment Fund. The Rules of the General Investment Fund provides that any changes to the Rules must be approved by resolution of the General Assembly.

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION:

- 1(a) That Rule 7(1) of the General Investment Fund be removed and that Rules 7(2), 7(3), 7(4), 7(5) and 7(6) be re-numbered accordingly.

DOUGLAS CROWE

Moved by Mr Douglas Crowe, seconded by Mrs Marjorie Guiler and agreed:

1. That in accordance with the Will of the late John Getty the following be constituted as the Committee for the “direction and management of the application” of the income from the Getty Bequest: Very Revs Dr David Clarke, Dr Samuel Hutchinson; Revs Dr DJ Watts, TD Gribben; Sir Bruce Robinson, Norman Bennett, Douglas Crowe, Mrs M Guiler.
2. That Rule 7(1) of the General Investment Fund be removed and that Rules 7(2), 7(3), 7(4), 7(5) and 7(6) be re-numbered accordingly.

CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION

- 3(a). That the Report of the Trustees be received.
- 3(b). That the recommendation regarding the Mrs AM Davidson Trust be adopted.
- 3(c). That the recommendation regarding the Sir Wm V McCleery Trust be adopted.
- 3(d). That the recommendation regarding the Miss Irene Scott Trust be adopted.
- 3(e). That the recommendation regarding the Miss Ida Mary McGeown Trust be adopted.
- 3(f). That the recommendation regarding the Victor Morrow Trust be adopted.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

The Assembly proceeded to consider the appointment of two new Trustees. Nominations having been received from the Trustees:

Moved by Mr Douglas Crowe, seconded by Mrs Marjorie Guiler and unanimously resolved:

1. That Mr S Johnston be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr RA Alcorn, resigned, and of the due appointment of Mr S Johnston as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

J NOBLE I McNEELY

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

TREVOR D GRIBBEN

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
9th of June, 2017

Moved by Mr Douglas Crowe, seconded by Mrs Marjorie Guiler and unanimously resolved:

1. That Mr N Morrison be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr L McKeague, resigned, and of the due appointment of Mr N Morrison as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

J NOBLE I McNEELY

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

TREVOR D GRIBBEN

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
9th of June, 2017

The Final Report of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE**, was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben as follows:

The Business Committee met on 3 occasions during the Assembly to review the Order of Business and license additional amendments.

Additional Resolutions

41. That the Clerk be given authority to make corrections to the Daily Minutes as and when required.
42. That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Monday, 4th June, 2018.
43. That the Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee be received.

TREVOR D GRIBBEN

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben seconded by the Rev TJ Stothers and agreed:

43. That the Clerk be given authority to make corrections to the Daily Minutes as and when required.
44. That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Monday, 4th June, 2018.
45. That the Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee be received.

CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Moderator conducted a closing act of worship and thanked: the Clerk of Assembly and the Deputy Clerk; his Chaplains; Miss Susan Hamilton, Mrs Jenny McClure, Mrs Denise Weir, and Miss Alicia Cotter of the General Secretary's Department; Mr Ed Connolly (Presentations), IT Staff and those responsible for the sound-desk; Mr Mark Smith with Mr James McCormick, Mrs Sarah Harding, Mrs Elaine Huddleston Dowling, Mrs Suzanne Hamilton and Mrs Lisa Skinner who were responsible for our media relations and to the journalists and others who have covered the Assembly; all Assembly Buildings staff, thinking especially of Mr Harry Orr during his hospitalisation; Mrs Daphne Patton (Accommodation coordinator) and Mrs Phyllis Spence (Catering Coordinator); the Caterers – McKees; Mrs Pat Crossley (flower arrangements); the Rev Mark Spratt, organist, the other musicians and the singers; stewards of the Belfast City Mission and others; and the timekeepers; the Rev Andrew Thompson (Arrangements Panel Convener) and the Rev Mervyn Burnside who deputised on Thursday.

Thereafter he declared the Assembly to be dissolved and convened the next Stated General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Belfast, on Monday 4th June, 2018.

The Moderator led members in saying 'The Grace'.

The sederunt came to a close at 3.23pm.

Attested by
TREVOR D GRIBBEN
Clerk of Assembly