

**MEMORIAL TRANSMITTED**

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Belfast on 5th June, 2017.

The Memorial of Prof Fred Boal, representative elder in the South Belfast Presbytery, respectfully showeth:

That at the February 2017 meeting of the South Belfast Presbytery the names of four Ministers, each of whom had been previously nominated by Presbyteries, were presented as potential candidates for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly, 2017-18.

That in line with General Assembly policy, the information given about each candidate was restricted to the factual details outlined in the Directory of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland i.e. full name, current charge, age, place and date of ordination, previous charges and any General Assembly Convenerships.

That this limited information provided about the candidates was viewed by many, especially ruling elders, as being inadequate to assist members of Presbytery in coming to an informed mind with regard to which candidate to support.

That additional information could assist members of Presbytery in the decision they have to make; for example 300-400 words, penned by each candidate, outlining their priorities and emphasis in ministry and mission.

Memorialists, therefore, pray your Venerable Assembly to refer this matter to the Moderators' Advisory Committee with a view to a full report with clear options being brought, through the General Council, for consideration and decision at the 2018 General Assembly.

And Memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

FRED BOAL

Licensed by the Presbytery of South Belfast as its meeting in Fitzroy on 7th March, 2017, and transmitted with the strong recommendation that its prayer be granted.

REV. KAREN MBAYO, Moderator  
CECIL GRAHAM, Clerk

## MEMORIAL TRANSMITTED

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Belfast on 5th June, 2017.

The Memorial of the Rev Dr Ivan D Neish, respectfully showeth:

That the issue of financial giving to the work of the Church is a matter of the heart of the giver and ought not to be something which is regulated in a legal way, as in the Code of the Presbyterian Church which ties giving to voting. Giving should be left to the individual, who should be allowed to give in the way they feel appropriate, recognising that those who give do so according to a range of different patterns.

That the current requirement in the Code could be counter-productive in encouraging tokenism, whereby a communicant member could give a small amount in an envelope in order to 'fulfil all righteousness', and thereby qualify as a voting member.

That there are those in most congregations who are communicant members but who feel constrained by the principle of giving in secret and therefore do not have envelopes or give in any way that can be recorded. Many, if not most, of these people nevertheless give financially, but are by the current system excluded from voting.

That these matters could be resolved if the Code simply stated that a Communicant member in good standing is eligible to vote.

Memorialists, therefore, pray your Venerable Assembly to instruct the Judicial Commission to draft overtures for presentation at the 2018 General Assembly removing the requirement to subscribe financially from the qualification to be a voting member of a congregation.

And Memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

IVAN D NEISH

Licensed by the Presbytery of North Belfast as its meeting in Ballyhenry on 6th March, 2017, and transmitted simpliciter.

REV NIALL LOCKHART, Moderator  
TREVOR LONG, Clerk