

2014



2014

MINUTES  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
Presbyterian Church in Ireland



# CONTENTS

## MINUTES OF ASSEMBLY, JUNE, 2014

Monday .....	1
Tuesday .....	19
Wednesday .....	31
Thursday .....	60
Changes in the Code .....	94

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## DIRECTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

Former Moderators of Assembly .....	100
Diary and Appointments .....	101
Presbyteries .....	103
Directory of Ministers .....	176
Under Care of Presbyteries:	
Ministers .....	215
Licentiates .....	217
Alphabetical Lists:	
Congregations .....	220
Ministers .....	224
Contacts:	
Assembly Buildings .....	257
Union Theological College .....	257
Assembly Boards .....	258
Chaplaincies .....	261
Assembly Missionaries .....	265
Trustees .....	270
Moderators of Assembly, 1840-2013 .....	271
Boards and Committees of Assembly .....	275
Addresses of Members .....	292

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## STATISTICS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND

Congregational Statistics .....	303
Ecclesiastical Changes .....	348
Index of Minutes and Directory .....	349

BELFAST, 2014

**MINUTES**  
OF THE  
**PROCEEDINGS**  
OF THE  
**General Assembly**  
OF THE  
**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**  
**Held at Belfast, June, 2014**

**FIRST SESSION**

**Monday, 2nd June, 2014**

**7.00 pm**

**Within Church House**

The Right Rev Dr Rob L Craig, Moderator of the General Assembly, led in public worship and addressed those present before constituting the Assembly with prayer.

The Clerk announced that the names of 616 ministers being ex officio members and 472 elders on whose behalf commissions had been received, had been entered on the Roll of the Assembly, together with 47 Assembly Elders, Conveners and nominees of the Business Board. In addition 228 people in various categories, not members of the court, have been invited to sit and deliberate, 16 of whom are from other Churches.

The following Ministers and Ruling Elders were present at the Annual Meeting:-

**BELFAST ASSEMBLY****1. ARDS PRESBYTERY**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D.G. Bailie .....	.....	West Church, Bangor
Dr. R. Sterritt .....	.....	Greenwell St., N'ards
D. Johnston .....	.....	First Newtownards
Dr. W.P. Addley .....	.....	Theological Professor
W.A. Kennedy .....	.....	Trinity, Bangor
W.T. Cordner .....	.....	First Bangor
Dr. D.J. Watts .....	+W. Graham .....	Clerk
Dr. D.R. Purce .....	Ms. M Corry .....	Groomspout
Dr. R.A. Russell .....	.....	Ballywalter
Dr. S.N. Williams .....	+Mrs. J. Mann .....	Theological Professor
R.J. Montgomery .....	Miss P. Hassard .....	Trinity, Bangor
T.W.D. Johnston .....	G. Nesbitt .....	Hamilton Rd., Bangor
Dr. R.A. Patton .....	A. Vance .....	Ballygilbert
S.A. Little .....	J. Cole .....	Shore Street, Donaghadee
C.W. Megaw .....	D. McAuley .....	Helen's Bay
.....	J. Neilly .....	First Newtownards
W.J. Carlisle .....	D. Faris .....	Movilla
.....	Mrs. J. Richardson .....	West Church, Bangor
W.G. Cameron .....	W.J. Taylor .....	Glastry
-do- .....	.....	Kirkcubbin
J.M. Wade .....	.....	Portavogie
Dr. W.J.A. Sleith .....	N. McGurk .....	Regent St., Newtownards
.....	B. Cunningham .....	First Bangor
J.H. Flaherty .....	T. Jenkins .....	Millisle & Ballycopeland
P.C. Lyle .....	Mrs. H. Millar .....	Ballyholme
Dr. W.J.P. Bailie .....	.....	Mission Africa
A.W. Carson .....	S. Falloon .....	Strean, Newtownards
G. Aitcheson .....	.....	Kilcooley, Bangor
R.J. Stevenson .....	.....	Carrowdore & Ballyfrenis
G.J. Kennedy .....	Ms. V. Scott .....	Ballygrainey
.....	A. Warden .....	Ballyblack
D.W. Leach .....	+A. Dalzell .....	Hamilton Road Assoc.
M. Catney .....	A. Briggs .....	St. Andrew's, Bangor
C.G. Anderson .....	.....	First Donaghadee
T.J. McConaghie .....	Miss E. Savage .....	Conlig
N.D.H. Stewart .....	R. Walker .....	Greyabbey
A. Ditty .....	J. Doherty .....	Scrabo
.....	N. Speers .....	Cloughy

**2. ARMAGH PRESBYTERY**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. J. Thompson .....	.....	The Mall, Armagh
T.A. Moore .....	.....	Hill Street, Lurgan
J. Gordon .....	.....	Second Keady; Drumhillery
.....	W. Porter .....	Cladymore

S. van Os .....	.....	Army Chaplain
C.G. Harris .....	J.M. Woolsey .....	Ahorey
-do .....	.....	Clare
Dr. J.S. Carson .....	.....	Theological Principal
A.D. Davidson .....	E. Megaw .....	First Armagh
Christina U.R. Bradley .....	Mrs. R. Dunlop .....	Armagh Road, Portadown
R.I.A. Allely .....	.....	Craigavon; Vinecash
E.P. Gamble .....	T. Savage .....	The Mall, Armagh
D.J. Hutchinson .....	D. Riddell .....	Moy
-do .....	.....	Benburb
N.J. McCullough .....	K. Belshaw .....	Hill Street, Lurgan
P.D. Thompson .....	M. Hamilton .....	Waringstown
S.D. Finlay .....	.....	Druminnis
-do .....	.....	Redrock
P.L. McKelvey .....	J. MacQueen .....	Loughgall
-do .....	E. Forbes .....	Tartaraghan
B. Reid .....	.....	Caledon
-do .....	.....	Minterburn
I. Thompson .....	.....	First Keady
-do .....	.....	Armaghbrague
Dr. M. McClenahan .....	.....	Lislooney
-do .....	G. Diffin .....	Knappagh
L.W. Webster .....	.....	Craigavon
.....	J. Whittle .....	Vinecash
.....	D. Flannigan .....	First Portadown
.....	Mrs. H. McCullagh .....	Second Keady
.....	H. Mitchell .....	Drumhillery

### 3. BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.J.A. Armstrong .....	.....	Second Broughshane
Dr. R.E.H. Uprichard .....	.....	Trinity, Ahoghill
D.E. Jones .....	.....	Clough
Dr. J.M. Finlay .....	.....	Harryville, Ballymena
D. Knowles .....	.....	Grange with Craigmore
J.J. Andrews .....	J. Lamont .....	Ballee
W.F. Dickey .....	A. McRobert .....	First Broughshane
A.A.P. Baxter .....	.....	First Portglenone
.....	R. Simpson .....	Cloughwater
A.L. Kirk .....	.....	First Ahoghill
J.A. Beattie .....	M. Ellis .....	Second Broughshane
D.J. Kane .....	Ms. J. McLernon .....	West Church, B' mena
W.B. Boyd .....	R. Carson .....	Kells
-do .....	J. Todd .....	Eskylane
Dr. D.A. Murphy .....	E. Douglas .....	Cunningham Memorial
K. McConnell .....	G. Gregg .....	Clough
W. Sinclair .....	J.W. Gregg .....	First Ballymena
N.A.L. Cameron .....	H. Clements .....	High Kirk, Ballymena
N.G. McDowell .....	.....	Chaplain to Forces
A.M. Bates .....	R. Keys .....	Wellington, Ballymena
M.J.R. Neilly .....	.....	Buckna
R.M. Murray .....	.....	Connor

J.C. Simms .....	.....	Rasharkin
W.J.A. Moody .....	L. Cromie .....	Brookside, Ahoghill
C.K. McDowell .....	Dr. S. Paul.....	Killymurris
D.B. McCorrison.....	T. Kerr .....	Ballyloughan
M.D. McNeely .....	T. Simpson.....	Ballykeel
W.E. Chestnutt .....	S. Davison .....	Harryville, Ballymena
D.C. Millar .....	D. Montgomery .....	Grange with Craigmore
N.G. Mulholland .....	H. McConnell .....	Glenwherry
R.H. Houston .....	+Miss A. Taylor.....	High Kirk Assoc.
B.A. Smyth.....	H. Hamill .....	Trinity, Ahoghill
M.J.O. Currie .....	.....	Churchtown
.....	J. Kerr .....	Third Portglenone
.....	T. Montgomery .....	Cairnalbana

#### 4. NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J.S. Dallas.....	.....	Whiteabbey
R. Allen .....	.....	Rathcoole
Dr. J. Dunlop .....	.....	Rosemary
Dr. R.J.T. McMullan .....	.....	Overseas Board Sec.
Dr. J.P. Taylor .....	+G. Crooks .....	Theological Professor
T.V. Patterson .....	.....	Immanuel
.....	R. Dalzell.....	Woodvale
R.S. Hetherington.....	+H. Orr .....	Director of Min. Studies
G.F. McKeown .....	D. Keaveney .....	Rathcoole
J.R. Dickinson .....	M. Wylie .....	Cammoney
T.C. Morrison .....	D. Crowe .....	Eglinton
D.W. Brice.....	.....	Glengormley
Dr. T.N. Hamilton .....	.....	Ballysillan
Dr. I.D. Neish .....	G. Weatherall .....	Abbot's Cross
W.A. Abernethy.....	.....	Sinclair Seamen's
S. Elizabeth Hughes .....	A. McBride.....	Whitehouse
J.S.B. Drennan .....	F. Ashe .....	Crumlin Road
P.G. McCrea .....	W. Bennett .....	Rosemary
Dr. Lesley E. Carroll .....	Mrs. S. McIvor .....	Fortwilliam & Macrory
R.N. Agnew .....	.....	West Kirk
B. McMillen .....	W. McCreedy.....	Ballygomartin
D.H. Thompson.....	+T. McWatters .....	BMI Mission Dev. Officer
E.J. Hyndman .....	W. Marshall .....	Seaview
C.J. Gamble.....	E. Beck .....	Immanuel
Cheryl A. Meban .....	+Mrs. M. Myers .....	Chaplain U.U. J'stown &
Belfast	.....	.....
A.V. Stewart .....	E. Keers .....	Whiteabbey
S. Newell .....	T. Wilson .....	Alexandra
N.S.R. Lockhart .....	M. Lutton.....	Ballyhenry
.....	T. Cadden .....	Newington
D.F. Leal.....	+D. McConkey .....	Cliftonville Road (Church
Plant)	.....	.....
D. Clawson.....	R.A. Thompson .....	West Kirk
.....	Ms. T. Coffey.....	Abbey, Monkstown
.....	S. Cousins.....	Ballysillan



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**5. SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. J.C. McCullough .....	.....	Theological Professor
Dr. D.J. McKelvey .....	.....	Fisherwick
W.P.H. Erskine .....	.....	Windsor
W.J. Orr .....	.....	Newtownbreda
Dr. M. Ruth Patterson .....	+Miss J.P. Gamble .....	Restoration Ministries
Dr. I. Hart .....	W. Elliott .....	Gt. Victoria Street
Dr. W.I. Hull .....	.....	Ulsterville
M.S. Gault .....	J. Patterson .....	Cooke Centenary
A.R. Bill .....	J. Hamilton .....	Saintfield Road
J.T. Lamb .....	Mrs. E. Browne .....	Townsend Street
Dr. R.M. Crooks .....	.....	Belvoir
.....	+J.H. Martin .....	Chaplain City Hospital
J.H. Wilson .....	+Dr. J. McQuoid .....	Chaplain R.V.H.
Dr. W.G. Campbell .....	+D. McCleery .....	Theological Professor
.....	G. Mullan .....	Fitzroy Avenue
R. Love .....	+Miss M. Cromie .....	Taughmonagh (Ch. Ext.)
J.R. Burnett .....	.....	Lowe Memorial (Finaghy)
.....	+Miss M. Angus .....	Youth Link NI
Anne E. Tolland .....	Mrs. C. Pollock .....	Newtownbreda
C.H. Deering .....	M. Gowdy .....	Ballycairn
.....	+Mrs. R. Wilson .....	QUB Chaplain, Dean of
.....	.....	Residence, Derryvolgie
G.R. Connor .....	A. McMullan .....	Dunmurry
Kathryn H. Viner .....	.....	Malone
.....	Ms. S. Eakin .....	Fisherwick
.....	V. Garland .....	Richview
.....	F. Reid .....	McCracken Memorial

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**6. EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J.M. Maddock .....	.....	Carryduff
Dr. S.J. Campbell .....	.....	Cooke Centenary
Dr. J.R. Savage .....	.....	Stormont
Dr. I.A. McKay .....	.....	Dundonald
Dr. H.A. Dunlop .....	.....	Knock
W. McKeown .....	.....	Ravenhill
.....	J. Dowd .....	Orangefield
Joan Scott .....	.....	Missionary
G. Moffett .....	.....	Tullycarnet
H.R. Quinn .....	.....	Missionary
Dr. A. Gibson .....	+T. Busby .....	Theological Professor
J.N.I. McNeely .....	P. McClenahan .....	First Holywood
.....	J.G.W. Erskine .....	Belmont
R.D. Maxwell .....	J. McCallum .....	St. Andrew's
.....	+S. Miskelly .....	Chaplain Marie Curie

F.P. Sellar .....	K. Shilliday .....	Bloomfield
W.S. Marrs .....	+Ms. L. Gould .....	B.M.O. Secretary
A.C. Rankin .....	Dr. R. Hunter .....	Stormont
R. Hornby .....	.....	Mersey Street
P.T. Dalzell .....	T.D. Mahood .....	Cregagh
M.R. Burnside .....	.....	Castlereagh
N.S. Harrison .....	J.T. Black .....	High Street, Hollywood
S.P. Moore .....	W. Smyth .....	Gilnahirk
D.T. Moore .....	.....	Knock
R.J. Beggs .....	Ms. J. Gardner .....	McQuiston Mem.
J.R. Lambe .....	Ms. M. Grayson .....	Mountpottinger
W.M. Brown .....	T. McCullough .....	Granshaw
D. Rankin .....	G.E. Hampton .....	Strand
W.A. McCully .....	D. McLernon .....	Dundonald
M. Gibson .....	R. Tinney .....	Westbourne
C. Burcombe .....	G. Dunbar .....	Mersey Street
C. Ebbinghaus .....	.....	Kirkpatrick Mem.
W.G. Hamilton .....	.....	Tullycarnet
.....	T.J.R. Cooper .....	Christ Church, Dundonald
B.J. Walker .....	+P. Brown .....	Knock Assoc.
G. Fowles .....	D. Marriott .....	Ravenhill
.....	Mrs. M. Anderson .....	Garnerville

## 7. CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D. Armstrong .....	.....	Greenisland
R. Vallely .....	.....	Ballylinney
.....	R. Downie .....	Downshire, Carrickfergus
T.J. Stothers .....	.....	Greenisland
R.J.A. Bell .....	M. Fisher .....	Ballyclare
D. Chapman .....	S.Hawthorne .....	Second Islandmagee
.....	C. Drennan .....	Woodlands
T.D. Gribben .....	+N. Carmichael .....	Deputy Clerk
R.J. McCullough .....	.....	Loughmorne
-do- .....	.....	Woodburn
T.R. Graham .....	Mrs. S. Donald .....	Joymount
Dr. C.D. McClure .....	Mrs. B. Moore .....	First Larne
Gabrielle A.J. Farquhar .....	A. McQuitty .....	Ballycarry
G.W.M. Glasgow .....	R. Beedham .....	Gardenmore
R.I. Carton .....	A. Grier .....	Whitehead
Dr. C.A. Grant .....	S. Preece .....	First Carrickfergus
.....	R. Wallace .....	Ballynure
J.E. McDowell .....	.....	Ballylinney
Heather M. Rendell .....	.....	Chaplain to Forces
P.A. Bovill .....	A. MacQuarrie .....	First Islandmagee
Fiona M.A. Forbes .....	J. Robinson .....	Cairncastle
.....	B. Clenaghan .....	Craigy Hill

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**8. COLERAINE & LIMAVADY PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. W.W. Porter .....	.....	Moneydig
Dr. D.H. Allen .....	.....	New Row, Coleraine
V. Whyte.....	.....	Macosquin
Dr. R.N. Gordon.....	.....	Missionary
J. Clarke .....	.....	Balteagh; Bovevagh
S.J. Millar.....	.....	Hazelbank
Dr. D. Clarke .....	.....	Terrace Row, Coleraine
W.I. Hunter.....	.....	Ballywatt
T.S. Lindsay .....	.....	First Garvagh
J.A. McCaughan.....	.....	First Dunboe
T.J. McCormick.....	B. Irwin.....	First Kilrea
-do.....	R. McKinney .....	Boveedy
J.A. Kirkpatrick.....	A. Warke .....	Portrush
T.P. Fleming .....	J.A. Cassells .....	First Coleraine
R. Kelly .....	F. Smyth.....	Main St., Garvagh
-do.....	.....	Killaig
R.S. McMullan .....	A. Cochrane.....	New Row, Coleraine
Dr. C. Glass .....	.....	Dungiven
-do.....	.....	Largy
.....	G. McIntyre .....	Ballyrashane
Dr. R.A. Kane.....	S. McFaul .....	Aghadowey
-do.....	W. Reid.....	Crossgar
A.W.T. Brown .....	Dr. I. Hadden .....	Terrace Row, Coleraine
J.A. Noble .....	.....	Balteagh
-do.....	.....	Bovevagh
Dr. S.D.H. Williamson .....	J. Dunlop .....	Ballywillan
J. Coulter .....	.....	Ballysally & U.U. Chaplain
.....	N. Lyttle.....	Portstewart
C.J. Aitcheson .....	Miss H. McSparran .....	Castlerock
J.G. Jones .....	M. Hood .....	Second Limavady
-do.....	.....	Myroe
R.D. Gregg .....	R. Taylor.....	Burnside
S.A. McCracken.....	C. Craig .....	Drumachose
-do.....	S. Caskie.....	Derramore
.....	D. Johnston.....	Second Dunboe
.....	A. Crowe .....	Ringsend
M.E. Donald .....	D. Torrens .....	First Garvagh
T.A.S. Graham .....	S. Warnock .....	Banagher
R.J. Collins .....	J. Campbell.....	Ballywatt
S. Morrow .....	B. Torrens .....	Moneydig
.....	D. Woods .....	Second Kilrea

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**9. DERRY & DONEGAL PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
S.J. Gray.....	.....	Faughanvale; Gortnessy

J.M. Cathcart .....	.....	Waterside; Fahan
J. Fell .....	.....	Ebrington; Inch
G.P. Young .....	.....	Moville; Greenbank
J.K. McCormick .....	.....	Second Derry
.....	.....	(Strand & Buncrana); Burt
S.J. Hanna .....	D. Allen .....	Glendermott
Dr. R.L. Craig .....	T. Smith .....	Kilfennan
.....	D. Lee .....	First Derry & Claremont
Dr. S.R. Jones .....	T. Allen .....	Donemana
Dr. B. Brown .....	.....	Raphoe & Ballindrait
Dr. T.R. Buick .....	G. Barr .....	Carlisle Road
-do .....	.....	Crossroads
J.L. Blair .....	R. Ussher .....	Faughanvale
A.J.A. Rosborough .....	M. Cole .....	Ballyarnett
-do .....	S. Smith .....	Knowhead
S.J. Richmond .....	V. McKean .....	Donegal
-do .....	Mrs. A. Chambers .....	Stranorlar
.....	A. Rowan .....	Ebrington
K.A. Jones .....	Dr. C. Hamilton .....	Waterside
-do .....	J. Lamberton .....	Fahan
A.C. Wilson .....	.....	Ballykelly
.....	N. Rogers .....	Kilmacrennan
.....	W. Watson .....	Strabane
N.D. Craig .....	J. Hamilton .....	Ray
-do .....	R. Crockett .....	Newtowncunningham
C.M. Wilson .....	M. Robinson .....	Ballylennon
-do .....	Ms. S. Craig .....	St. Johnston
M.F. Russell .....	Mrs. E. Patterson .....	Leckpatrick
Janice M. Browne .....	J. Ward .....	Fannet
-do .....	.....	Milford
-do .....	.....	Rathmullan
.....	B. Alexander .....	Letterkenny
M.W.J. McKeown .....	+C. Bolton .....	Kilfennan Assistant
S.W.K. Glendinning .....	.....	Camdonagh
-do .....	Ms. B. Smyth .....	Malin
-do .....	C. Armstrong .....	Greenbank
-do .....	.....	Moville
K.H. Hibbert .....	Mrs. J. Pollock .....	Cumber
-do .....	J. McFarland .....	Upper Cumber
.....	R. Hyndman .....	Gortnessy
.....	S. Sterritt .....	Dunfanaghy
.....	J. Buchanan .....	Burt
.....	Ms. E. Davis .....	Magheramason

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## 10. DOWN PRESBYTERY

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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
R.G. Johnston .....	.....	First Saintfield
T.W. Gordon .....	Mrs. M. Gordon .....	First Cumber
R.McM. Mackay .....	R. Courtney .....	Second Cumber
A.S. Smyth .....	Dr. D. Guthrie .....	Carryduff
B.A. Small .....	M. Murdock .....	Raffrey

D.M. Spratt .....	J. Brownlee .....	Kilmore
.....	+N. Jackson .....	Youth Link NI
Dr. B.C.G. Black .....	J. Hanna .....	Ballygowan
R.J. Hyndman .....	T. Scott .....	Trinity, Boardmills
.....	L. Broome .....	Magherahamlet
R.I. Abraham .....	G. Hutchinson .....	Lissara
M.M. Stewart .....	.....	Clough
-do .....	.....	Seaforde
W.H. Higgins .....	Mrs. A. Gilmore .....	First Killyleagh
-do .....	O. Priestly .....	Second Killyleagh
.....	B. McConnell .....	Edengrove
O. Patterson .....	Miss A. Chestnutt .....	Downpatrick
-do .....	.....	Ardglass
A.J. Galbraith .....	Dr. T. Morrow .....	First Ballynahinch

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## 11. DROMORE PRESBYTERY

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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.H. Gray .....	.....	Harmony Hill, Lambeg
Dr. R.J.G. Gray .....	.....	First Lisburn
D. McConaghy .....	.....	Cargycreevy & Loughaghey
Dr. S. Hutchinson .....	.....	Clerk of Assembly
W.J. Keefe .....	.....	Sloan Street, Lisburn
Dr. R.S. Tosh .....	.....	B.B.C.
Dr. W.T.J. Richardson .....	.....	Hillhall
R. Lockhart .....	.....	Elmwood
D.C. Porter .....	.....	Second Dromara
.....	Ms. G. Davin .....	Hillsborough
D.B. Knox .....	R. Dickson .....	Harmony Hill, Lambeg
G.B.S. Gibson .....	.....	Railway St. Lisburn
J. Brackenridge .....	D. Anderson .....	First Lisburn
D.J. Bruce .....	+Miss E. McConnell .....	B.M.I. Secretary
A.S. Thompson .....	.....	First Dromara
D.H. Gilpin .....	.....	Moira
A.K. Duddy .....	R. Patterson .....	First Dromore
J.G. Trueman .....	.....	Banbridge Road, Dromore
R.A. McLernon .....	.....	Drumbo
W.J. Todd .....	.....	St. Columba's, Lisburn
W.J. Henry .....	.....	Maze
-do .....	G. Quinn .....	Ballinderry
R.A. Liddle .....	L. Campbell .....	Legacurry
R.D. Cameron .....	+G. Lindsay .....	Prison Chaplain
A.J. Thompson .....	J. Henderson .....	Elmwood
.....	Mrs. L. Ireland .....	Magheragall
K.W.J. Hanna .....	A. Marshall .....	Second Dromara
Dr. S.P. Swinn .....	.....	Chaplain to Forces
P. Jamieson .....	.....	Hillhall
G. McFadden .....	.....	Drumlough
-do .....	.....	Anahilt
.....	M. Douglas .....	Cargycreevy
A. Faulkner .....	J. McDowell .....	Sloan Street, Lisburn

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**12. DUBLIN & MUNSTER PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
A.V. Martin .....	.....	Abbey
C. McCurdy.....	.....	Drogheda & Ervey
R. Cobain .....	.....	Galway & Ballinasloe
Dr. T.W.J. Morrow .....	.....	Lucan
J.G. Faris .....	H. Moreland .....	Trinity, Cork
-do.....	.....	Aghada
J.D. Woodside .....	B. McIlreavy.....	Drogheda
Katherine P. Meyer.....	S.C. Smyrl .....	Christ Church, Sandymount
C. Mary Hunter .....	Ms. J. Binnie .....	Christ Church, Rathgar
.....	.....	Athy
Dr. K.D. McCrory .....	T. Gilliam .....	Maynooth
Dr. S. Mawhinney .....	Dr. M. Carson.....	Adelaide Road
A.J. Boal.....	D. Colvin .....	Abbey, Dublin
D. Reyes-Martin.....	.....	Kilkenny
Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie .....	.....	Clontarf & Scots
S.J. Lockington .....	*Ms. J. Cowle.....	Corboy
-do.....	.....	Mullingar
W.J. Hayes.....	.....	Mountmellick
-do.....	.....	Tullamore
C.W.P. Kennedy .....	J. Gibson.....	Dun Laoghaire
M.R.J. Anderson .....	.....	Arklow
A. Carroll .....	.....	Donabate (Church Plant)
A.J. Dunlop .....	Ms. M. McKenna .....	Howth & Malahide
H.M. Freeburn.....	.....	Galway
Mark Proctor .....	.....	Naas
S.D. Conkey .....	.....	Enniscorthy
-do.....	.....	Wexford
.....	B. Park.....	Christ Church, Limerick
.....	R. McCarter.....	Greystones
.....	Mrs. M. White .....	St. Andrew's, Blackrock

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**13. IVEAGH PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
A. Clarke .....	.....	Glascar; Donaghmore
Dr. S.A. Matthews.....	.....	Bannside
W.H. Sanderson.....	.....	Ballydown; Katesbridge
Dr. I.J. Patterson.....	.....	Newcastle
W.L. Orr .....	.....	Glascar; Donaghmore
M.G. McClelland .....	A. Johnston .....	Tandragee
R.A. Moffett.....	I. Williams .....	Donacloney
G.E. Best .....	A. Boyle .....	Newmills
Patricia A. McBride .....	F. Cairns.....	Loughbrickland
-do.....	Ms. J. Hammond .....	Scarva
Dr. M.C.A. Gray .....	Mrs. H. Derby.....	Bannside
W.B. Martin.....	M. Hanna .....	Garvagh

-do.....	.....	Anaghlonge
.....	G. Malcomson .....	Drumgooland
.....	M. Cowan .....	Kilkinamurry
K. Nelson .....	T. Patterson .....	Castlewellan
-do.....	D. Harte .....	Leitrim
T.P. McCullough .....	.....	Ballyronney
-do.....	G. Truesdale .....	Drumlee
R. McKibbin .....	.....	Glascar
-do.....	.....	Donaghmore
J.L. Rutherford .....	S. Martin.....	Ballydown
S.W. Hibbert.....	.....	Tullylish
-do.....	.....	Gilford
T.T. Boyd.....	.....	First Rathfriland
Seamus Burke .....	.....	Second & Third Rathfriland
.....	J. Montgomery .....	Magherally
.....	Mrs. S. Campbell.....	Scarva St., Banbridge

**14. MONAGHAN PRESBYTERY**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D. Nesbitt .....	.....	First Ballybay; Second
.....	.....	
Ballybay; Rockcorry;	.....	
.....	.....	
Drumkeen	.....	
Dr. R.B. Savage.....	.....	Kells; Ervey
S.G. Anketell.....	N. Hall .....	First Bailieborough
-do.....	Dr. A. Hunter .....	Corranary
-do.....	L. McKeague .....	Trinity, Bailieborough
N.S. Millen.....	.....	Dundalk & Castlebellingham;
.....	.....	Carlingford
G. Jean Mackarel .....	K. Fleming.....	Drumkeeran
-do.....	.....	Killeshandra
-do.....	Ms. D. Allison .....	Cavan
-do.....	.....	Bellasis
Stanley Stewart .....	.....	Clones
-do.....	E. Mackarel .....	Stonebridge
-do.....	.....	Ballyhobridge
-do.....	.....	Newbliss
D.J.M. Boyle .....	R. Smyth.....	First Castleblayney
-do.....	T. McBirney .....	Frankford
-do.....	.....	Corvally
-do.....	.....	Ervey
T.D. Hagan .....	.....	Middletown
-do.....	R. Boyd.....	Clontibret
W.J.A. Buchanan .....	R. Hanna.....	First Ballybay
-do.....	Ms. J. Rowlands .....	Second Ballybay
-do.....	.....	Rockcorry
-do.....	A. McAdoo.....	Drumkeen
R.S. Agnew .....	.....	First Monaghan
-do.....	J. Bole.....	Smithborough
Molly Deatherage.....	.....	Ballina

-do.....	.....	Killala
-do.....	.....	Ballymote
D.T.R. Edwards.....	W. Carleton.....	Drum
-do.....	U. Gamble.....	Cootehill
-do.....	V. Mavity.....	Kilmount
.....	R. Truesdale.....	Dundalk &
.....	.....	Castlebellingham
.....	.....	Carlingford
.....	R. Gillanders.....	Ballyalbany
.....	D. Russell.....	Glennan

## 15. NEWRY PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D.C. Scott.....	.....	Cremore; Tyrone's Ditches
S.A. Finlay.....	T. McConnell.....	Annalong
Dr. M.A. Barry.....	S. Bond.....	First Newry
F.J. Gibson.....	.....	First Drumbanagher; J'pass
-do.....	R. McCormick.....	Kingsmills
.....	W. Grills.....	Mourne
B.A.H. Wilson.....	J. Copeland.....	Second N'hamilton
-do.....	C. Feely.....	Creggan
.....	M. Aiken.....	Kilkeel
R.K. Graham.....	M. McBride.....	Clarksbridge & First
.....	.....	Newtownhamilton
-do.....	G. Smyth.....	Garmany's Grove
-do.....	K. Dickson.....	McKelvey's Grove
J.K.A. McIntyre.....	S. Paul.....	Bessbrook
B.D. Colvin.....	.....	Downshire Rd., Newry
.....	A. Groves.....	Brookvale
-do.....	S. Wright.....	Ryans
D.J. Irvine.....	T. Lockhart.....	First, Second Markethill
N.J.E. Reid.....	S. Greer.....	Tullyallen
-do.....	R. Henry.....	Mountnorris
.....	+B. Bennett.....	Mourne Assoc.
M.B. Wilson.....	.....	Cremore
-do.....	B. Reaney.....	Poyntzpass
-do.....	N. Martin.....	Fourtowns
T.A. Conway.....	+A. Morrow.....	First Newry Assistant
E. McKenzie.....	.....	Warrenpoint
-do.....	T. O'Flynn.....	Rostrevor

## 16. OMAGH PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
R.S.K. Neill.....	.....	First Castleberg; Killeter
A. O'Neill.....	.....	Fintona; B'nahatty &
.....	.....	Creevan
J.L. Casement.....	.....	Sixmilecross
Dr. J.W. Lockington.....	.....	Clogherney



J.F. Murdoch .....	.....	First Omagh
J.T. Williamson .....	.....	Urney; Sion
I.T. McKee .....	Dr. C. Givan .....	Aughnacloy
-do .....	D. Allen .....	Ballymagrane
W.J. Kelly .....	.....	Clogher; Glenhoy
R. Herron .....	J. Moore .....	Trinity, Omagh
-do .....	.....	Gillygooley
W.D. Cupples .....	.....	Enniskillen
R.B. Thompson .....	.....	Badoney
-do .....	.....	Corrick
-do .....	.....	Glenelly
C.F.D. Clements .....	F. McKee .....	Irvinestown
-do .....	N. Baxter .....	Pettigo
-do .....	.....	Tempo
I. McClean .....	.....	Ballygawley; Ballyreagh
J.H. Hanson .....	L. Keys .....	Dromore
-do .....	W. Nethery .....	Drumquin
J.A. Gordon .....	R. Dowdalls .....	Fintona
-do .....	.....	Ballynahatty & Creevan
D.W. Reid .....	C. Moore .....	Ardstraw
-do .....	W. Millar .....	Douglas
R.A. Campbell .....	J. Smith .....	Clogher
-do .....	R. Mulligan .....	Glenhoy
R.G. McElnea .....	J. Baxter .....	Newtownstewart
-do .....	A. Adams .....	Gortin
R.N. Orr .....	D. Young .....	First Castleberg
-do .....	C. Andrews .....	Killeter
N.R.A. Cooper .....	.....	Ballygawley
-do .....	S. Somerville .....	Ballyreagh
P.J. Nelson .....	Miss A. Hodge .....	First Omagh
Jonathan Cowan .....	.....	Mountjoy
-do .....	.....	Drumlegagh
R.S.G. Beacom .....	A. Murphy .....	Lisbellaw
-do .....	.....	Lisnaskea
-do .....	.....	Maguiresbridge
-do .....	Miss. I. Anderson .....	Newtownbutler
N.L. Smyth .....	W. Kerr .....	Sixmilecross
-do .....	K. Clements .....	Clogherney
Linda Keys .....	N.C. Morrison .....	Seskinore
-do .....	.....	Edenderry
.....	N. McMullan .....	Urney
.....	C. Campbell .....	Sion
.....	Dr. C. McKibbin .....	Cavanaleck
.....	M. Buchanan .....	Second Castleberg
.....	N. Roulston .....	Alt

**17. ROUTE PRESBYTERY**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J. Hume .....	.....	Dunluce
Dr. A.W.G. Brown .....	.....	Ballycastle
D.I.J. McNie .....	B. Speirs .....	Trinity, Ballymoney
M. Barr .....	.....	Ballyweaney

N. McClean .....	.....	First Kilraughts
D. Bannerman .....	.....	Toberkeigh
H.W. Mullan .....	B. Blair .....	Drumreagh
-do .....	.....	Dromore
S.T. Carson .....	.....	Dunluce
K.D.W. Crowe .....	.....	Bushvale
H.S.W. Cubitt .....	.....	St. James's, Ballymoney
R.W. Gaston .....	Mrs. M. Campbell .....	Finvoy
K. Henderson .....	R. McKane .....	Ballyweaney
P. Turton .....	.....	Armoay
-do .....	.....	Ramoan
Wm. Harkness .....	.....	Moosside
-do .....	.....	Toberdoney
J.P. Stanbridge .....	D. Finlay .....	Ballycastle
-do .....	.....	Croaghmore
R.M. Moody .....	D. Moore .....	Garryduff
-do .....	R. Gault .....	Dunloy
P. Douglas .....	.....	Toberkeigh
G.J. MacLean .....	J. Michael .....	First Ballymoney
A. Buick .....	A. Dobbin .....	Dunluce
.....	R. Irwin .....	Dervock
.....	T. McAllister .....	Bushmills

**18. TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY**

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.D. Weir .....	.....	Killead; Loanends
Dr. S.J. Dixon .....	.....	First Antrim
Dr. W.D. Patton .....	Dr. S. Rainey .....	Randalstown O.C.
B. Kennaway .....	.....	Crumlin
G. Moore .....	.....	Kilbride
Dr. L.S. Kirkpatrick .....	+J. McClurg .....	Theological Professor
R.L. Brown .....	P. Arrell .....	Second Randalstown
J.L. Tosh .....	.....	Second Donegore
J. Holmes .....	.....	First Randalstown; Duneane
D.J. Paul .....	H.H. Meekin .....	Crumlin
W.J. Murdock .....	T. Lewis .....	Killead
-do .....	P. Leitch .....	Loanends
P.E. Dickinson .....	N. McQuillan .....	Muckamore
S. Simpson .....	Mrs. G. McCullagh .....	First Donegore
J.P. Moxen .....	.....	Greystone Road, Antrim
E.S. McDowell .....	W. Dickey .....	First Ballyeaston
W.J.M. Parker .....	.....	First Antrim
R.C. Kerr .....	J. Arthur .....	Templepatrick
.....	Mrs. J. Robinson .....	Second Ballyeaston
D.J. Steele .....	W. McClure .....	Dundrod
Karen Campbell .....	D. Humphries .....	Kilbride
J. Boyd .....	.....	Hydepark
-do .....	.....	Lylehill
.....	G. Patton .....	First Randalstown

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**19. TYRONE PRESBYTERY**


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<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. A.R. Rodgers .....	.....	Dungannon
I.F. Smith .....	.....	Orritor & Claggan
Dr. J.I. Thompson.....	N. Bell .....	First Cookstown
J.W. Fleck .....	.....	Upper; Lower Clonaneese
A.S. Thompson .....	.....	Dungannon
.....	D. Clarke .....	Culnady
.....	C. Bolton .....	Swatragh
T.W.A. Greer .....	M. Stewart .....	Molesworth, Cookstown
Dr. K.O. Patterson .....	.....	Castledawson; Curran
J.A. Curry .....	H. Todd .....	First Magherafelt
S.J.M. Lindsay .....	S. Watt .....	Pomeroy
-do .....	N. Black.....	Sandholes
D.H. Brown .....	A. Burns .....	Castlecaulfield
-do .....	J. Long .....	Eglish
J.E. Sloan .....	N. Bruce .....	Bellaghy
-do .....	.....	Knockloughrim
G.W.D. Stewart .....	W. Coey .....	Maghera
.....	H. Russell .....	Newmills
.....	H. McLean.....	Carland
J.D. Montgomery .....	Ms. M. Quinn .....	First Moneymore
-do .....	Ms. S. McMenemy .....	Second Moneymore
J.M. Gracey .....	Mrs. A. Allingham.....	Coagh
-do .....	.....	Ballygoney
-do .....	M. Hyndman.....	Saltersland
W.I. Ferris .....	R.I. Millar.....	First Stewartstown
-do .....	.....	Brigh
-do .....	.....	Albany
J.A. Spence.....	E. Sharkey .....	Upper Clonaneese
-do .....	D. Kelly .....	Lower Clonaneese
.....	K.F.O. Gibson.....	Tobermore
.....	W. Philips .....	Draperstown
.....	T. Bell .....	Claggan
.....	M. Davidson .....	Castledawson
.....	J. O' Neill .....	Curran
.....	R. Stewart .....	Union Road, M'felt
.....	W. Badger .....	Lecumpher

**TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS - CODE PAR. 97(h)(iv)**

Sir Bruce Robinson

Mrs. M. Guiler

**CLERK OF PRESBYTERY - CODE PAR. 97(h)(iii)**

C.W.L. Graham

M. Hampton

S. Ferguson

**ELDERS OF ASSEMBLY - CODE PAR. 97(i), 107(a)**

Mrs. C. Barkley

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF ASSEMBLY - (CODE PAR. 127(2)(A))**

Mrs. P. Gray

A.J. Spence

Mrs. E. McLeod

R. Tweed

D. Poynton

Mrs. E.A. Warden

Mrs. I. Younge

**CONVENERS AND SECRETARIES WHO ARE ELDERS –  
CODE PAR. 97(h)(i)(ii)**

L. Conway

J. Hunter

T. Finnegan

T.R. Reid

A.J. Rankin

R. Campton

B. McCorriston

Mrs. L. Wray

**BUSINESS BOARD NOMINATIONS CODE PAR. 97(j)**

Mrs. M. Crawford

Miss D. Draffin

Miss E. Whyte

Dr. C. Reid

Dr. R. Hamilton

E. Jardine

G. McConkey

Mrs. S. Somerville

L. Murray

J. Hayes

W.H. Scott

**RETIRED MISSIONARIES WHO ARE ELDERS CODE PAR. 97(c)**

Miss L. Wasson

**RETIRED MISSIONARIES WHO ARE NOT ELDERS**

Mrs. H. Quinn

**CONVENERS AND SECRETARIES WHO ARE NOT ELDERS  
CODE PAR. 97 (H)(i)(ii)**

J. Livingstone

C. Knox

**DEACONESSES WHO ARE NOT ELDERS**

Miss R. Irvine

Mrs. M. Purdy

Mrs. H McCracken

Mrs. E. Matthews

Miss K. Spence

**RETIRED DEACONESSES AND WOMEN WORKERS**

Miss S. Swindle

**LICENTIATES**

J.R. Abernethy-Barkley

G.J. Ball

A.M. Boreland

D.R. Cromie

S.D. Currie

M.W. Dodds

S.M. Hamilton

M.A. Johnston

N.J. Kane

R.E. McCormick  
A.W. Moore  
B.S. Preston  
R.J. Watt

T. McNeill  
S.W. Moore  
G.J. Simpson

S. McNie  
G. Orr  
R.M.P. Simpson

**MINISTERS UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY**

M.C. Cowan  
P.G. McDowell  
Dr. M.J. Welsh

L.H. Eagleson  
C.I. McKnight

G. McConville  
W.A. Watson

**SPUD DELEGATES**

Miss H. Forsythe

Miss R. Spratt

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**ARDS PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. E. Cobain

**ARMAGH PRESBYTERY**

Ms. L. McMullan

Ms. J. Hawthorne

**NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. V. Noble

**CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. L. Stothers

Mrs. A. Linton

Mrs. A. McCallion

**COLERAINE AND LIMAVADY PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. M. Conn

Mrs. N. Nixon

Mrs. V. Millar

**DERRY AND DONEGAL PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. Y. Ferguson

Mrs. S. McCormick

Mrs. G. Hunter

**DOWN PRESBYTERY**

Miss Z. McAllister

**DROMORE PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. J. Henderson

**IVEAGH PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. R. Macauley

**MONAGHAN PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. T. Agnew

Mrs. V. Stewart

Mrs. M. McConkey

**ROUTE PRESBYTERY**

Ms. P. Shirley

Ms. A. Millar

**TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. J. Duncan

**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH**

**EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY**

Ms. L. Magee

**CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY**

D. Penney

R. Marcus

**NEWRY PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. A. Faloon

Ms. F. Andrews

**TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY**

C. Evans

W. Parker

**TYRONE PRESBYTERY**

D. Clarke

Miss S. Purvis

The Moderator welcomed, on behalf of the Assembly, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, representatives of sister Churches, of educational and community organisations, and other special guests present.

The Moderator, having expressed thanks for the help he had received during the past year of office, asked the Assembly to proceed to the election and appointment of a successor to him in office for the ensuing year.

The Clerk submitted the nominations of Presbyteries for the Moderatorship as follows:-

The Rev Dr Michael Alexander Barry	5 nominations
The Rev Sarah Elizabeth Hughes	5 nominations
The Rev David Ian James McNie	5 nominations
The Rev Robert Herron	3 nominations
The Rev Alistair Stewart Smyth	1 nomination
On a second round of voting	
The Rev Dr Michael Alexander Barry	7 nominations
The Rev Sarah Elizabeth Hughes	6 nominations
The Rev David Ian James McNie	6 nominations

On the motion of the Rev DIJ McNie, seconded by the Rev SE Hughes, the Rev Dr MA Barry was unanimously called to the Chair, welcomed by the retiring Moderator and commended to God in prayer.

The Right Rev Dr MA Barry addressed the House.

The sederunt came to a close at 8.40 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014

9.30am

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** (Reports pp 1-8) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, together with the following Supplementary Report:

**BUSINESS  
BOARD**

1. The Presbytery of South Belfast has proposed that under The Code, Par 226, the Rev Robert J Greer be enrolled as minister-emeritus of Richview. A resolution is appended.

2. The Presbytery of North Belfast has proposed that under The Code, Par 226, the Rev John N Seawright be enrolled as minister-emeritus of Abbey, Monkstown. A resolution is appended.

3. The Business Board recognises there is business to be discussed at the Assembly in which some members may have personal and specific interest. It asks that good practice be observed so that any member wishing to speak to a resolution which may affect them personally, or a close family member, should state that interest before speaking. The Board also believes that the issue of members speaking and voting on matters where there may be some personal benefit needs to be considered in more detail. It is suggested that the panel considering the impact of charity legislation may be an appropriate forum for such discussion. A resolution is appended to test the mind of the Assembly.

### **The Church of Ireland General Synod (2014)**

*The Very Rev Dr Roy A Patton reports:*

1. The General Synod of the Church of Ireland met in Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin from 8-10 May 2014. I was joined by Mrs Cherry Poynton, an elder in Blackrock Congregation. We were graciously welcomed and enjoyed warm hospitality.

2. In his Presidential address, the Most Rev Dr Richard Clarke, Archbishop of Armagh, focused on ‘Freely you have received, freely give’ speaking of the Church “as an organism that is characterised by its giving nature; its people who are characterised by being giving people”.

3. Archbishop Clarke also stressed that ‘All life is a gift of God; it is never a commodity’. He said: “...one of the aspects of modern culture I most fear is that we have turned all human life into a commodity. The very beginnings of life and the end of life on earth are a gift, never to be treated as anything less”. The Archbishop questioned society’s priorities. In particular, to poverty, food banks and in the funding for hospice provision. He also encouraged people to consider fostering children in need, urging church members to consider being blood donors and to sign up as organ donors, “as an opportunity for giving to others” (FAB’s ‘Flesh and Blood programme).

4. The Archbishop went on to say: “I make an appeal to a wider audience and ask those who have been entrusted with political leadership to tell us what future they are setting out for our children and grandchildren. It surely cannot simply be ‘more of the same’ that we wish to offer to future generations?”

5. The agenda for the Synod was full and, as is to be expected, it considered reports of the work of the various boards and committees, reporting on a wide variety of issues ranging from minimum pricing for alcohol, blood and organ donation, to education.

6. The Synod called for a tax increase of about 33 per cent on off-licence sales of alcohol throughout this island as well as calling on the governors of the Church of Ireland College of Education to ensure that “the religious ethos and values of the Church of Ireland . . . are promoted and legally safeguarded”. Discussions about the move to a new campus at St Patrick’s in Drumcondra, Dublin are on-going. The Synod also was informed that, after several challenging years, the longer term outlook for Church finances is now more stable. However, the Synod was strongly challenged to review its management of property and



assets, disposing of some, where appropriate, to the glory of God and for the benefit of the whole church.

7. The Synod also received an Interim Report of the Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief.

8. History was made when the Synod agreed on the interchangeability of ministry with the Methodist Church in Ireland. It means that, while both Churches remain distinct, interchangeability of their ministries can now take place.

9. An ordained minister of either Church may now come under the discipline and oversight of the other when it comes to exercising ministry. Equivalent legislation has already been approved by the Methodist Church in Ireland. Both Churches also now agree that a Methodist president (who is elected and holds office for a year) is recognised as an 'episcopal minister', as are all previous holders of the office. In future, Church of Ireland bishops will take part in the installation ceremony of a Methodist President, and vice versa for the installation of a Church of Ireland Bishop.

10. Following a vote, both the Archbishop of Armagh and the Methodist President spoke of the historic nature of the moment and the Synod gave a standing ovation.

11. Next year the Synod meets in Armagh. It was felt by many that meeting in Dublin was expensive and congested. Hence, it was agreed that the Synod should meet in Armagh until a suitable venue becomes available.

### **The Church of Scotland General Assembly (2014)**

*The Right Rev Dr Rob Craig reports:*

1. I attended the Church of Scotland Assembly in the Assembly Buildings, Edinburgh, from 16-23 May 2014, with my Chaplain the Rev John Hanna, and Will Doran, my Clerk of Session from Kilfennan. Accompanied by our wives, as a delegation we were warmly received and enjoyed typical Scottish hospitality throughout a busy week.

2. The week opened with favourable weather allowing all to enjoy a Royal Reception hosted by the Earl of Wessex and the Countess of Wessex in the Palace of Holyroodhouse, at which the royal couple received the Keys to the City, as the Queen's representatives at the Assembly.

3. His Grace was then received at the opening Session of the Assembly on the Saturday Morning, amid significant pomp and royal protocol. His address to the Assembly was very uplifting, reflecting as he did on the relationship between Church and Community (timely as the Assembly met in this year of the Scottish Referendum on Independence) and making several allusions to his own personal faith which inspired all there.

4. The evening Session on Saturday allowed the outgoing Moderator, Rev Lorna Hood, to reflect on a busy and challenging year as she travelled widely for the Kirk. Much was positive, though one experience on a visit to Skye did expose some of the theological strains that exist within the broad church that is the Kirk.

5. Sunday dawned breezy but fair, and all ecumenical delegates, from the churches in the UK and Ireland and overseas guests from many churches around the globe joined with the congregation for the Assembly Procession and Service of Divine Worship in St Giles Cathedral. As humble Irish Presbyterians we found it a 'high church' experience, though in keeping with the High Kirk in Edinburgh. The life and vitality of the Kirk was truly on show in Princes St Gardens all through Sunday afternoon when representatives from all the Councils of the Kirk and many local congregations joined in 'Heart and Soul', a celebration of the work and witness of the church today. All seemed in good heart and it left a good impression of much good work going on at congregational and local community level.

6. The formal business week of the Assembly started on Monday and continued before largely packed houses. We were impressed with the strong note of thanksgiving and praise led on occasions by a Precentor, and raised by hundreds of strong voices seeking to express the commitment to unity that the Moderator, the Rt Rev John Chalmers, had called for as they faced vexing questions together.

7. The Ministries Council led the discussion on the state of the church and its ministry, reflecting on the projected shortfall of some 200 Ministers of the word and sacrament in the near future. It was a sobering debate.

8. Yet on Tuesday the Council on Mission and Discipleship brought a report with a different tone, focussing on the positives with many creative ventures being encouraged, and the development of what the Council calls a 'Fresh Expressions' project being driven forward with the appointment of a former Irish Presbyterian Rev DJ McCarthy as its Development Worker.

9. We were impressed with the use of Statistics for Mission which shows the Kirk is seeking to be realistic in knowing its community and its calling in the midst of that community. The World Mission Council report was a highlight of the week, well delivered, warmly received and richly interwoven with contributions from delegates from many Overseas situations.

10. The formal session of the Assembly then adjourned to allow a wonderful and passionate debate, termed *a respectful dialogue* by the Moderator, on the question of Scottish Independence. No vote was taken as the church has chosen to be neutral in the matter, but the Kirk committed itself to continue to encourage the same kind of facilitated debate at local level in the run up to September 18th vote, and to help with the challenging onward journey whatever is decided on that day.

11. Which brought the Assembly to Wednesday, a real parson's egg! The Social Care Council report, in a short period of time, could hardly do justice to the remarkable and varied work done by the Kirk and its members in reaching out to the poor and marginalised in society.

12. The greater part of the day's business was take up with the two much anticipated reports of the Theological Forum and the Legal Questions Committee. They had been charged to look at the strength and validity of the 'mixed economy' compromise that had been brought before the 2013 Assembly with a clear end in view:

*To affirm the Church's historic and current doctrine and practice in relation to human sexuality; nonetheless permit those Kirk sessions who wish to depart from that doctrine and practice to do so*

13. The debates were well-managed and well-mannered. But that did not hide the clear differences that exist within the Kirk on these matters. There was a lot of pain and deep emotion, hard questions and difficult choices. The commitment to 'unity of the church' won out over 'uniformity of doctrine' as the Kirk continues on the journey and trajectory it has chosen.

14. Thursday's Council on Church and Society promised to be a bit quieter, though again questions about Scripture and Interpretation raised their head. What it means to be 'reformed and always in need of reformation' is a large issue for our Mother church across the Irish Sea.

15. The many evening receptions and functions ensured the convivial and warm atmosphere of Assembly continued as new and old friendships were made and refreshed. It was a special delight as Moderator to meet with exiles from this side of the water settled in the life of the Kirk. Also, to bring PCI's prayerful concerns to our sisters and brothers in the Church of Scotland at this time.

#### **Additional Resolutions**

2a. That the Rev Robert J Greer be enrolled as minister-emeritus of Richview with immediate effect.

2b. That the Rev John N Seawright be enrolled as minister-emeritus of Abbey, Monkstown, with immediate effect.

3a. That the Panel considering the impact of charity legislation be asked to also consider the question of members speaking and voting on matters where there may be personal interest.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev GE Best and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the recommended Order of Business be adopted.
3. That the Rev Robert J Greer be enrolled as minister-emeritus of Richview with immediate effect.
4. That the Rev John N Seawright be enrolled as minister-emeritus of Abbey, Monkstown, with immediate effect.
5. That a grant of £19,000 be made from the Incidental Fund to the Arrangements Committee.
6. That the Panel considering the impact of charity legislation be asked to also consider the question of members speaking and voting on matters where there may be personal interest.

**Resolutions**

The **Overture anent Appendix 1 of the Code** (Reports p 9) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

**Overture**

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

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

**Presbyteries** The Report of the **Presbyteries** (Reports pp 10-16) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

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

**Resolution** 1. That the Report be received.

**SPUD YOUTH ASSEMBLY** The Report of the **SPUD YOUTH ASSEMBLY** (Reports pp 279-281) was submitted by Miss Helen Forsythe and Miss Ruth Spratt, together with the following Supplementary Report:

#### **Additional Resolution**

1a. That the General Assembly request congregations to nominate a SPUD representative, who will actively encourage youth participation in their local church and in the wider denomination.

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

**Resolutions**

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly request congregations to nominate a SPUD representative, who will actively encourage youth participation in their local church and in the wider denomination.

### **RECEPTION OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS & DELEGATES**

#### **Supplementary Report:**

**Delete:** Rev Nigel Uden (United Reformed Church); John Yor Nyiker Deng (Presbyterian Church of South Sudan); Rev Dr Maqsood Kamil (Presbyterian Church of Pakistan); Rev Alfredo Abad (Iglesia Evangelica Espaniol).

**Corresponding Members** The **Corresponding Members** were received from the Church of Scotland. These were the Right Rev John Chalmers, the Rev Mary Ann Rennie and Mr Angus Hogg.

The Moderator welcomed the Corresponding Members. The Rt Rev John Chalmers replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed Mr John Ellis of the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom and the Rev Trefor Lewis of the Presbyterian Church of Wales. Mr John Ellis replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Rt Rev John McDowell and the Rev Canon Ian Ellis, delegates from the Church of Ireland; Rev R Kenneth Lindsay and Mr David Twyble, delegates from the Methodist Church in Ireland; Mr Mervyn McCullagh from the Irish Council of Churches; and Ms Eleanor Gaw of the Religious Society of Friends. Mr Mervyn McCullagh replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed other delegates from: the Presbyterian Church USA: Rev Doug Baker; the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan: the Rev Peter Gal Lual; the Reformed Church in Romania: Bishop Istvan Csury and Mr Janos Antal; and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa: the Rev David Gathanju. Bishop Istvan Csury replied, assisted by Mr Janos Antal as translator, and conveyed greetings.

The Assembly Appointments section of the Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 31-35), along with resolutions 1 – 4 (Reports p 62) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr Stafford Carson together with the following Supplementary Report:

**GENERAL BOARD**

### **Assembly Appointment**

Following interview the General Board nominate the Rev Thomas James Stothers for appointment as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly and Deputy General Secretary.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr Stafford Carson, seconded by the Very Rev Dr RA Patton, and agreed:

**Resolutions**

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly accept the retirement of the Rev Dr Donald J Watts from the position of Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland with effect from 31 August 2014, and that he be thanked for his services.

The Very Rev Dr Godfrey Brown spoke with warm appreciation of the devoted service which Dr Watts had given to the General Assembly and the whole Church.

The Moderator also expressed the thanks of the Assembly to the outgoing Clerk and presented him with a token of appreciation from his many friends in the Church.

The Rev Dr Donald Watts replied and thanked the Assembly.

3. That the Rev Trevor D Gribben be appointed Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland with effect from 1 September 2014.

The Rev TD Gribben was duly informed by the Moderator of his election and, having signed the following documents, he was declared appointed.

SUBSCRIPTION in terms of the General Assembly's Formula:

I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith, as described in the Code, Chapter I, paragraphs 12-14, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and as such I subscribe it as the Confession of my faith.

TREVOR D GRIBBEN

Attested by DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of Assembly

3rd June 2014

## The DECLARATION:

I, Trevor D Gribben, having been chosen as Clerk of the General Assembly do hereby promise that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been appointed; and will carefully preserve and, when required by this Court, restore the records and other documents now intrusted to my care.

TREVOR D GRIBBEN

Attested by DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of Assembly

3rd June 2014

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, instructed that the Rev TD Gribben be made a member of the appropriate Courts of the Church.

The Rev TD Gribben thanked the Moderator and members of Assembly.

4. That the Rev T James Stothers be appointed Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly and Deputy General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

The Rev TJ Stothers was duly informed by the Moderator of his election and, having signed the following documents, he was declared appointed.

## SUBSCRIPTION in terms of the General Assembly's Formula:

I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith, as described in the Code, Chapter I, paragraphs 12-14, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and as such I subscribe it as the Confession of my faith.

T JAMES STOTHERS

Attested by DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of Assembly

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

## The DECLARATION:

I, T James Stothers, having been chosen as Deputy Clerk of the General Assembly do hereby promise that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been appointed; and will carefully preserve and, when required by this Court, restore the records and other documents now intrusted to my care.

T JAMES STOTHERS

Attested by DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of Assembly

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, instructed that the Rev TJ Stothers be made a member of the appropriate Courts of the Church.

The Rev TJ Stothers thanked the Moderator and members of Assembly.

The Moderator, leading in prayer, commended the Rev TD Gribben and the Rev TJ Stothers to the care and guidance of God.

The Report of **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** (Reports pp 166-170) was submitted by Miss Anna Morison and Mrs Caroline Hawthorne.

**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

Moved by Mrs Margaret Grayson, seconded by Ms Jennifer McLernon, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

**Resolution**

### **Intermission**

Members of Assembly were joined by others to participate in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, conducted by the Moderator. During worship the Memorial Roll of Ministers deceased was submitted by the Very Rev Dr WD Patton, and the Assembly paid their customary tribute.

The sederunt came to a close at 13.27 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## **THIRD SESSION**

**Tuesday, 3rd June, 2014**

**2.30pm**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** (Reports pp 190-202) was submitted by the Rev GJ Kennedy, supported by Miss Barbara McDade, together with the following Supplementary Report:

**BOARD OF  
YOUTH AND  
CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY**

### **Additional Resolution (SPUD)**

3a. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to appoint an elder to oversee the pastoral care of young adults within their congregation who are finishing second or third level education; offering support and guidance during the key transitions to university or full time employment.

Moved by the Rev GJ Kennedy, seconded by the Rev AJ Thompson:

1. That the Report be received.

**Resolutions**

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Dr WP Addley, seconded by the Rev FP Sellar and agreed:

1. That the Report be received and that the Youth and Children's Ministry Board, or successor body, examine the implications of the changes of wording in the Guide Promise with a view to offering further guidance to Kirk Sessions, if possible by December 2014.

Being put as the substantive motion was passed.

Moved by the Rev GJ Kennedy, seconded by the Rev AJ Thompson, and agreed:

2. That a grant of £9,931 be paid from the Incidental Fund to Youth Link: NI.

3. That the General Assembly approve the Youth and Children's Project 'Emmaus' to support the work of the Bible Society in India and a youth project in Donegal town.

4. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to appoint an elder to oversee the pastoral care of young adults within their congregation who are finishing second or third level education; offering support and guidance during the key transitions to university or full time employment.

5. That the resignation of the Rev Jonathan Moxen as Convener of the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev GJ Kennedy be appointed in his place.

6. That the Research and Education Committee and the Convener, Ms Lynda Gould, be thanked for their service and discharged.

### Intermission

**BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp 124-153) was submitted by the Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus.

Moved by the Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus, seconded by the Rev DJ Bruce and agreed:

**Resolutions** 1. That the Report be received

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 30)

**Donabate Memorial** **The Memorial of the Donabate Interim Kirk Session** (Reports pp 158-159) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr TWJ Morrow.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr TWJ Morrow, seconded by Mrs Margaret McKenna and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

The Moderator led in prayer.

**UNION COMMISSION** The Report of the **UNION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 85-104), was submitted by the Rev WJ Henry, together with the additional supplementary report:



**Amalgamations of the Congregation of Carlingford and the Congregation of Castlebellingham.**

The Commission has had continued consultation with the Presbytery of Monaghan and brings to the General Assembly, by resolution, a proposal for the amalgamations of the Congregation of Carlingford with the Congregation of Dundalk and the Congregation of Castlebellingham, also with the Congregation of Dundalk.

**Additional Resolutions:**

4(a) That the Congregation of Carlingford be amalgamated with the Congregation of Dundalk, under the name Dundalk, on terms set by the Union Commission from 30th June 2014, or some other suitable date as agreed by the Presbytery of Monaghan.

4(b) That the Congregation of Castlebellingham be amalgamated with the Congregation of Dundalk, under the name Dundalk, on terms set by the Union Commission from 30th June 2014, or some other suitable date as agreed by the Presbytery of Monaghan.

Moved by the Rev WJ Henry, seconded by the Rev RJA Bell and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly, continuing to recognise that for historical reasons there are more Church buildings, Congregations and Charges than are required in the present circumstances and that the worship and mission of the Church are hindered by this, instruct the Union Commission to continue in consultation with Presbyteries and the Board of Mission in Ireland, actively to address this issue.
3. That CMF be authorized to pay inadequate expenses grants towards expenses incurred by ministers, up to a limit of NI £6,650 or RI €10,000, within the terms of resolution 3, p 70 General Assembly Minutes, 1988.
4. That updated guidance on (i) Notes regarding Ministerial Expenses during the illness of a minister, (ii) Sick Supply Fund Rules and (iii) Protracted Illness be noted.
5. That the Congregation of Carlingford be amalgamated with the Congregation of Dundalk, under the name Dundalk, on terms set by the Union Commission from 30th June 2014, or some other suitable date as agreed by the Presbytery of Monaghan.
6. That the Congregation of Castlebellingham be amalgamated with the Congregation of Dundalk, under the name Dundalk, on terms set by the Union Commission from 30th June 2014, or some other suitable date as agreed by the Presbytery of Monaghan.

**Resolutions**

The **Overture anent Par 82(4) of the Code** (Reports p 104) was submitted by the Rev WJ Henry.

**Overture**

Moved by the Rev WJ Henry, seconded by the Rev RJA Bell and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 82(4) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The **Overture anent Par 128(3) of the Code** (Reports p 104) was submitted by the Rev WJ Henry.

Moved by the Rev WJ Henry, seconded by the Rev RJA Bell and agreed:

1. That the Overture anent Par 128(3) of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overture anent Par 128(3) of the Code be made an Interim Act.

**BOARD OF  
MISSION IN  
IRELAND  
cont'd.**

**BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp 124-153) – **debate resumed (see page 28)**

Moved by the Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus, seconded by the Rev DJ Bruce and agreed:

#### **Strategy for Mission Committee**

**Resolutions**

2. That the General Assembly welcome the collaboration of representatives of the three Belfast Presbyteries, the Board of Mission in Ireland and the Union Commission in pursuing the remit of the Belfast Panel (Reports pages 127-133) and encourage the Panel to further progress its work as outlined.

3. That the General Assembly direct the Mission Partnership Forum to review the purpose of and principles underlying the operation of the Alternating Ministry Scheme between the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland and bring proposals regarding the future of the Scheme to the General Assembly in 2015.

4. That the General Assembly commend the Nightlight deputation programme to Congregations initially but not exclusively in the three Belfast Presbyteries, and encourage Congregations to keep before their members the opportunities for serving and developing their evangelistic gifts through participation on Nightlight teams.

#### **Research and Resources Committee**

5. That the Rev Chris Kennedy be thanked for his service as Convener of the Research and Resources Committee and the Rev Stephen Richmond appointed in his place.

#### **General**

6. That the General Assembly commend *ReachOut* magazine to all Congregations, and encourage its wide circulation as a stimulus to missional thinking and action.

7. That the General Assembly encourage Congregations to set aside one Sunday in the year to celebrate our rich access to Scripture and, in this regard, commend the online resources of the Bible Societies in Ireland to ministers and Kirk Sessions.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 46)

The sederunt came to a close at 5.52pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

# FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 4th June 2014

9.30am

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS** (Reports pp 105-123) was submitted by the Rev CA Meban, together with the following Supplementary Report:

**BOARD OF  
MISSION  
OVERSEAS**

## **'Developing a co-ordinated strategy for future partnership and personnel engagement'**

### **Introduction**

1. Over the past year the BMO Steering Committee (SC) sought to follow up on BMO's General Assembly Report 2013, by undertaking a review of specific areas of BMO's work. In doing so SC held two meetings on 28 August and 10 December 2013 respectively, and a Day Away on 7 January 2014. As part of the review SC sought to develop a co-ordinated strategy for future partnership and personnel engagement as required by Resolution 3 of BMO's General Assembly Report 2013. The resulting report and resolutions were presented, discussed, and agreed at the Board Meeting held on 30 April 2014.

2. In undertaking this task it was again underlined that it is God's mission and we seek to co-operate with him. In doing so prayer has a vital role to play in providing the wisdom and courage needed when seeking God's purposes for PCI in global mission through partnership, in placing mission personnel, and in allocating resources.

3. At this point the strategy set out below is aspirational, and if the General Assembly is supportive of its direction, the strategy would be further developed to include a more detailed implementation plan.

### **Background**

4. BMO is not a mission agency working alongside PCI, but rather PCI engaging in global mission through its own denominational mission board, advising and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly, with presbyteries commissioning and congregations supporting the mission personnel sent out.

5. Traditionally, when compared with overseas mission agencies and societies, denominational mission boards usually engage in a wider range of activities and have a broader geographical focus in working with partner churches and agencies around the world. Over the years the challenge facing PCI has been to actively engage in global mission as a missionary church, not simply as a supporter of the independent agencies and societies.

6. From 1840, over the first one hundred years of the General Assembly's engagement in global mission, PCI commissioned hundreds of missionaries to

serve in seven countries, India, China, Syria, Germany, Spain, Austria, and Italy, not forgetting the smaller number of Presbyterian Ministers who travelled from Ireland to British Colonies in South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand to pastor the settlers who emigrated from Ireland at that time.

7. After the Second World War, PCI's global involvement expanded significantly and in the sixty years from 1950 PCI initiated relationships with churches and agencies in more than thirty countries, and commissioned missionaries to serve in sixteen of them: Malawi, Nepal, Jamaica, Kenya, Singapore, England, Israel/Palestine, Indonesia, Pakistan, Brazil, Lebanon, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Central Asia, and Ukraine.

8. BMO's many partnerships are normally referred to as mission partnerships, to distinguish them from relationships that might be described as confessional, arising from interaction through European and global ecumenical institutions, and furthered through the Church Relations Committee of the General Board.

9. Traditionally, BMO has initiated official mission partnerships at the church leadership level, engaging in correspondence and discussion as to the direction a partnership might take, and the sending of mission personnel. Partnership looks different at different levels of church life, and while it is one thing for BMO to initiate partnerships, if the relationship is going to be fruitful in mission it is important that Presbyteries and congregations catch the vision to share in the partnership, through 'serving as senders', prayer, hosting visitors from overseas, engaging in projects, sending teams and developing twinning relationships. To this extent partnership is to be encouraged at every level of church life, with BMO seeking to provide best practice guidelines.

10. BMO's General Assembly Reports in 2008, 'Together in Mission' paragraphs 1-10 and in 2009 'The Global Christian Family' paragraphs 1-12, focused on BMO's understanding of the 'why' and 'how' of partnership and should be read in conjunction with this report which is looking more closely at the 'where' and 'who' of partnership.

### **Identifying Strategic Partnerships**

11. Historically PCI have sought to have a geographical spread of partners, and this was articulated well in the Coleraine Declaration in 1990, "mission is to be pursued amongst all the people of Ireland and the peoples of the European Community and the whole world: those with whom we feel comfortable, those from whom we feel alienated and those who are in any way distant from us in culture and faith."

12. While it is good and characteristic of a denominational mission board that there is a spread of partnerships, there is a danger that in trying to sustain too many, the result is shallow relationships and very little achieved! As BMO looks to the future, the challenge is to be able to embrace PCI's global family of partnerships whilst giving fresh focus to a selected number over the period 2015 - 2020, with a view to following through more effectively on the operational side having agreed priorities in mission.

13. With this in mind, BMO have looked afresh at PCI's identity as a church, sought to articulate priorities in global mission that are brought to

discussion and negotiation in partnerships, considered drivers in mission today, and set out criteria for both partnering and the sending of mission personnel for 2015 and beyond.

### **Considering PCI's identity and capacity**

14. Rather than simply being reactive, attempting to respond positively to every opportunity and invitation received to partner in mission, SC saw the value in looking again at PCI's distinctive journey and personality as a denomination. Being aware of PCI's identity provides a clearer picture of what might be shared in global mission.

15. What foundational values, characteristics, good policies and achievements do we bring to global mission today? Much could be explored and said in this regard, however SC noted that Presbyterians place a high value on:

- Accepting the Bible as the supreme rule of faith and order
- Reformed orthodoxy as set out in the Westminster Confession of Faith
- Historically, bringing a courageous, adventurous, pioneering spirit and a settler mentality
- Intellectual, rational inquiry and providing a solid education for those in church leadership
- Historically being a dissenting church, independent of State control, instead seeing Christ as King
- Being a denomination that has been impacted by revival
- The importance of calling and election
- Emphasising order and control, avoiding emotional excess
- A long tradition of emigration, the first steps in foreign mission being to provide pastoral support to expatriates in the colonies

16. At the same time, however, it was observed that Presbyterians tend to be suspicious if not fearful of those who differ, and carry a measure of self-preoccupation and self-reliance, if not a sense of our own rightness!

### **Considering our Context - Key drivers in global mission today**

17. Having reconsidered PCI's identity, SC recognised the need for further analysis and discussion of significant drivers emerging in and shaping nations and cultures today, and therefore influencing mission as well. Acknowledging that it is God's mission, and He is the primary driver at work in the world today by his Holy Spirit, the following were identified as some other key drivers that should have a bearing on PCI's priorities:

- The unreached- the least evangelised world
- Discipling for transformation – holistic engagement
- Poverty – health, education, environment
- Globalisation
- The secularisation of the West
- The state of the Church in the West

- Conflict and persecution
- Migration – refugees, urbanisation
- Global youth culture
- ‘Mission direct’ – ordinary people’s owning and participating in global mission

### **Prioritising PCI’s mission activities**

18. In establishing the following priorities, it is important to work towards clearly defined goals for each, and then to be intentional with regard to implementation of clear, core tasks as we work together with partners.

19. In the 2005 review of the Board’s work, four core priority areas were identified: Outreach Initiatives, Leadership Development, Compassionate Ministries and Mission Engagement. When it comes to developing a co-ordinated strategy for partnership and personnel, SC looked primarily at the Outreach Initiatives and Leadership Development as the two priority areas that involve BMO’s commissioning of mission personnel to work with church partners, united missions and theological institutions.

20. This review did **not** encompass a number of other ‘non-personnel sending’ priorities as follows:

- The work of the World Development Committee, partnering with Christian Aid and Tearfund to respond to humanitarian crises and engage in sustainable development (Compassionate Ministries Priority)
- The work of the Mission Involvement Committee, highlighting the importance of having stories to share with the wider church of what God is doing around the world, as well as envisioning and advising mission facilitators for global mission involvement. (Mission Involvement Priority)
- That aspect of the work of the Outreach Ministries Committee that focuses on Scripture translation, publication, distribution and communication, partnering with the Specialist Service Agencies (Outreach Initiatives Priority)

21. The focus was placed on reviewing BMO’s outreach and leadership development work, with the following priorities coming to the fore:

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel
- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Building capacity for sustainable development
- Being a voice for the marginalised and underprivileged, especially women and children
- Standing alongside the suffering and persecuted Church
- Peace-building in a manner that is of mutual benefit
- Strategic health and education ministries

22. Setting out these seven priority areas gives a measure of clarification, yet there remains some concern that seven may still be too many to address effectively.

### **Clarifying our criteria for partnership**

23. The following criteria have been identified as a potential sieve or filter through which existing partnerships could be evaluated and new opportunities to partner in mission could be processed as and when they are presented to or sought out by BMO. These partnerships may be with other church denominations, united or independent mission agencies, or theological institutions. In all relationships BMO seek to retain a sense of family, acknowledging that within families relationships will ebb and flow with time. The aim of these criteria is not to reduce the number of partners, but rather to serve as a tool for partnership review and to sharpen focus:

- What do PCI and any partner believe God is saying to them?
- Is there potential for good communication through common language, technology, visits, and consultations?
- Does the partner share PCI's Reformed tradition, belonging to the World Communion of Reformed Churches?
- Are there elements of diversity and difference that are likely to feed positively into the partnership?
- What other international partners does the partner already have, either through multilateral or bilateral relations?
- Are there shared vision and priorities in mission so that the partnership could be said to be 'going places'?
- Are there shared values of being honest, available, committed, patient, versatile, open to negotiation and change, in partnership?
- Has consideration been given to capacity for mission engagement, both the partner's and PCI's, as a small denominational agency?
- Is the commitment to partnership simply to share in a short-term project or to invest time in building a long-term relationship?
- What is the likelihood of reciprocity and avoiding dependency?
- Are there opportunities for the sharing of resources, including personnel, finance, and expertise?
- Are there possibilities for developing ongoing congregational and presbyterial mission involvement?
- Are there members of the partner church already living, working and witnessing in Ireland?

### **Partnership Profile 2015 - 2020**

24. The 2005 Review highlighted the importance of focusing on the evangelisation of post-Christian Europe, and of encouraging partners in reaching the unreached, particularly within the continent of Asia.

25. The following 22 partnerships covering 18 countries are proposed for focus over the period 2015-2020. The priorities for personnel and/or projects that are highlighted are a reflection of current areas of engagement but subject to ongoing discussion with the partners, and will lead on to the development of a partner by partner plan of action:

### **Europe**

Hungarian Reformed Church (in Hungary and Romania)

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Strategic health and education ministries

Spanish Evangelical Church

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel

Grupos Biblios Unidos, Spain

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel

The Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel

Coram Deo, Italy

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel

Faculté Jean Calvin, France

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

### **Asia**

National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon

- Standing alongside the suffering and persecuted Church
- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

The Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

- Standing alongside the suffering and persecuted Church
- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

United Bible Training Centre, Pakistan

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders



The Church of North India

- Standing alongside the suffering and persecuted Church
- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

The Evangelical Christian Church of Halmahera, Indonesia

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

The Evangelical Christian Church of Timor, Indonesia

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Strategic health and education ministries

The Christian Church of Sumba, Indonesia

- Building capacity for sustainable development

The United Mission to Nepal

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Building capacity for sustainable development
- Being a voice for the marginalised and underprivileged, especially women and children
- Peace-building in a manner that is of mutual benefit

Central Asia

- Peace-building in a manner that is of mutual benefit
- Strategic health and education ministries

**East and Central Africa**

- The Presbyterian Church of South Sudan
- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Peace-building in a manner that is of mutual benefit
- Strategic health and education ministries

The Presbyterian Church of East Africa

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel
- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Building capacity for sustainable development

The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders
- Strategic health and education ministries

#### Scripture Union Malawi

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel

#### Theological Education by Extension Malawi

- Support of training programmes and provision of scholarships to equip Christian leaders

### **Caribbean and Latin America**

#### The Presbyterian Church of Brazil

- Making disciples especially amongst those who have never heard the gospel
- Being a voice for the marginalised and underprivileged, especially women and children

### **PCI Mission Personnel**

26. BMO welcome inquiries from PCI members wishing to explore a sense of call to missionary service. Those inquiring are normally asked to complete a Preliminary Inquiry Form, prior to an initial informal conversation with BMO staff. For some this may lead ultimately to being appointed for overseas service, for others it is about gaining advice in furthering preparation for cross-cultural mission or being referred to another mission agency who may offer alternative opportunities. BMO trusts that all who meet with its staff in this regard will feel supported in finding their way forward in global mission engagement.

27. BMO currently operate with three categories of service:

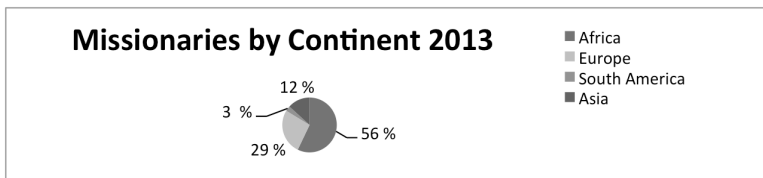
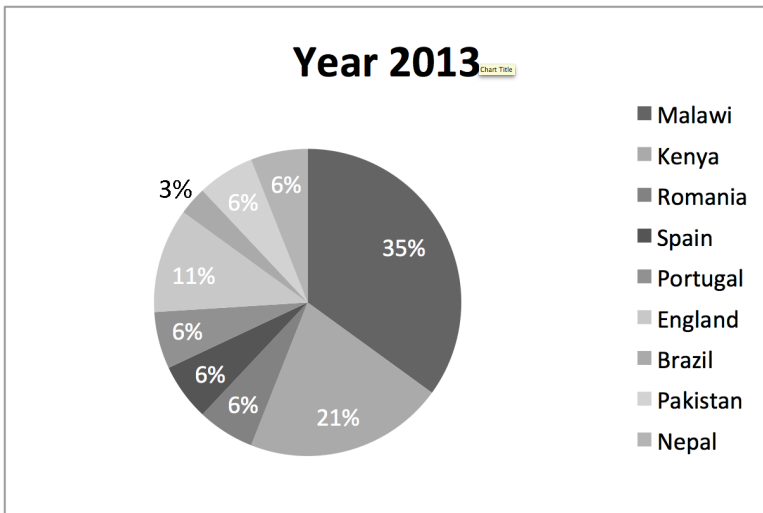
- Ignite – service up to one year
- Involve – service of more than one and up to two years
- Integrate – service of more than two years

28. It is proposed that the first category be renamed ‘Inspire’. Up until now the ‘Ignite’ category targets those seeking to ‘test the water’ in global mission, primarily younger people. By renaming it as the ‘Inspire’ category, it would also be targeting older and retired people with specific gifts and experience to offer in overseas service. The aim, therefore, would be to work with both younger folk seeking primarily to be inspired for further global engagement, as well as those who, through maturity, gifting and experience, might have opportunity to inspire others.

29. As at 31 December 2013, BMO had 34 personnel serving under the Involve or Integrate categories. These cover nine of the eighteen countries (eleven of the twenty-two partnerships) highlighted earlier in the report for special focus after 2014.

**Year 2013**

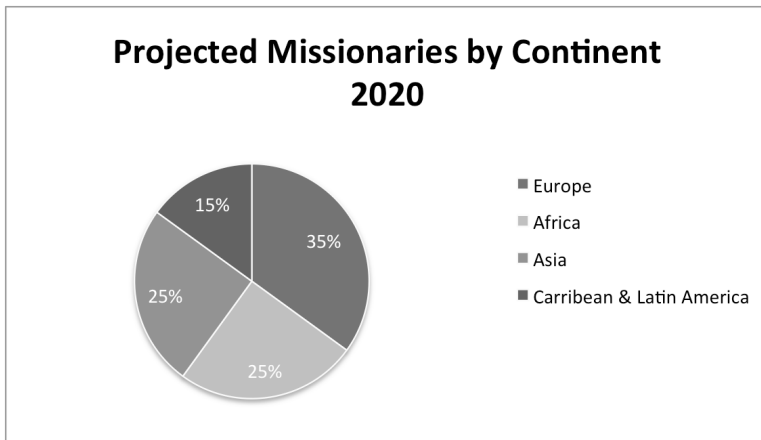
Country	Number of Missionaries	%
Malawi	12	35
Kenya	7	21
Romania	2	6
Spain	2	6
Portugal	2	6
England	4	11
Brazil	1	3
Pakistan	2	6
Nepal	2	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>



30. Year by year, BMO aims to prayerfully discern the number of mission personnel that can be sustained, both in terms of the financial commitment involved, and the capacity within the Overseas Office to provide an effective support base. By the end of 2014, it is anticipated that this figure will be 37 in eleven countries, with two missionaries resigning and five being commissioned in the course of 2014.

31. Much could be said as to the factors that have led to the current spread of PCI mission personnel around the world. SC are of the view that BMO, as a denominational mission board, should aim to have a broad but more strategic geographical spread of personnel bearing in mind agreed priorities, and should be more intentional in the allocation of personnel. This, in turn, may help to reduce the isolation experienced by some of BMO's mission personnel, and may ultimately lend itself to operating in teams in some locations.

32. The diagram that follows is an aspirational spread looking towards 2020. It places fresh emphasis on working with partners to reach out in the European context, especially Western Europe, where it is relatively straightforward to move around, work, and learn language. Furthermore, many of the major cities of the continent are multi-cultural places of global importance. In the UK and Ireland context, it is also hoped to continue discussion with partner churches and the Board of Mission in Ireland, with a view to furthering outreach amongst diaspora communities on our doorstep. It is not intended to focus exclusively on Europe, with historical and long-standing partnerships in mission in other continents continuing to be deeply valued and developed.



33. Whatever projection is agreed, where it is desired to have increased involvement in a region, this will only be achieved by actively developing partnerships and advertising opportunities for service as and when they arise. In those areas where more limited involvement is envisaged, it is not intended to cut short the assignments of existing personnel, but to give careful consideration to making only the more strategic appointments.

### **Regional Liaison Personnel and Teams**

34. It is proposed to introduce the idea of Regional Liaison Personnel, with one person being designated to this role in each of the main regions where BMO is partnering. Where there were sufficient personnel in a country or region, the Regional Liaison would serve as a team leader, living and working in the region, such that in addition to undertaking a specific role with one of BMO's partners in the region, a portion of their time would be given to providing a level of pastoral care for other mission personnel in the region, and co-ordinating their coming together for occasional retreats. In addition, the Regional Liaison would provide the Overseas Office with information and news articles arising from the region that would be of particular interest to the church at home, ensuring hospitality for visitors, putting in place 'on the ground' arrangements for visiting PCI teams, and orientating partner church visitors prior to their coming to Ireland.

35. It is proposed that early on in the next five year period, this concept of having a Regional Liaison would be piloted, considering the costs and benefits. Advice would be taken from other mission agencies who have experience of operating in this way. Both existing mission personnel and new applications would be considered. The aim would be to make appointments to this role for partnerships and teams in the regions of Europe and East/Central Africa. Thereafter, depending on the spread of mission personnel, similar appointments would be considered for Asia and the Caribbean & Latin America. Should there be no new sources of income, it is envisaged that these appointments be made with no more than an inflationary increase to the budget in the year in question.

36. BMO need to be strategic in sharing resources with partners, especially in the sending of mission personnel. There is significant investment involved in sending personnel to work with partners around the world and BMO seeks to be good stewards of the funding required. It is therefore important that any roles taken up meet clearly established and agreed criteria that reflect the priorities and values of the Board.

37. All new applications for overseas mission service should be assessed using the following criteria:

38. With reference to **BMO's current priorities** in global mission, does the mission personnel role provide for or contribute to:

- Training programmes for the development of godly church leaders engaged in strategic missional roles in the church's life?
- Evangelism, spiritual formation and the making of disciples?
- Peace-building that will be of mutual benefit?
- Strategic prevention of ill-health, especially HIV/AIDS?
- Capacity building for sustainable development transforming the lives of the poorest people?
- Standing with and advocacy on behalf of those suffering injustice or persecution?
- Strategic education, especially of women and children?

39. Is the role reflective of **BMO's values or guiding principles** in mission in terms of being:

**God-centred:**

- Is there an assurance that God has been at work in highlighting and asking PCI to fill this role?
- Does the role involve actively, regularly, pointing people to Jesus Christ?

**People-focused:**

- Does the role involve direct, personal, missional encounter?
- Does the role require holistic/integral missional engagement?
- What are the potential risks attached to the role?
- Does the role provide an opportunity for the 'training of trainers' or capacity building?
- Does the role require a commitment to the learning of a language and culture?
- Does the role require an investment in training, orientation and preparation that is justifiable given the nature of the role?
- Will BMO and/or the partner be able to provide and maintain the highest standard of selection, training, orientation, leadership, communication, on-field integration and supervision, support and care for the person in the role?

**Church-based:**

- Does the role engage in what only PCI can do, or at least do what we do well!
- Will the role strengthen a partner church in her mission and the relationship with PCI?
- Does the role reflect one or more points of overlap in PCI and her partner's priorities such that there is ownership by all concerned?
- Does the role contribute to reciprocity in mission through special ministry in Ireland, and to what extent is it in line with BMI's strategy in this regard?
- Does the role contribute to evangelism or church-planting in Western Europe?
- Does the role demonstrate and provide long-term commitment from PCI to the partner?

**Forward-thinking:**

- Does the role fit with BMO's strategic plan for missional engagement, including the desired spread of personnel around the world?
- Is the role a creative new way of engaging in mission or a sphere of service?
- Has a reviewable long-term/short-term timeframe been set for the role?
- What are the implications for the office staff-mission personnel ratio?

40. While each application for missionary service may not ‘tick all the boxes’ outlined above, there should be evidence of a degree of compatibility under each of the listed headings.

41. In its discussion, SC noted that missionary retention involves a complex web of factors, including agency size, education of personnel, selection procedures, organisational values, leadership, communication and on-field supervision. In particular, SC have underlined the importance of personnel needing to be fully representative of PCI (orientation and selection), knowing our vision, values, and priorities, and suiting our partners agenda. There is a need to avoid areas of non-strategic engagement especially where there is evidence of dependency. SC agreed the importance of factoring in an exit strategy, having an agreed projection from the time of appointment as to how long someone will serve overseas.

#### **Additional Resolutions:**

1a. That the General Assembly give thanks for the family of churches, agencies and institutions that PCI has been privileged to partner alongside since 1840, while encouraging sharper focus on those partnerships and priorities identified in the report for the period 2015-2020.

1b. That the General Assembly give thanks for all the PCI mission personnel currently serving in a wide range of activities and locations, and encourage ongoing strategic placement of personnel that facilitates the development of regional teams.

Overseas Mission personnel were presented to the Assembly by Miss Helen Johnston (Overseas Personnel Officer) and the Moderator led in prayer.

Moved by the Rev CA Meban, seconded by the Rev WS Marrs, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly give thanks for the family of churches, agencies and institutions that PCI has been privileged to partner alongside since 1840, while encouraging sharper focus on those partnerships and priorities identified in the report for the period 2015-2020.
3. That the General Assembly give thanks for all the PCI mission personnel currently serving in a wide range of activities and locations, and encourage ongoing strategic placement of personnel that facilitates the development of regional teams.
4. That the General Assembly request the Committee on Reception of Ministers to prayerfully review current guidelines with the aim of facilitating and encouraging gifted ministers and missionaries with global Church perspectives to serve with PCI on the island of Ireland.
5. That the General Assembly give thanks for BMO’s new outreach initiatives in the European context, consider afresh the Macedonian call to mission in Europe, and redouble efforts to pray and seek opportunities to share the life of Christ with Ireland’s nearest neighbours.

**Resolutions**

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 74)

### Intermission

The Moderator received Ministers recently retired and those recently licensed, who were presented respectively by the Rev Noble McNeely, Convener of the Board of Christian Training, and the Rev RS Hetherington, Director of Ministerial Studies. The Moderator led in prayer.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING** The Report of the **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING** (Reports pp 203-216) was submitted by the Rev Noble McNeely, together with the following Supplementary Report:

#### Addition to Resolution 2

**Add:** Philip Poots Hillhall Dromore

Moved by the Rev Noble McNeely, seconded by the Rev NJ McCullough, and agreed:

#### 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
Robin Aiken	Railway Street	Dromore
Andre Alves-Areias	Saintfield Road	South Belfast
John Brogan	Drogheda	Dublin & Munster
David Curran	Wexford	Dublin & Munster
Andrew Downey	Knock	East Belfast
Steve Kennedy	Orangefield	East Belfast
James Maguire	Banbridge Road	Dromore
Hanneke Marshall	1st Broughshane	Ballymena
Michael McCormick	Clough	Down
Jonny McKane	Kilfennan	Derry & Donegal
Keith Parke	Gilford	Iveagh
Philip Poots	Hillhall	Dromore
Richard Tregaskis	Hamilton Road	Ards

3. That the General Assembly ask Presbyteries to encourage ministers to engage in leadership training, at a level appropriate to their stage in ministry, and ask the Panel reviewing the Consultation Process to consider how this matter might be best dealt with.

4. That the General Assembly welcome the commencement of training for the first candidates for the Auxiliary Ministry and commend the scheme to the



Church and especially to those ministers and Kirk Sessions considering whether this role could enhance the ministry in their Congregation.

5. That the General Assembly commend the updated Prepared to Serve course to the Church and encourages its use by all church members in order to identify or affirm the gifts they have been given by the Holy Spirit to serve God in the Church and in the world.

6. That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme be set to raise £25,000.

7. That the assessment for the Students' Bursary Fund be set to raise £400,000.

The **Overtures anent Pars 30(1); 30(3); 30; 35 and 73(b) of the Code** (Reports p 217) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben. Overtures

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Noble McNeely and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 30(1); 30(3); 30; 35 and 73(b) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

2. That the Overtures anent Pars 30(1); 30(3); 30; 35 and 73(b) of the Code be made an Interim Act.

The **Overtures anent Pars 177(2) and 180(1) of the Code** (Reports p 217) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Noble McNeely and agreed:

That the Overtures anent Pars 177(2) and 180(1) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The **Overture anent Par 72(e) of the Code** (Reports p 218) was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Noble McNeely and agreed:

1. That the Overture anent Par 72(e) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

2. That the Overture anent Par 72(e) of the Code be made an Interim Act.

The **Overtures anent Pars 201(1); 202(3); 202(7) and 285 of the Code** (Reports p 218) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Noble McNeely and agreed:

That the Overtures anent Pars 201(1); 202(3); 202(7) and 285 of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The **Overtures anent Pars 217(1)(b)(iii); 217(2)(b) and 217(3) of the Code** (Reports p 218) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Noble McNeely and agreed:

That the Overtures anent Pars 217(1)(b)(iii); 217(2)(b) and 217(3) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The **Overtures anent Pars 10-14 and anent Par 212 of the Code** (Reports pp 153-158) were submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 73)

With the permission of the Moderator, the Convener of the Forces Committee, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, addressed the House in regard to the role of Irish Presbyterian Chaplains during the First World War.

He subsequently introduced serving Chaplains to the Moderator, who led in prayer.

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator and others. The Moderator invited the Rev Dr Trevor McCormick to address the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.00 pm the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## FIFTH SESSION

**Wednesday, 4th June 2014**

**2.00pm**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**GENERAL BOARD** The Rev Dr DJ Watts submitted the remainder of Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 17-65 together with the Structures Review Panel Report Booklet) together with resolutions 5-32 and the following Supplementary Report:

### **Memorial Record**

*The Very Rev Dr W Donald Patton reports:*

**The Rev William James Johnstone MA, BD**, Minister Emeritus of Craigyhill, Larne, in the Presbytery of Carrickfergus, died on 1 April 2014 in the

68th year of his age and the 43rd year of his ministry. He was born at Belfast on 17 August 1945 to William Johnstone, a farmer, and Mary, his wife, née Manning. His home congregation was Greenisland where he was raised under the ministry of the Rev Andrew Orr coming to personal faith in Christ during his teens. He was educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and, responding to the call of God to the Christian ministry, he attended Magee University College, Londonderry, from 1965 and Trinity College, Dublin, graduating BA and MA in 1969. He studied theology at the Assembly's College, Belfast, graduating with a BD from the Queen's University, Belfast. He was licensed on the 20 June 1971 by the Presbytery of Carrickfergus and assigned as Assistant to the Rev Dr Victor Lynas in the Congregation of Gardenmore, Larne, where he was ordained by the same Presbytery on 9 January 1972 and served there from September 1972 until March 1974. On 14 March 1974 Mr Johnstone was installed in the united charge of Castlewellan and Leitrim in County Down by the Presbytery of Iveagh, where he exercised an expository pulpit ministry and was an attentive pastor to his people. Then in 1983 he accepted a call from the congregation of Craigyhill, Larne, where he was installed by the Presbytery of Carrickfergus on 2 February 1983. This charge had begun as a church extension work in 1956 in the large housing development of Craigyhill and was gathered and built up by the dedicated and evangelistic ministries of his predecessors, the immediate one being the Rev Jackson Buick who had taken up a full-time post as a Chaplain to the Crumlin Road prison. Mr Johnstone gave himself enthusiastically to his preaching and pastoral work. He had a heart for the Lord and a heart for people. His outgoing personality, ready sense of humour and easy conversational gift won him an opening in many a home and a hearing for his witness to the saving grace of Christ. He was well respected in the wider community and was closely involved with it in various ways. In the wider church Mr Johnstone served as Convener of the Christian Training Committee of the Board of Evangelism and Christian Training (1993-1999) and as Clerk of the Presbytery of Carrickfergus (1999-2007). He retired on 1 September 2009 after twenty-six years of diligent ministry in Larne. The final year and a half of his life was dogged by ill health which he bore with dignity and courage, being an example of Christian grace and faith to the last. Throughout his long ministry he was loyally supported and encouraged by his wife Nancy, née Irwin, whom he married on 1 July 1971. They had three children, Emma, Grace and Ruth. We assure them of our prayers in their loss and, with them, we give thanks for the life and ministry of our friend and colleague who fixed his eyes upon Jesus and ran the race marked out for him with perseverance in hope of the glory promised in the Gospel to the people of God.

**Rev Dr Charles Presho, BA,MA, BD, MLitt, PhD**, died on 18 April 2014 in the 96th year of his age and the 68th year of his ministry. He was born at Belfast on 5 February 1919 one of three children (he had two sisters, Jean and Daisy) to William John Presho, a merchant grocer, and his wife Agnes, née Stewart. Sadly his father died when he was aged two years. Following primary education he went to Methodist College, Belfast, and proceeded to tertiary studies at Magee University College, Londonderry, and Trinity College, Dublin, 1938 to 1941, graduating BA with great credit in the classics and in Hebrew. It was at this time that he was offered the opportunity to follow a professional football

career but his mother dissuaded him from that course. He went on to study theology at the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Hall, Belfast, in preparation for entering the ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. On completing his studies in 1943 he was licensed by the Eastern Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church on 13 June 1944 and was ordained and installed as minister of Loughbrickland Reformed Congregation in March 1945. He also taught classics at Banbridge Academy where the Very Rev Dr Howard Cromie remembers him as his Classical Greek teacher and a confidant with whom he shared his thoughts of entering the Christian ministry. During this period Dr Prescho met Eileen Rhoda Elizabeth Cochrane whom he married in 1946. They had two sons, Richard Alexander Neville and Ian Nicholson, who died in 1999 after a long illness. In 1947 Dr Prescho moved to Glasgow, where he was installed in Nicholson Street Reformed Presbyterian congregation on 21st January 1947. He returned to Northern Ireland in 1958, securing the post of Divinity Master at Sullivan Upper School, Holywood, County Down. He was a much respected teacher appreciated for his academic ability, knowledge and humanity. He gave support and leadership to the school's Scripture Union, encouraging young people in Christian faith and discipleship and influencing many young men who later became ministers of our Church. He continued his interest in sport and acted as a rugby referee. He and his wife, Rhoda, opened their home to many of these young people once a month on Sunday evenings. He continued his academic studies to which the list of his degrees bears eloquent testimony, gaining his MA and MLitt from Trinity College, Dublin, and his PhD from the Queen's University, Belfast. Having changed his convictions about church music and liturgy he was received into the Presbyterian Church in Ireland by the General Assembly in June 1962 and placed under the care of the Presbytery of Belfast. He and his family worshipped in the congregation of High Street, Holywood, where he served as an elder. He resigned his post in Sullivan Upper School in June 1975 to take up the position of Executive Director of the Bible Society in Northern Ireland and was formally inducted in the role by the Presbytery of Ards on the 2 December 1975. He travelled widely promoting the work of the Society and interest in, and understanding of, the Bible. Dr Prescho's enthusiasm for his subject was infectious, stimulating and informing his hearers. For some years in the 1990s he wrote an occasional column in the *Presbyterian Herald* under the title of 'Bible Digest', explaining the background to a variety of Bible passages. He had earlier published a study of St Paul's letter to the Ephesians, called *God's Poem: a Devotional Meditation on the Epistle to the Ephesians* (1945). Dr Prescho retired on 5 February 1984 and for a time assisted in Knock Presbyterian Church. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his wife Rhoda, son Neville and wider family circle, thanking God for the life and service of our brother who fought the good fight of faith and who has joined that great cloud of witnesses whose example inspires new generations in the service of Jesus, Lord and Saviour.

## **Structures Review Panel**

### **Correction**

Page 30 of the Structures Review Panel booklet. Amend figures under "Current Boards" to read as follows:

General Board (168)	Presbytery Reps 76 (45%)	Others 92 (55%)
Overall (706)	Presbytery Reps 361 (51%)	Others 345 (49%)
GRAND TOTAL – 930		

## **Church and Society Committee**

### **Appendix A**

#### **DEALING WITH THE PAST**

#### **Paper submitted to the Haass Commission by the Church and Society Committee.**

#### **PREAMBLE**

A. We deeply appreciate the invitation and opportunity to offer a more worked out suggestion for dealing with the past that we were able to offer at our meeting last month. We believe that this paper contains some new thinking that has not been in the public arena, and offer it to you for consideration.

B. The background to our suggestions is as follows:

(i) As the largest Protestant denomination in Northern Ireland, many thousands of the people who were killed and injured are within the ambit of our congregations at local parish level, so we feel that we have a good understanding of much of the pain and trauma inflicted over the years.

(ii) You will appreciate that as a Christian church, our views are framed by our best understanding of the breadth and depth of Christian and Biblical teaching. But we are conscious of the political imperatives and so have tried to frame our submission in language that commends itself in the public square.

(iii) We ourselves, as a consequence of our Christian calling, are committed to working tirelessly for the welfare of the whole community to help face the past and shape the future. Given the pain and trauma within our whole community, we believe that some new attitudes and ideas need to be politically and publicly discussed and promoted in an equally tireless way. Central to this discussion is the necessary role of forgiveness, justice, grace, remorse, compassion, healing, faith and repentance as well as empathy and reconciliation. Each of these needs a great deal more thoughtful work, and we would be very willing to help with that. However, it is our firm conviction that unless such fundamental issues are openly addressed there is little scope for real and lasting progress in the political arena.

1. Our core view is that an International Commission is highly desirable to help our society face our past – but that the objective for that Commission should be to pave the way for the healing of the community. The stature and independence of the Commission will be key to its success.

2. The purpose should be unambiguously reflected in its name. We suggest that it be an International Commission for Community Healing.

3. The name implies both a retrospective and prospective role. Necessarily its work would involve a significant element of truth recovery. This would

inevitably lead to analysis and informed judgement about the implications of the findings for taking forward community healing.

The emergence of truth, or partial truth, could, of course, readily become a weapon against others, and may well *not* be a source of healing. This is why it is essential that the Commission gives equal consideration to the prospective objective of community healing.

4. We are greatly exercised that the legal definition of victims makes no distinction between ‘innocent’ victims and ‘perpetrators’ of violence, so we believe that a serious effort *must* be made to deal with the sense of moral and judicial outrage and hurt that this causes. If this is not done, then we see little prospect of there being community healing or reconciliation. We are acutely aware that there are strongly opposing narratives about the past, but are convinced that political progress will be impossible unless this distinction is faced in some coherent way. We return to this issue below.

5. With that said, it might well be possible to have a dual approach to drawing out as much truth as possible, which many victims deeply long for. We suggest a “bottom up” process where a wide range of victims and survivors can tell their story. This would allow them to testify about the impact of the incident on their lives and would afford them public recognition. We also believe that those who have criminal convictions (including ex prisoners) should be encouraged to tell their stories. Such ‘story telling’ should have the widest possible public hearing, and not be relegated to the edge of public consciousness. Separately, the International Commission would take receipt of the stories (many of which are already available via Healing Through Remembering) and would, in general terms, review the accounts from which conclusions might be drawn on how best to achieve healing at both individual and community levels. This ought not in any way to be a process of judicial interrogation – rather it is offered as a way of helping as much truth as possible to emerge, whilst at the same time helping many of those who really are innocent victims to know that they are not put in the same group as those who perpetrated the violence upon them.

6. There would also necessarily be other elements in a Commission’s work – such as seeking maximum acknowledgement/confession of the pain inflicted by groups, individuals and institutions over the years; seeking maximum information on particular events and killings from whatever sources are available; and seeking the highest level possible of justice for those most affected, without there being any further public enquiries. (We are conscious that as the years go by it is becoming increasingly difficult to bring many cases satisfactorily to court and that many families will never find redress there.) We also believe that wrongdoing by state forces should be investigated on the same basis as wrongdoing by any other group or institution.

7. We are not in favour of amnesty, as it clearly implies that the necessary pillar of justice which is one of the marks of a healthy democratic society is much less important than the need for reconciliation.

8. We regard it as very important that the current resources of the PSNI are not unduly absorbed by such work, which should be funded separately by the UK government.

9. As indicated above, we remain deeply troubled that the current legal definition of victims makes no distinction between the perpetrator and the person attacked. This is morally unacceptable and we will continue to support legislative attempts to align the legislation on victims with that of terrorism. With that said clearly, we do not believe that the need for community healing for the well-being of future generations should be held up indefinitely whilst a change in the law is being sought. A better future must be pro-actively built for the welfare of present and future generations. In paragraph 5, above, we have tried to offer a path through the acute moral and practical dilemma of the proper balance between the need for justice to be done and community healing to be advanced.

10. Since healing in our society will, by definition, be a long term intergenerational process, we believe that the initial remit of an International Commission on Community Healing must be to set out proposals for public discussion as to how it would set about getting that long term work under way. We must explicitly disavow any suggestion that the Commission can effect the reconciliation.

11. Therefore, there must be wide public discussion and subsequent wide agreement both within civic society and politically on the route and shape of such healing over coming years. On the basis of that agreement, the Commission could then outline the steps needed on a short, medium and longer term basis – and offer some guidance on the modalities of those steps. We see the Commission's life span initially as being for 3 years to make the progress identified above.

12. In parallel with this process, we regard is as absolutely essential that:

- (a) the current work with victims and survivors is energetically pursued;
- (b) that the NI Executive explicitly delivers real improvement in the quality of life for our citizens in the areas most afflicted by the legacy of the past. We regard is as utterly unacceptable for communities to be left without any substantial visible benefits from the Belfast Agreement, whilst complex and highly charged political issues are hammered out over a long period.

13. We would be happy to discuss further with you or your staff if that were helpful.

### **Presbyterian Historical Society**

The Presbyterian Historical Society seeks the approval of the General Assembly in offering advice and guidance for Presbyterian Churches in relation to: a) the indexing of congregational records and b) digitising records by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

## **ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN RELATION TO THE INDEXING OF CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS**

### **Introduction**

Many Presbyterian churches are being approached by individuals and organisations seeking to index baptism and marriage registers in particular, but they may also want to index other records such as communicants' registers,

stipend books etc, all of which are of value to family historians. There is certainly great benefit in having these records indexed as it obviates the necessity to access the originals, thereby reducing handling and the possibility of the records being stolen or lost. It will also save time for ministers who are often approached to carry out searches in the records. However, there are also inherent dangers as records may be lost or damaged in the course of indexing and churches can lose control over what uses are being made of the indexes.

The following is offered by way of guidance and advice and has been issued with the approval of the General Assembly.

1. It is advisable to have a written agreement drawn up prior to any indexing being done that will make it clear what can and cannot be done with the compiled indexes:

- a. The congregation should definitely ask to receive a copy of the index.
- b. You may want to request that the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland (PHSI) receives a copy of the index to assist the Society in handling the many genealogical enquiries it receives every day; if the Society did not exist then these enquiries would fall to congregations to respond to.
- c. You may want to retain the right to approve all future uses of the index (questions that should be asked are: will the indexes be made available for commercial gain or simply made available within the organisation).
- d. Consider whether PHSI might benefit from placing indexes of congregational records on its website so that any income earned would go towards the on-going work of PHSI in preserving our Presbyterian heritage.
- e. Take into account the need to respect privacy of living individuals by only permitting indexing of records more than 100 years old

2. It is strongly advised that records are not removed from the custody of the church for indexing purposes as there is no guarantee that the records will be housed in secure accommodation, are not being tampered with ( eg pages torn out) and will not get damaged (eg tea/coffee stains). Bear in mind that if the records were being preserved in an archive/library there are no circumstances in which records would be given out on loan or consulted in an unsupervised area. In most instances copies of congregational records are available, either on microfilm or in photocopy form which indexers can work from. Microfilms can be consulted either at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or at the library and archive of PHSI. Should no copies of the records be available or the existing copy is illegible then you could make a request to PRONI for the records to be digitised (digitisation has now replaced microfilm as the preferred copy format). Other options might be: the indexers work on church premises under supervision; the congregation commissions PHSI to have the records indexed by its volunteers, which rules out any third party involvement.



**Advice for Presbyterian churches who have been approached by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland to have their records digitised.**

If you have been approached by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) to have your records digitised you might want to consider the following and to draw up a formal agreement:

1. Requesting that a digital copy is provided to the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland (PHSI) in the same way as PRONI give a copy of the microfilm to PHSI.

2. A proviso that the digital copy produced can **only** be used in PRONI itself ie the digital images are not to go on-line. There is the potential for the digital images to be placed on the members area of the PHSI website, with any income earned going towards the support of PHSI (but only with the permission of the Kirk Session).

3. A proviso that copies of an entire volume or the entire digital copy of the records **cannot** be made without the permission of the congregation (see resolution of 2007 General Assembly Page 28) – ‘digital’ simply replacing ‘microfilm’ as the format.

4. A proviso that the copying of any record other than baptisms, marriages and burials that is less than 100 years old requires the permission of the congregation (see resolution of 2007 General Assembly, Page 28).

5. A proviso that the digital copy will **not** be used for commercial purposes without permission from the session.

6. Care should be taken about permitting the digitisation of recent Kirk Session minutes and making them available for public inspection as there may be matters of a confidential and personal nature; sensitive personal data is protected under the Data Protection Act in which case records may be closed for up to 100 years depending on the age of the data subject (digitising and making available minutes up to 1914 would be the latest if 100 years is decided on but probably 75 years is sufficient, so Kirk Session minutes up to 1939 could be copied and made available). If the church is satisfied that there is no sensitive personal data in any of their Kirk Session minutes then you may want to have all Kirk Session minutes digitised and made available subject only to the above provisions in relation to copying. If more recent Kirk Session minutes are to be closed then this should be intimated to PRONI in the agreement, as PRONI can ensure that any closed records are not made available to the public.

## **Thanks**

### **Rev Dr Annes Nel**

1. During the year the Rev Dr Annes Nel resigned as Convener of the Global Concerns Committee. This was a new Committee, coordinating the work of several independent panels, so the convenership has not been an easy one. Annes carried this out with diligence and thanks are expressed to him.

### **Rev Dr Brian Savage**

2. At the last Assembly the Rev Dr Brian Savage took over the convenership of the Ad Hoc Committee on Elders’ Terms, having been very

involved in the work of this Committee. While the Committee is now asking to be discharged Brian's constructive and innovative work is very much appreciated.

### **Revised Resolution**

#### **Resolution 5**

That an Assembly Residential Conference be held in the Summer of 2017 with the theme, "A Church Fit for Purpose", and that the General Board be authorized to appoint a planning Committee.

### **Licensed Amendment**

#### **Resolution 8**

That the General Assembly, recognizing that the local congregation is the primary unit for mission, instructs the Structures Review Panel to bring a revised report with reduced and simplified structures to the 2015 General Assembly.

WILLIAM JA MOODY

DAVID W REID

### **Additional Resolutions**

#### **Church and Society**

22a. That the General Assembly, as the main parading season approaches, encourage all who participate in public parades and protests to obey the law and avoid any behaviour which is not for the overall good of society and respectfully urge those parading organisations which espouse Christian values to uphold those values through behaviour in the public sphere which honours the Lord Jesus Christ and reflects the teaching of Scripture.

22b. That the General Assembly urge those who speak in the public square to ensure they use words that heal rather than hurt and where there is legitimate disagreement a generosity of spirit is shown so that no one is demeaned or devalued for holding a different view.

22c. That the General Assembly commend congregations and communities who model a radical gospel alternative to racially motivated prejudice against immigrants and ethnic minorities by providing welcome and acceptance.

T NORMAN HAMILTON

22d. That the General Assembly, in regard to the forthcoming Referendum in the Republic of Ireland on same sex marriage, urge Presbyterians and others in the Republic to consider that the witness of the Bible, accepted by this and most Churches, is that marriage is to be between a man and a woman and, bearing in mind the deeply held views and strong feelings on the issues, request all involved to carry on the debate with gentleness and respect.

JOHN G FARIS

CWP KENNEDY

### **Global Concerns**

28a. That the Presbyterian Church in Ireland commend to all her leaders and people a gospel-centred peacebuilding which is demonstrated in a generosity of spirit towards all people across our divided society recognising that our call to a ministry of reconciliation challenges us to build good relationships with all in public life for the future good of the whole community.

STEPHEN S JOHNSTON

JOHN A PEACOCK

28b. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Annes Nel as convener of the Global Concerns Committee be noted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Richard Kerr appointed in his place.

### **Presbyterian Historical Society**

32a. That the General Assembly approve the Advice and Guidance on the indexing of congregational records.

32b. That the General Assembly approve the Advice for Presbyterian Churches who have been approached by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland to have their records digitised.

32c. That a grant of £17,750 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr HA Dunlop and agreed:

**Resolutions**

5. That an Assembly Residential Conference be held in the Summer of 2017 with the theme, “A Church Fit for Purpose”, and that the General Board be authorized to appoint a planning Committee.

### **Priorities**

6. That the General Assembly encourage the whole Church to promote the theme for 2014-15: “A People of Service and Outreach”.

7. That a budget for up to £12,000 be made available to the Priorities Committee from the Incidental Fund.

### **Structures Review**

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr HA Dunlop:

8. That the General Assembly approve the proposals of the Structures Review Panel for new Councils and their remits.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev WJA Moody, seconded by the Rev DW Reid:

8. That the General Assembly, recognising that the local congregation is the primary unit for mission, instructs the Structures Review Panel to bring a revised report with reduced and simplified structures to the 2015 General Assembly.

On being put to the House, the amendment was declared lost.

On being put to the House, the motion, as originally worded, was declared passed.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr HA Dunlop and agreed:

9. That the General Assembly approve the membership structure of the new Councils and the proposed method of nomination.

10. That the General Assembly appoint a Finance and Staffing Commission as outlined in the report, as follows: Moderator and Clerk Designate (Secretary); the Very Rev Drs Rob Craig (Convener), Roy Patton, Ivan Patterson; the Revs Colin Morrison, Tom Conway; John Hunter, Dr Rosemary Hamilton, Edgar Jardine, Mrs Sadie Somerville. (The Financial Secretary, Head of Personnel and Convener of the General Assembly's Personnel Committee will sit and deliberate.)

11. That Presbyteries are instructed to send nominations for a Nominations Committee, as agreed in resolution 9, to the Clerk of the General Assembly by 30 June 2014 and other nominations by 15 September, 2014.

12. That, for this year, the Nominations Committee be instructed to bring nominations for membership of the Assembly Councils and Committees for ratification by the Finance and Staffing Commission and to take effect from 1 January 2015.

### **Intermission**

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr John Dunlop, and agreed:

#### **Grace of Giving**

13. That the General Assembly instruct Presbyteries to exercise leadership in facilitating and encouraging the implementation of the 2013 Assembly resolutions "That the General Assembly direct Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and Congregational Committees to address the challenge contained within the "Grace of Giving" initiative.; "That the General Assembly recommend the Diocese of Liverpool's "Giving in Grace" programme as a comprehensive resource and requests congregations to consider making use of it or some similar programme."

14. That the "Grace of Giving" Committee be reappointed for a further year as follows: Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk; Very Rev Dr John Dunlop (Convener); Revs RIA Allely, NAL Cameron, David Stanfield, Gareth McFadden; Mrs D Marshall, Mrs Averil Heenan, Mrs Hilary Campbell, Mrs Carol Johnston, Miss Hayley Cullen; Alan Ince and Colin Neill.

#### **Doctrine Committee**

15. That the General Assembly instruct the Church Architecture Committee that baptisteries should not be installed in Presbyterian Church buildings.

16. That the General Assembly request the Board of Christian Training to consider implementing a programme of training on the doctrine of baptism.

#### **Moderator's Advisory**

17. That the General Assembly thank those who organised and took part in the "Day of discussion" and note the on-going conversations on human sexuality.

18. That the General Assembly welcome plans to make the Conciliation Service better known and more effective.

19. That a budget of £6,000 be made available for the Conciliation Service from the General Board.

20. That the General Assembly commend all efforts to bring support and pastoral care to ministers and their families.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, and agreed:

#### **Church and Society**

21. That the General Assembly reaffirm their active support for a properly accountable police service through the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, and thank the outgoing Chief Constable and recently retired Deputy Chief Constable for their service.

22. That the General Assembly reaffirm active support for the Prison Service and other criminal justice agencies, given the difficult and demanding circumstances in which the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland operates.

23. That the General Assembly, as the main parading season approaches, encourage all who participate in public parades and protests to obey the law and avoid any behaviour which is not for the overall good of society and respectfully urge those parading organisations which espouse Christian values to uphold those values through behaviour in the public sphere which honours the Lord Jesus Christ and reflects the teaching of Scripture.

24. That the General Assembly urge those who speak in the public square to ensure they use words that heal rather than hurt and where there is legitimate disagreement a generosity of spirit is shown so that no one is demeaned or devalued for holding a different view.

25. That the General Assembly commend congregations and communities who model a radical gospel alternative to racially motivated prejudice against immigrants and ethnic minorities by providing welcome and acceptance.

Moved by the Rev JG Faris, seconded by the Very Rev Dr TWJ Morrow, and agreed:

26. That the General Assembly, in regard to the forthcoming Referendum in the Republic of Ireland on same sex marriage, urge Presbyterians and others in the Republic to consider that the witness of the Bible, accepted by this and most Churches, is that marriage is to be exclusively between one man and one woman and, bearing in mind the deeply held views and strong feelings on the issues, request all involved to carry on the debate with gentleness and respect.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr Norman Hamilton, and agreed:

27. That a budget of £2,000 be made available for the work of the Church and Society Committee from the Incidental Fund.

28. That the Rev Dr DK McCrory be appointed as Co-Convener of the Church and Society Committee.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev RC Kerr, and agreed:

### **Global Concerns**

29. That the General Assembly encourage the General Board in setting up a Panel to consider issues of the Near-East.

30. That the General Assembly call upon the Minister for Justice in the Republic of Ireland to sign up to the European directive on reception conditions, expedite the resolution of asylum claims and allow those awaiting asylum decisions to work after twelve months in the jurisdiction.

31. That the General Assembly appoint the following to:

ICC Executive – Revs John Brackenridge, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, Trevor Gribben

Irish Inter-Church Committee – Revs Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, Trevor Gribben

32. That the General Assembly approve the following grants from the Incidental Fund:

Vuleka Trust (South Africa)	£750
Diakonia Council of Churches (South Africa)	£750
Embrace (NI)	£1,000
Churches' Asylum Network (RoI)	£500
Eco-Congregation Ireland	£500
Environment Panel expenses	£1,300
Good Relations Panel expenses	£2,000

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 75)

**TRUSTEES** The Report of the **TRUSTEES** (Reports pp 274-278) was submitted by Sir Bruce Robinson, together with the following Supplementary Report:

Moved by Sir Bruce Robinson, seconded by the Rev WJ Orr, OBE and agreed:

- Resolutions**
1. That the Report be received.
  2. That the recommendation regarding the Mrs AM Davidson Trust be adopted.
  3. That the recommendation regarding the Sir Wm V McCleery Trust be adopted.

4. That the recommendation regarding the Miss Irene Scott Trust be adopted.
5. That the recommendation regarding the Miss Ida Mary McGeown Trust be adopted.
6. That the recommendation regarding the Victor Morrow Trust be adopted.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEE**

The Assembly proceeded to consider the appointment of a new Trustee. A nomination having been received from the Trustees, it was moved by Sir Bruce Robinson, seconded by the Rev WJ Orr, OBE and unanimously resolved:

7. That Mrs Avril Heenan be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr AT Ross, resigned, and of the due appointment of Mrs Avril Heenan 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.

MICHAEL A BARRY

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

The **Overture anent Par 97(h)(iv) of the Code (Reports p 278)** was submitted by Sir Bruce Robinson. **Overture**

Moved by Sir Bruce Robinson, seconded by the Rev WJ Orr, OBE, and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 97(h)(iv) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The Report of the **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS** (Reports p 272) was submitted by Mr AJ Rankin. **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS**

Moved by Mr AJ Rankin, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Commission on Trusts, including its Convener, Mr AJ Rankin, be thanked for their services and discharged.

The **Overtures anent Pars 122; 126(5) and 130 of the Code (Reports p 273)** were submitted by the Mr AJ Rankin. **Overtures**

Moved by Mr AJ Rankin, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 122; 126(5) and 130 of the Code be received and placed on the books.

2. That the Overtures anent Pars 122; 126(5) and 130 of the Code be made an Interim Act.

The sederunt came to a close at 6.00 pm the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

On Wednesday evening, 4th June 2013, at 7.45 pm, an Evening Celebration was held led by the Moderator.

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## SIXTH SESSION

Thursday, 5th June 2014

9.30am

### In Private

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

#### JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports pp 79-80 together with the Judicial Commission Confidential Report Booklet) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey, along with the Confidential Supplementary Judicial Commission Report Booklet.

Moved by the Rev Dr Derek McKelvey, seconded by Mr Robin Tweed, and agreed:

#### Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Rev D W Reid be appointed to the Judicial Commission as a nominee of the Omagh Presbytery.
3. That from 1 September 2014 the Rev Dr DJ Watts shall be a member of the Judicial Commission in place of the Rev TD Gribben.

#### Overtures

The **Overtures anent Pars 127(1); 127(2)(a) and 137 of the Code (Reports p 80)** were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

Moved by the Rev Dr Derek McKelvey, seconded by Mr Robin Tweed, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 127(1); 127(2)(a) and 137 of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 127(1); 127(2)(a) and 137 of the Code be made an Interim Act.

The **Overtures anent Pars 230(3)(a); 219(3)(b)(i); 111(6); 311(4)(a); 313(2) and 317(a) of the Code (Reports pp 80-81)** were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

Moved by the Rev Dr Derek McKelvey, seconded by Mr Robin Tweed, and agreed:



That the Overtures anent Pars 230(3)(a); 219(3)(b)(i); 111(6); 311(4)(a); 313(2) and 317(a) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The Report of the **SPECIAL COMMISSION (JUDICIAL)** (Reports p 82) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following supplementary report: **SPECIAL COMMISSION (JUDICIAL)**

#### **Additional Resolution**

1a. That from 1 September, 2014 the Rev Dr DJ Watts shall be a member of the Special (Judicial) Commission in place of the Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Report be received. **Resolutions**
2. That from 1 September, 2014 the Rev Dr DJ Watts shall be a member of the Special (Judicial) Commission in place of the Rev TD Gribben.

The Report of the **COMMISSION ON APPLICATIONS** (Reports p 83) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following supplementary report: **COMMISSION ON APPLICATIONS**

#### **Additional Resolution**

1a. That the Commission on Applications be reappointed with the following membership:

The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly (Convener)

Revs Princ JS Carson, JNI McNeely, TJ Stothers, RS Hetherington, Mairisine Stanfield; Mrs EA Warden.

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

1. That the Report be received. **Resolutions**
2. That the Commission on Applications be reappointed with the following membership: The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly (Convener),

Revs Princ JS Carson, JNI McNeely, TJ Stothers, RS Hetherington, Mairisine Stanfield; Mrs EA Warden.

The Report of the **SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL FACULTY, IRELAND** (Reports p 8) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following supplementary report: **SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL FACULTY, IRELAND**

#### **Additional Resolution**

- 1a. That the Commission be thanked and discharged.

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

- Resolutions**
1. That the Report be received.
  2. That the Commission be thanked and discharged.

### **Intermission**

### **In Public**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** The Report of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** (Reports pp 219-226) was submitted by the Rev Dr CD McClure.

Moved by the Rev Dr CD McClure, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben and agreed:

- Resolutions**
1. That the Report be received.
  2. That the General Assembly note with deep concern the continuing disadvantaged position of Controlled Schools throughout Northern Ireland due to a lack of a dedicated advocacy and support body and call upon the Minister of Education to take steps to resolve this injustice and ensure equality of treatment for all schools.
  3. That the General Assembly warmly support the on-going development of Shared Education in Northern Ireland and call upon the Department of Education to ensure that its policies and schemes provide a range of incentivised options to encourage and facilitate schools to participate in models of sharing appropriate for their local community.
  4. That the General Assembly express thanks to those who fulfill demanding responsibilities in the oversight of the small but significant number of schools in the Republic of Ireland under Presbyterian Patronage and call upon the Government to ensure that its policy protects minority rights and enables on-going access to, and the sustainability of, schools with a Protestant ethos.
  5. That the General Assembly welcome the on-going cooperation with Scripture Union in the production of *Back to School with God 2104 "Earth Calling Heaven"* materials and encourage all Congregations to use this resource as a valuable means of encouraging Christians engaged in education and in supporting their local school/s.

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS** The Report of the **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS** (Reports pp 171-187) was submitted by the Rev RA Liddle, along with the following Supplementary Report:

#### **Additional Resolution (SPUD)**

4a. That the General Assembly endorse the vital work of university chaplaincies and encourage chaplains to maximise opportunities to support students on campus, in particular during more stressful periods.

Moved by the Rev RA Liddle, seconded by Mr Lindsay Conway, OBE and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly commend to the prayers of the Church the work of Health Care and Prison Chaplaincy in a time of on-going uncertainty and change.
3. That the General Assembly continue to monitor the debate and impact of Welfare Reform and respond as appropriate.

**Resolutions**

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 79)

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator and others. The Moderator invited the Rev Stuart Finlay to address the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 12.55 p.m., the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

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## SEVENTH SESSION

**Thursday, 5th June, 2014**

**2.00pm**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL** (Reports pp 227-263) was submitted by Mr John Hunter, CB, together with the following Supplementary Report:

**BOARD OF  
FINANCE AND  
PERSONNEL**

### **REVIEW OF THE CENTRAL MINISTRY FUND BONUS**

During 2013 the Priorities Committee of the General Board asked the Board of Finance and Personnel to undertake a review of the expenditure of the Assessment Funds of the Church. In particular the Board was asked to identify if there were ways in which expenditure could be reduced or the money applied in another way. One of the significant issues identified during this review was the cost of the Central Ministry Fund “bonus” under The Code Para 315. This Report outlines the present “bonus” arrangements and sets out proposals for changes.

#### **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1.1 Under the provisions of The Code Para 315(2) *“the income of the Central Ministry Fund shall be applied...To pay (in the first place out of income from the Sustentation Fund) to every qualified minister a monthly sum of £30 together with an annual bonus of £300 plus £2.50 for every £50 or part thereof of the Basic Ministerial Income for the Incoming year which is in excess of £4,300 or as may be fixed from time to time by the Supervising Board.”*

1.2 For the purposes of Para 315(2) a qualified minister is defined in Para 316(1) as a “retired minister, minister, colleague minister, associate minister, assistant minister of a congregation ....”

1.3 Using the 2014 Basic Ministerial Minimum the amount of the “bonus” that every qualified minister could receive is calculated as £1,615.00 (being £23,416 less £4,300 equals £19,116 divided by £50 = 382 parts, 382 parts at £2.50 plus £300 plus £30/month for 12 months).

1.4 The Board of Finance and Personnel have however fixed the amount of the bonus at £1,518 since 2008 (based on 2008 Basic Ministerial Minimum of £21,450) as allowed for under Para 315(2) of The Code.

1.5 For “active” ministers the bonus is paid as a monthly grant of £30 (£360 for year) and an annual bonus in December of £1,158. Retired ministers receive  $\frac{1}{12}$ <sup>th</sup> of the total “bonus” each month.

1.6 Some Ministers with pre-78 service also receive an additional £15/ month (previously approved by the General Assembly by resolution). This was stopped a number of years ago for new retirees but continues to be paid to those previously in receipt.

1.7 The cost to the Central Ministry Fund of the “bonus” in 2013 was £882,016, which equates to approx. 580 ministers being in receipt. Per the Statistics Report for 2012 there are 230 retired ministers and 392 active ministers i.e. a total of 622. Some ministers are not entitled to the bonus e.g. College Professors, Chaplains, Ministers serving overseas and Ministers based in “Church House”.

1.8 The bonus is treated as pensionable income which adds an additional 27.5% to costs – this was funded through the Pension Assessment prior to 2012 but since 2013, and following the change in the basis of assessment from stipend to assessable income, is funded through the Central Ministry Fund assessment.

1.9 The “Bonus” is partly funded by income from the Commutation Fund and the Sustentation Fund but the majority of the cost is covered by the CMF assessment. See 1.10 below.

1.10 A summary of the cost to the Central Ministry Fund over recent years is as follows:

	2013	2012	2011	2010
		£	£	£
Cost of “Bonus” (monthly and annual)	882,016	876,626	881,627	881,017
Net Income from Sustentation Fund (which includes income from Commutation Fund)	(224,473)	(224,457)	(210,301)	(207,460)
Net Cost to Central Ministry Fund	657,543	652,169	671,326	673,557

If the net income of the Sustentation Fund was paid to qualifying ministers this would equate to approx. £385 per minister (say £225,000 divided by 580 ministers). This roughly equates to the present monthly bonus of £30 or £360 for the year.

1.11 There is an important “link” between the “bonus” and any pension due under the Retired Ministers Fund for ministers with pre-78 service. The Rules of the Retired Ministers Fund provide that normally a minister will receive a pension from the Fund based on the number of complete month’s service prior to 1 April 1978. Each months service gives an entitlement to  $\frac{1}{420}$ th of half the basic ministerial minimum on retirement e.g. if a minister has 10 years’ service prior to 1 April 1978 the pension he would receive would be 120 months divided by 420 times 50% of £23,416 which equals £3,345.

However, under the Code the payment of the RMF pension is deemed to be inclusive of the payment due from the CMF. (Ref The Code Para 321(i) “The retirement pension, inclusive of the designated payment under the Central Ministry Fund ...”.

Therefore for a Retired Ministers with pre 78 service to receive any entitlement above the total “bonus” he will need to have more than approx. 55 months pre 78 service i.e.  $55/420 * 50\% * £23,416 = £1,533$  which broadly equates to the bonus of £1,518.

There are very few active ministers now who have pre-78 service.

## 2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Pensions and Assessment Committee considered various ways in which to reduce the cost of the “annual bonus” to the Central Ministry Fund and identified the following options/issues

### a) Incorporating the “Annual Bonus” into the Ministerial Minimum

To achieve this the ministerial minimum would be increased from £23,416 (for 2014) to £24,574 (i.e. add £1,158 – this assumes the monthly bonus of £360 would still be paid by the Central Ministry Fund out of income from the Sustentation/ Commutation Funds). It was noted that:

- there would be an additional direct stipend cost to congregations but this could be offset by a reduction in the Central Ministry Fund Assessment.
- if there was no “offset” there is likely to be an increase in the cost of augmentation to the Central Ministry Fund in respect of congregations that could not increase their stipend.
- there would be implications for other funds which base amounts on the Basic Ministerial Minimum e.g. Retired Ministers and Widows of Ministers Funds pensions, Students Bursary Fund grants, Deaconesses, Irish Mission Workers “salaries” and pulpit supply fees.

### b) Fixing the bonus at £1,518 until it comes in line with income from Sustentation Fund

This would take approx. 60 years to achieve assuming an annual increase in income of 2.5%

c) **Gradually reduce the bonus to the level of income from Sustentation Fund**

This would result in a reduction in minister's income over time.

d) **Whether the "bonus" should be pensionable?**

The Committee noted that the bonus is currently treated as pensionable income for active ministers and therefore they accrue a pensionable entitlement on this income in retirement. They however, also continue to receive the bonus in retirement.

**3. IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGE – INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

(a) After considering the various options in Section 2 the proposal that was **initially** acceptable to the Committee was to move the annual bonus part of the bonus (i.e. £1,158) into the basic ministerial minimum in a phased way over a period of ten years, e.g.

<b>TRANSFER OF CMF BONUS TO MINISTERIAL MINIMUM</b>				
	Ministerial Minimum £	<i>Regium Donum</i> £	CMF Bonus £	Total
2014	23,416	360	1,158	24,934
2015	23,474	360	1,100	24,934
2016	23,574	360	1,000	24,934
2017	23,674	360	900	24,934
2018	23,774	360	800	24,934
2019	23,874	360	700	24,934
2020	23,974	360	600	24,934
2021	24,074	360	500	24,934
2022	24,174	360	400	24,934
2023	24,274	360	300	24,934
2024	24,374	360	200	24,934
2025	24,474	360	100	24,934
2026	24,574	360	0	24,934
2027	24,574	360	0	24,934

(b) It was recognised however, that other payments are “linked” to the ministerial minimum (e.g. *Deaconesses, Irish Mission Workers, Students, Retired Ministers, Widows of Ministers*) and therefore it may be necessary to retain the “basic ministerial minimum” to avoid additional costs to those funds. One option would be to incorporate the Non-Regium Donum element of the bonus or the “annual bonus” into the minimum stipends after one year’s service and thereby retaining the present basic ministerial minimum. However, to ensure ministers in their first year do not “lose out”, as they would no longer receive the annual bonus, a special grant would need to be awarded for that year only.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGE – FINAL PROPOSALS**

In summary it is proposed that with effect from 1 January 2015 the Central Ministry Fund no longer covers the cost of the current annual bonus (£1,158) but that all qualifying ministers continue to receive the payment due from the Commutation / Sustentation Fund (approx. £360 per year). The proposals are designed to ensure there is no additional cost to congregations or reduction in the income of ministers in congregations or those in retirement. The detailed proposals are as follows:

##### **4.1 PROPOSAL 1 – THE ANNUAL BONUS**

That with effect from 1 January 2015 the annual bonus is no longer paid.

##### **4.2 PROPOSAL 2 - STIPENDS PAID BY CONGREGATIONS**

That with effect from 1 January 2015 all Congregations will be expected to increase their minister’s stipends by £1,158 i.e. in line with the proposed reduction in the bonus.

##### **4.3 PROPOSAL 3 – CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENTS**

In order to ensure that there is no additional cost to congregations it is proposed that rather than implementing the reduction in the annual bonus over a ten year period, as outlined in 3(a), that it would be fully implemented in 2015 i.e. all congregations will be expected to increase their ministers stipend by £1,158. The additional cost to congregations of £1,595 (being £1,158 plus the employer’s national insurance and pension contribution) will be offset by a reduction in the Central Ministry Fund Assessments. It is proposed that this will be achieved by introducing a new Nil rate assessment band of £11,000 which would ensure the level of assessment is reduced by the increase in stipend i.e.

	Bands	Rate	Amount
<b>CURRENT</b>			
First Assessment Band	Zero to £65,000	14.5%	£9,425
<b>PROPOSED</b>			
First Assessment Band	Zero to £11,000	Nil	Nil
Second Assessment Band	£11,001 to £65,000 or £54,000	14.5%	£7,830
<b>TOTAL</b>	£65,000		£7,830
<b>REDUCTION IN ASSESSMENTS</b>			£1,595

#### 4.4 PROPOSAL 4 – STIPENDS PAID TO ACTIVE MINISTERS

Ministers should have their stipend increased (by £1,158) and will continue to receive the “Regium Donum” monthly payment from the Central Ministry Fund. They will no longer receive the annual bonus from the Central Ministry Fund but overall there should be no change in their remuneration just a change in where it comes from.

It is proposed that the Regium Donum monthly payment would not be pensionable.

Active Ministers, especially those coming close to retirement, may have an expectation that they will receive the bonus in retirement. As noted above they already accrue pension on the bonus. It is proposed that Active Ministers aged 56 or over on 1 January 2015 will be entitled to receive “annual bonus” (currently £1,158) on retirement, if deemed to be a qualified minister under The Code Para 315(2). The cost of this will be funded through the Central Ministry Fund as a special grant under The Code Para 315(5).

Active Ministers under 56 on 1 January 2015 will not be entitled to receive “the annual bonus” on retirement.

#### 4.5 PROPOSAL 5 – RETIRED MINISTERS

It is proposed that those presently in receipt of the “annual bonus” will in effect continue to receive it and that this will be achieved as follows:

##### (a) Those with pre 78 service

Ministers with service prior to 1 April 1978 will be entitled to receive a pension from that fund calculated in accordance with the Rules of the Fund (and without any reduction for the “annual bonus” but with a reduction for the Regium Donum or monthly CMF payment). Where the calculated amount, less the Regium Donum, is less than the annual bonus they should receive the shortfall from the Central Ministry Fund as a special grant under Para 315(5).



**(b) Those with no pre 78 service**

To ensure their retirement income is not reduced they should receive a special grant from the Central Ministry Fund under Para 315(5) equivalent to the present annual bonus.

In respect of any amounts due under 4.5(a) and 4.5(b) as a special grant, this is a fixed amount and not subject to an annual review.

**4.6 PROPOSAL 6 – THE REGIUM DONUM**

It is proposed that the part of the “bonus” historically linked to the Regium Donum and funded through income from the Sustentation and Commutation Funds should continue to be paid to all “qualifying ministers”. It is estimated this would be set initially at £360 per minister per year but would be reviewed on an annual basis in light of income received. Using historical income the annual amounts would have been;

<b>Sustentation / Commutation Fund Income</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Per Qual. Minister</b>	<b>Total Bonus</b>	<b>Bonus</b>	<b>Qualifying Ministers</b>
2013	224,473	386	882,016	1,518	581
2012	224,454	389	876,626	1,518	577
2011	210,302	363	878,627	1,518	579
2010	207,460	358	881,017	1,518	580
2009	218,558	383	865,413	1,518	570
2008	252,438	442	866,033	1,518	571

The Committee concluded that the name “Bonus” is not helpful and that in future the payment from the Sustentation/Commutation Funds should be referred to as the “Regium Donum” to maintain the historical link to the original source of the income.

**4.7 PROPOSAL 7 – BOARDS AND AGENCIES THAT USE THE BASIC MINISTERIAL MINIMUM**

Rather than adopt the proposal set out in 3(b) it is proposed that the annual bonus is incorporated into the Basic Ministerial Minimum. As a consequence other Boards and Agencies which use the Basic Ministerial Minister as a basis for remuneration or grants should reassess their remuneration arrangements and e.g. consider amending the percentage of the minimum which is paid.

**4.8 CODE CHANGE**

An appropriate Overture to amend Paragraph 315(2) of the Code is appended.

## SUMMARY OF PRESBYTERY RETURNS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

	£stg unless indicated	[----- INCOME -----]		[----- EXPENDITURE -----]				TOTAL EXPENDITURE	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	CLOSING BALANCE		
		Assessment	Other	TOTAL INCOME	Presbytery Clerk	Other Staff	Insurance				Other	
1	Ard	20,876	17,585	314	17,899	(10,848)	(5,385)	(214)	(3,733)	(20,180)	(2,281)	18,595
2	Armagh	4,144	10,199	313	10,512	(8,657)	(200)	(207)	(1,375)	(10,439)	73	4,217
3	Ballymena	9,594	17,403	3,413	20,816	(11,320)	(3,500)	(207)	(5,787)	(20,814)	2	9,596
4	Belfast North	7,431	15,924	1,253	17,177	(10,971)	(4,400)	(306)	(4,518)	(20,195)	(3,018)	4,413
5	Belfast South	12,610	15,266	17,941	33,207	(8,470)	(16,299)	(207)	(4,612)	(29,588)	3,619	16,229
6	Belfast East	144,293	21,502	4,541	26,043	(5,837)	(6,092)	(207)	(15,223)	(27,359)	(1,316)	142,977
7	Carrickfergus	9,734	10,918	12	10,930	(9,218)	(640)	(127)	(1,444)	(11,329)	(399)	9,335
8	Coleraine & Limavady	39,429	9,364	0	9,364	(9,315)	(873)	(207)	(2,411)	(12,806)	(3,442)	35,987
9	Derry & Donegal	27,143	31,273	25,873	57,146	(12,000)	(917)	(207)	(33,511)	(46,635)	10,511	37,654
10	Down	29,082	9,937	2,676	12,613	(6,338)	0	(207)	(3,331)	(9,876)	2,737	31,819
11	Dromore	2,208	12,855	0	12,855	(10,306)	(1,700)	(207)	(522)	(12,735)	120	2,328
12	€ Dublin & Munster	46,570	17,609	31,151	48,760	(8,287)	(25,395)	(646)	(12,111)	(46,439)	2,321	48,891
13	Iveagh	12,159	13,212	337	13,549	(9,824)	(850)	(207)	(1,950)	(12,831)	718	12,877
14	€ Monaghan	58,400	5,490	17,340	22,830	(2,050)	(2,315)	(417)	(19,010)	(23,792)	(962)	57,438
15	Newry	3,209	10,531	691	11,222	(7,327)	(300)	(127)	(1,831)	(9,585)	1,637	4,846
16	Omagh	13,334	11,391	686	12,077	(7,273)	(1,828)	(207)	(1,934)	(11,242)	835	14,169
17	Route	138,742	11,553	9,742	21,295	(8,902)	(350)	(207)	(8,273)	(17,732)	3,563	142,305
18	Templepatrick	15,054	17,400	5,524	22,924	(8,268)	(650)	(272)	(12,662)	(21,852)	1,072	16,126
19	Tyrone	743	11,382	544	11,926	(7,514)	(1,000)	(207)	(828)	(9,549)	2,377	3,120
	Sterling	489,785	247,695	73,860	321,555	(152,368)	(44,884)	(3,530)	(103,945)	(304,747)	16,808	506,593
	Euro	104,970	23,099	48,491	71,590	(10,337)	(27,710)	(1,063)	(31,121)	(70,231)	1,359	106,329

Note re Iveagh – Closing Balance 31 December 2012 £10,869 adjusted to £12,159

**Additional Resolution**

5a. That the proposals set out in the “Review of the Central Ministry Fund Bonus” be approved and implemented on 1 January 2015.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Basil McCorrison, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the overall rate of assessment on Congregations for 2014, based on Congregations’ assessable income for 2012, be (*comparative figures for 2013 shown for information*)

**Resolutions**

Assessment Band	Assessable Income (3)		Assessment Rate 2014	Assessment Rate 2013
	From	To		
1	0	64,999	14.50%	14.00%
2	65,000	129,999	10.75%	10.50%
3	130,000	194,999	7.25%	7.00%
4	195,000	259,000	3.50	3.50%
5	260,000	and above	0.00%	0.00%

and that amounts collected be allocated to the various assessment funds based on the following budgeted collected amounts (*comparative figures for 2013 shown for information*)

	2014	Allocation of first band %	2013	Allocation of first band %
Central Ministry Fund	£2,700,000	8.61%	£2,532,000	8.17%
Retired Ministers Fund	£50,000	0.16%	£155,000	0.50%
Widows of Ministers Fund	£300,000	0.96%	£410,000	1.32%
Prolonged Disability Fund	£29,000	0.09%	£28,000	0.09%
Incidental Fund	£650,000	2.07%	£519,000	1.68%
Ministerial Development Fund	£25,000	0.08%	£27,000	0.09%
Church House External Work	£370,000	1.18%	£370,000	1.20%
Sick Supply Fund	£26,000	0.08%	£26,000	0.08%
Students Bursary Fund	£400,000	1.27%	£425,000	1.37%
TOTAL	£4,550,000	14.50%	£4,492,000	14.50%

3. That the rate of assessment for the PCI Pension (2009) Fund for 2013 be 27.5% of stipend.

4. That under the provisions of the Code Par 556(3) the Very Rev Dr William Donald Patton (Randalstown OC) be given permission to retire on or after his 64th birthday, i.e. 31 January 2015.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Basil McCorrison:

5. That the recommendations set out in the Report of the Tyrone Memorial Appraisals Panel, other than recommendation (vi), be adopted with effect from 1 January 2015.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Dr Mark Gray, seconded by the Rev Dr Alan Russell:

That the recommendations set out in the Report of the Tyrone Memorial Appraisals Panel, other than recommendation (vi) be adopted with effect from 1 January 2015 and that a panel of representatives from the General Board, Union Commission, the Board of Christian Training and the Board of Finance and Personnel be set up to examine relationships among how the church's workers are paid and report back to the 2015 General Assembly, with recommendations.

On being put to the House, the amendment was declared lost.

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

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Basil McCorrison:

5a. That the proposals set out in the “Review of the Central Ministry Fund Bonus” be approved and implemented on 1 January 2015.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Dr Alan Russell, seconded by the Rev John Murdock:

That the proposals set out in the “Review of the Central Ministry Fund Bonus” be sent back for further consideration and that the Board of Finance and Personnel investigate and report on the principle that part of the remuneration of ministers should be from the central funds of the Church.

A card vote was taken, 106 votes were cast for and 106 votes were cast against. The voting on the amendment was tied.

In light of this, the House agreed that the original motion and the two licensed amendments should be referred back to the Board of Finance and Personnel for further consideration and report to the 2015 General Assembly.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Basil McCorrison, and agreed:

6. That the Board keeps under review government proposals for the introduction of a flat rate state pension and the possible withdrawal of the contracting out national insurance rebate and report to the 2015 General Assembly with any cost implications.

7. That for the purposes of the Annual Statistical Return a family should be regarded as the members of the household irrespective of age or whether there are contributing members.

8. That the Annual Statistical Return should include a request for the number of elders emeritus connected with the congregation.

The **Overture anent Pars 257(2)(a) of the Code (Reports p 263)** was submitted by Mr John Hunter, CB. Overtures

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Basil McCorrison and agreed:

That the Overture anent Pars 257(2)(a) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

**Overtures anent Pars 10-14 and Par 212 of the Code. (Reports pp153 – 158) – debate resumed (see page 46)**

Moved by the Rev DJ Bruce, seconded by the Rev Prof Drew Gibson:

That the Overture anent Pars 10-14 of the Code be received and sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Jim Gordon, seconded by the Rev Joseph Andrews:

That the Overture anent Pars 10-14 of the Code be received but that in Par 11 the words “and inalienable” be added after the word “God-given”.

On being put to the House, the amendment was declared lost.

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

The **Overture anent Par 212 of the Code (Reports pp 153-158)** was submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

Moved by the Rev DJ Bruce, seconded by the Rev Prof Drew Gibson and agreed:

That the overture anent Par 212 of the Code be received and sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

Moved as an amendment by the Very Rev Dr John Lockington, seconded by the Rev Andrew Thompson and agreed:

That the Overture anent Par 212 of the Code be received but that the words “teaching and pastoring all the people” in section 5, question (viii), be replaced by “visiting and teaching, pastoring all the people”.

### Intermission

**Overture anent Par 212 of the Code** (Reports pp 153-158), debate resumed.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Cyril Scott, seconded by the Rev Gilbert Young:

That the Overture anent Par 212 of the Code be received, that section 5, question (iii) be omitted and the question “Do you believe the Word of God in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the only infallible rule of faith and practice” substituted in its place.

On being put to the House, the amendment was declared lost.

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

#### UNITED APPEAL BOARD

The Report of the **UNITED APPEAL BOARD** (Reports pp 264-271) was submitted by the Rev RIA Allely.

Moved by the Rev RIA Allely, seconded by the Very Rev Dr John Dunlop, and agreed:

#### Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the United Appeal for 2015 be as set out in the Schedules (iii) and (iv).
3. That the General Assembly encourage all Congregations to make use of the available promotional materials, especially the downloadable videos.
4. That the General Assembly designate the 1st Sunday in March, or other suitable Sunday, as United Appeal for Mission Sunday.

#### BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS cont'd.

**BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS – debate resumed (see page 44)**

#### Resolutions

6. That the General Assembly give thanks that from the conflict in Ireland the Church has resources (people, skills and experience) to share that testify to the reconciling work of God in Christ, and commit to pray for peace in South Sudan, Central Asia and in Ireland.

7. That the General Assembly and Presbyteries encourage the use of the guidelines leaflets, 'What and Why, Partnership in the Gospel' and 'Congregational Advice on Hosting a LIT' in order to highlight and develop interest at congregational level in the important work of leadership development in the context of global mission, and opening PCI Congregations to learning from our partners on Fit For Purpose themes, including 'a people of service and outreach'.

8. That the General Assembly commend the Overseas Mission Poster, with its inclusion of partner Church Leaders in Training, alongside PCI's overseas mission personnel, and encourages prominent display and prayerful use in local Congregations.

9. That the General Assembly give thanks for the strategic opportunities afforded to BMO's Mission Involvement Committee to share in the training of students for the ministry and licentiates, and encourage BMO's Leadership Development Committee to engage with the Union Theological College Faculty and the Board of Christian Training (BCT) on maximising the effectiveness and integrity of leadership training of PCI and her global partners.

10. That the General Assembly request particular care be taken in facilitating mission development and mission involvement to ensure PCI's focus be outward-looking and faithful to the global gospel.

11. That the General Assembly celebrate and give thanks for the exceptional and continuing generosity of the Congregations and members of the PCI in supporting both the 2013 World Development Appeal and the Special Appeal for the Philippines, and encourage prayerful support for the 2014 Appeal focusing on Haiti and Burma/Myanmar.

**GENERAL BOARD– debate resumed (see page 58)**

**GENERAL  
BOARD cont'd.**

**Resolutions**

33. That the General Assembly recognise the Gospel imperative of working for a shared and better society and appeals to Presbyterian ministers and elders to give a greater lead in calling their congregations both to pray about these matters and to work for the welfare of our divided communities.

34. That the Presbyterian Church in Ireland commend to all her leaders and people a gospel-centred peacebuilding which is demonstrated in a generosity of spirit towards all people across our divided society recognising that our call to a ministry of reconciliation challenges us to build good relationships with all in public life for the future good of the whole community.

35. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Annes Nel as Convener of the Global Concerns Committee be noted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Richard Kerr appointed in his place.

### Church Relations

36. That the following grants (approx.) be made:
- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| Irish Council of Churches                  | £20,150 |
| Irish Inter-Church Meeting                 | £11,180 |
| World Communion of Reformed Churches       | £13,000 |
| Conference of European Churches            | £5,500  |
| Community of Protestant Churches in Europe | £1,250  |

### Reception of Ministers and Licentiates

37. That the General Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee regarding ministers and licentiates.

### Elders' Term

38. That the report be received and the ad-hoc Committee on Term Eldership, including its Convener the Rev Dr Brian Savage, be thanked and discharged.

### General

39. That a budget of £5,000 be made available from the Incidental Fund for the general work of the Board.

40. That the General Assembly approve the Advice and Guidance on the indexing of congregational records.

41. That the General Assembly approve the Advice for Presbyterian Churches who have been approached by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland to have their records digitised.

42. That a grant of £17,750 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

**Overtures** The **Overtures anent Pars 75(a) and 132 of the Code (Reports p 65)** were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 75(a) and 132 of the Code be received and placed on the books.

2. That the Overtures anent Pars 75(a) and 132 of the Code be made an Interim Act.

The **Overtures anent Pars 161(1)(b) and 162(2) of the Code (Reports p 65)** were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

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

That the Overtures anent Pars 161(1)(b) and 162(2) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.



The **Overture anent Par 128 of the Code** was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts as follows:

It is hereby Overtured to the General Assembly to enact that paragraph 128 of the Code be deleted and the following substituted in its place:

128. (1) **The Linkage Commission** shall consist of:
- (a) The Moderator, and Clerk of the General Assembly; Commission Convener and Secretary; the Deputy Clerk; three representatives of the Council for Mission in Ireland; Conveners of the Commission Panels.
  - (b) One direct nominee from each Presbytery.
  - (c) Nine nominees of the Nominations Committee.
2. Ten members shall form a quorum for the Commission.
- (3) (a) The Commission shall have Assembly powers to determine conditions under which congregations shall be linked, vacant pastorates filled or supplied, associate pastorates established, special ministries provided, auxiliary ministry posts established, additional pastoral personnel posts authorised and to deal with such other matters as the Assembly may from time to time refer to it. The law of the Church shall apply where relevant to associate ministers where ministers of congregations are referred to but the associate minister shall have no entitlement as such to benefits for the minister in active service.
- (b) The Commission shall approve additional pastoral personnel and auxiliary ministry posts, as appropriate.
- (4) Before any step is taken by a congregation or Presbytery towards filling a vacancy in the pastorate of a congregation, the sanction of the Commission evidenced under the hand of its Convener shall be first obtained.
- (5) Prior to such sanction being given and after consultation with the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned, the Commission shall go into the merits of the case and decide –
- (a) whether the case is one for continuance, linkage, dissolution, porting or other special provisions as may be appropriate, including dissolution of existing linkages for alternative arrangements;
  - (b) what minimum of stipend, Central Ministry Fund contributions, ministerial expenses and other sums shall be paid from local sources or what grants shall be made from central funds;
  - (c) what other special terms should be set or arrangements made for leave to call, pulpit supply or pastoral oversight;
  - (d) to what Presbytery a newly linked or ported congregation shall belong.
- (6) Where there is not a vacancy in the pastorate of a congregation, the Commission shall have power –
- (a) upon report from Presbytery or a request from the congregation, to examine the matter and act accordingly;

- (b) to arrange the retirement from active duty or alternative employment of a minister, upon such terms as may be agreed, to facilitate linkage with a vacant congregation;
  - (c) where a minister in active duty proposes to undertake additionally a paid public appointment, to examine the proposal and act accordingly so that his duties to the Church shall be discharged and no improper demand made upon the manpower and resources of the Church.
- (7) In congregations and Charges served by ministers under the Home Mission, ordained assistants or other agents of the Church, the Commission shall have power to –
- (a) determine the remuneration of those so serving and allocate the cost among the various funds of the Church;
  - (b) determine the contributions to be made by the congregations or charges to various funds of the Church in respect of services received.
- (8) The Commission shall consider church architecture issues and provide for the examination of all plans and proposals for the building, alterations, renovation or demolition of all or part of Churches, Church halls and manses, as well as all proposals and designs for memorials, windows and artificial lighting, and for the seating and furnishings requisite for the conduct of public worship, observing rules agreed by the General Assembly from time to time.

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

1. That the Overture anent Par 128 of the Code be received and placed on the books.

The **Overture anent Pars 268-288 of the Code (Reports pp 66-78)** was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following additional report:

**Anent Par 272 of the Code**

To add: 272 (9) The Council may call ministers to work in the administration of the Church or to facilitate the work of this or other Councils.

**Anent Par 277 of the Code**

To add: 277 (4) The Council may call ministers, elders, deaconesses or lay agents to recognised work in Ireland and allocate them to their spheres of service.

**Anent Par 278 of the Code**

To add: 278 (4) The Council may select and call missionaries and allocate them to their spheres of service.

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

That the Overture anent Pars 268-288 of the Code, in its amended form, be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church with effect from 1st January 2015.

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS – debate resumed at Resolution 4 (see page 63)**

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS cont'd. Resolutions**

4. That the General Assembly support a comprehensive review of University and Further Education Chaplains.

5. That the General Assembly endorse the vital work of university chaplaincies and encourage chaplains to maximise opportunities to support students on campus, in particular during more stressful periods

6. That the General Assembly communicate to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety their on-going concerns with regards to Health Care Services and the on-going concerns in relation to the “Transforming Your Care Review”.

7. That the General Assembly acknowledge the huge sacrifice paid by so many in the First World War and encourage acts of Remembrance at the appropriate time.

8. That the resignation of the Rev Bobby Liddle as Convener of the Board of Social Witness be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Colin Megaw appointed in his place.

9. That the resignation of the Very Rev Dr Donald Patton as Convener of Specialist Ministries be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Liz Hughes appointed in his place.

The **Memorial of the Directors of the Old Age Fund (Reports pp 182-183)** was submitted by the Rev WPH Erskine.

**Memorial Old Age Fund**

Moved by the Rev WPH Erskine, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

The final report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** was submitted by the Clerk, the Rev Dr DJ Watts, as follows:

**BUSINESS BOARD**

The Business Board met once during the Assembly to review the Order of Business and license additional amendments. In light of the decision on the Structures Review a resolution is also being brought to appoint the existing Boards and Committees to 31 December 2014. The membership of the John Getty Committee is also included by resolution.

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the membership of the Boards and Committees of the General Assembly, with permission for the Clerk to make any necessary amendments, be appointed to 31 December, 2014 as follows:

**Resolutions**

**I.—GENERAL BOARD**

The Clerk, Convener

- (a) Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, preceding three Moderators and former Clerks of Assembly, Assembly Conveners and Secretaries of Commissions and Boards.
- (b) Revs Dr RA Russell, Dr WP Addley; Alan Boyd, Peter Davison — Revs EP Gamble, CG Harris; J McIlwaine, JG MacQueen — Revs JJ Andrews, RM Murray; J Lamont, H Kenneway — Revs TC Morrison, IK McDonald; DA Crowe, Tommy McWatters — CWL Graham; Rev WJ Orr; Mrs R Wilson, OA McAuley — Martin Hampton; Rev AC Rankin; John McKibbin, Sam Miskelly — Revs TJ Stothers, RJ Gilkinson; R Kennedy, Brian Clenaghan — Revs WI Hunter, RD Gregg; Cecil Lynn, George McIntyre — Revs Dr TR Buick, Dr David Latimer; Don McClay, David Amour — Revs Dr BCG Black, MM Stewart; John Hanna, William McCall — Revs JI Davey, Paul Jamieson; M Noble, Miss Evelyn Whyte — Stuart Ferguson; Rev Andy Carroll; Denis Poynton, \_\_\_\_\_ — Revs Dr IJ Patterson, RA Moffett; \_\_\_\_\_, Dr Denis McLeod — Revs SG Anketell, GJ Mackarel; David Russell, Charles Mills — Revs SA Finlay, SS Johnston; William Grills, Dr Helen McDowell — Revs Robert Herron, JH Hanson; N Baxter, TR Reid — Revs Noel McClean, Dr JA Thompson; Victor McLean, \_\_\_\_\_ — Revs WJ Murdock, Brian Kennaway; Hugh Matchett, George Lynn — Revs TJ Conway, AS Thompson; Orr Gibson, WGN Johnston.
- (g) Revs Dr RI Birney, DH Thompson, Dr JW Lockington, Dr RB Savage, RA McLernon; Mrs Caroline Hawthorne, Mrs Deborah Webster, Mrs Sarah Harding, Mrs Avril Heenan, Mrs Pauline Kennedy, Miss Muriel Cromie, Ms Laura Kelly, Mervyn McCullagh, Graeme Thompson.

**A. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE**

Revs Dr TN Hamilton, Dr KD McCrory, Co-Conveners

- (a) The Moderator, preceding Moderator, Clerk, former Clerks, and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Moderator-Designate, Global Concerns Convener, Church and Society Conveners, Press and Media Secretary.
- (x) Revs John Brackenridge, AC Wilson, JA Kirkpatrick; Edgar Jardine, Miss Elizabeth McCaffrey, John Hunter, Mrs Ethel White.
- (y) Revs Brian Kennaway, RM Murray, EP Gamble, SS Johnston; Dr Helen McDowell, Denis Poynton, Charles Mills.

**B. GLOBAL CONCERNS**

Rev RC Kerr, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Committee Convener, Conveners of Environment, Building Good Relations, Race Relations Panels, Representative of Board of Mission Overseas, Church Relations.
- (x) Rev WD Weir; Bertie Stirling.
- (y) Revs Dr WP Addley, Dr RA Russell; Alan Boyd.

**C. CHURCH RELATIONS** Rev L Kennedy-Ritchie, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Committee Convener, Prof of Systematic Theology, Representative of Youth and Children's Ministry, Board of Mission in Ireland, Board of Mission Overseas and Global Concerns.
- (x) Revs TJ Wilson, DB Knox, Simon Henning, Dr DJ Watts.
- (y) Revs JJ Andrews, Dr RA Russell; Stuart Ferguson, \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. DOCTRINE COMMITTEE** Principal, UTC, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, General Assembly's Theological Professors.
- (x) Revs SD Finlay, Dr Michael McClenahan, Colin Burcombe; Roy Thompson, Dr TD Alexander, Dr Cynthia Brown, Miss D Ford.
- (y) Revs Robert Herron, GJ Mackarel, Dr RA Russell, SA Finlay, Dr IJ Patterson, RA Moffett, AC Rankin.

**E. PRIORITIES COMMITTEE** The Clerk, Convener

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Secretaries.
- (x) Conveners of: Union Commission; Mission Overseas, Mission in Ireland; Social Witness; Youth and Children's Ministry; Christian Training; Finance and Personnel; United Appeal Boards.
- (y) Revs Dr RA Russell, RA Moffett, AS Thompson, RD Gregg; Mrs R Wilson, CWL Graham, Stuart Ferguson, George McIntyre.

**F. MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Clerk, Convener

- (a) The Moderator, preceding three Moderators, Clerk, former Clerks, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Press and Media Secretary.
- (x) Rev DR Baker; Mrs Lisa Skinner, Mrs Cherry Poynton, Lindsay Conway, Joe Campbell.
- (y) Revs JJ Andrews, TJ Conway, SG Anketell, Paul Jamieson; Noel Baxter.

**G. RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES COMMITTEE**

Rev Dr IJ Patterson, Convener

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Committee Convener, Convener of Board of Christian Training, Convener and Director of Ministerial Studies, Convener Church Relations, Principal UTC, Secretary of Board of Mission in Ireland.
- (x) Revs KWJ Hanna, TN Bingham, PA McBride, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie; David McMullan, Miss Anne Taylor.

- (y) Revs SA Finlay, WJ Murdock, TC Morrison; Alan Boyd, Stuart Ferguson.

### III.—BUSINESS BOARD

The Clerk, Convener

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Moderator-Designate, former Clerks, preceding three Moderators, Conveners and Secretaries of Commissions and Boards.
- (b) Rev JH Flaherty; Mrs EJ Mann – Rev CUR Bradley; WK Belshaw – Rev MJR Neilly; James Lamont – Rev GF McKeown; GY Crooks – Rev MS Gault; David McCleery – Rev MR Burnside; John Black – Rev TR Graham; R Kennedy – Rev JA McCaughan; Joseph Cassells – Rev Dr RL Craig; William Watson – Rev SA Woodburn; Bill Reid – Rev AS Thompson; Gordon Lindsay – Rev SJ Lockington; Stuart Ferguson – Rev MG McClelland; Albert Johnston – Rev GJ Mackarel; Ronnie Gillanders – Rev DB Murphy; J Copeland – Rev RN Orr; N Morrison – Rev RW Gaston; Mrs Mabel Campbell – Rev WJ Murdock; JH McClurg – Rev Dr AR Rodgers; EM Carroll.

#### A. ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Rev GE Best, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the Moderator-Designate, Deputy Clerk, Head of Press and Media, Hospitality Secretary, Buildings Manager; Committee Convener.
- (x) Rev Dr RL Craig; Mrs Fiona Watts Mrs Joyce Anderson, Gary Nesbitt.
- (y) Revs JH Flaherty, MR Burnside, RN Orr, WJ Murdock, JA McCaughan, MG McClelland; WK Belshaw, David McCleery.

### IV.—BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS

Rev Cheryl Meban, Convener

Rev WS Marrs, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Convener and Secretary of the Board; Representative of Church Relations, Board of Mission in Ireland, Board of Youth and Children's Ministry, Personnel Officer (Overseas), Finance Officer (Overseas).
- (b) Revs NW McAuley, Dr WJP Bailie; Mrs OE Byers — Revs DR Byers, PL McKelvey; Mrs Joan Thompson — Rev JA Beattie; J Petrie, Mrs Joan Hamill — Revs DJ McIlwaine, JR Dickinson; Mrs Renee Gifford — Revs Prof WG Campbell, Robert Love; Dr Joan McQuoid — Rev Joan Scott; Mrs Ruth Campbell, Miss Leonora Wasson — John McKay, Miss R Kelso, Miss Marie Kane — Rev TP Fleming; Mrs Heather Clements, \_\_\_\_\_ — Rev Colin McKibbin; Mrs Ruth Dale, Robin Crockett — Revs Dr AF Nel, Lesley-Ann Wilson; \_\_\_\_\_ — Rev RD Cameron; I Murdock, Mrs Elma Leeburn — Revs JG Faris,

S Mawhinney, Dr KP Meyer — Rev JL Rutherford; Robert Cupples, Mrs Helen Mateer — Rev Stanley Stewart; Eric Latimer, Mrs Isobel Davidson — Revs RK Graham, FJ Gibson; Mrs Grace McCullough — Revs JH Hanson, RB Thompson PJ Nelson — Revs Rodney Moody, KDW Crowe; Mrs Nessie Moore — Rev DJ Steele; HH Meekin, Mrs Jean Duncan — Rev JA Curry; Dr Maureen Stevenson, Mrs Shirley Walker.

- (p) President, Overseas Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Ms Margaret Matthews, Mrs Pamela McManus, Mrs Jean Farlow, Mrs Edith Holmes, Mrs Elizabeth Moffett.

#### **A. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Miss Marie Kane, Convener

Rev WS Marrs, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener; Mission Development Officer (Overseas); Personnel Officer (Overseas).
- (x) Revs BAH Wilson, NSR Lockhart, Stephen McCracken, David Stanfield; Mrs Isobel McAuley, Tony McGall.
- (y) Revs JG Faris, JH Hanson, \_\_\_\_\_; Mrs Grace McCullough, Mrs Shirley Walker, Mrs Ruth Campbell.

#### **B. MISSION INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Maurice McNicholl, Convener

CN Eves, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener, Mission Development Officer (Overseas), Mission Training Officer, Personnel Officer (Overseas).
- (x) Rev DH Thompson; Mrs Elizabeth Moffett, Mrs Brenda Kerr, John Doherty, Mrs Jean Gibson, Mrs Sandra Stokes.
- (y) Revs PL McKelvey, Dr WJP Bailie; HH Meekin, Mrs OE Byers, Mrs Edith Holmes, Mrs Joan Hamill.

#### **C. OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

Rev DJ Steele, Convener

Rev WS Marrs, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener, Mission Development Officer (Overseas), Convener of World Development; Rev SJ Richmond.
- (x) Revs NE Dorrans, Alistair McCracken; Mrs Valerie Tweedie, Joe Campbell, Ivan Murdock, Mrs Helen Quinn.
- (y) Revs Stanley Stewart, TP Fleming, Colin McKibbin; Mrs Jean Farlow, Mrs Heather Clements, Dr Maureen Stevenson.

**D. WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Rev KP Meyer, Convener

Rev WS Marrs, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener, Mission Development Officer (Overseas), Church Relations representative, Convener of Outreach Ministries Committee.
- (x) Revs Dr Samuel Hutchinson, Steve Stockman; Ms Helen Lindsay, Mrs Moyra Stirling, Mrs Fiona Forbes, Ralph Sheppard.
- (y) Revs Joan Scott, Dr AF Nel, Robert Love, Lesley-Ann Wilson; Miss Leonora Wasson, \_\_\_\_\_.

**V.— BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND (BMI)**

Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus, Convener

Rev DJ Bruce, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Representatives of Social Witness, Education, Christian Training, Youth and Children's Ministry and Mission Overseas Boards, and Union Commission; two Deaconess representatives, CMF Representative.
- (b) Revs SA Little, GJ Kennedy; Mrs Debra Anderson — Revs TA McNeely, AD Davidson; Miss Janice Allen — Revs MD McNeely, JG Johnston; Miss E Drysdale — Revs Dr ID Neish, David Clawson; Mrs Margaret Myers — Revs Dr RM Crooks, Ivan Steen; Mrs Jean Gwyn Patton — Revs FP Sellar, Danny Rankin; Mrs Lorraine Rankin — Rev RI Carton; Alan Doole, Mrs J McClure — Revs Mark Goudy, Raymond Kelly; Mrs Nan Nixon — Revs Stephen Richmond, TJ Bruce; Mrs Olive Boreland — Revs DJ Hyndman, SA Woodburn; Ms Jean Shields — Rev WJ Todd; James McDowell, Mrs V Payne — Revs AJ Boal, AJ Dunlop, Helen Freeburn — Revs Seamus Burke, MN Davidson; Mrs B Cheney — Revs Molly Deatherage, NS Millen; Uel Gamble — Revs WT Bingham, AD Mullan; Mrs Ruth Johnston — Revs IT McKee, RG McElnea; Mrs Y Mulligan — Revs Peter Douglas, HW Mullan; Mrs Jacqueline Turton — Revs Karen Campbell, George Moore; Mrs Joan Simpson — Revs DH Brown, JA Spence; Mrs Alison Spence.
- (p) President, Home Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Mrs Pat Martin, Mrs Elma Leeburn, Mrs Elaine Crockett, Mrs Pauline Irvine, Mrs Liz Hamilton.

**A. STRATEGY FOR MISSION COMMITTEE**

Rev BD Colvin, Convener

Rev DJ Bruce, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener, PW Central President, PW Home Vice-President, Convener and Secretary of BMI Communications Committee, Mission



Development Officer (Ireland), BMI Support Officer, Nightlight Panel Convener, Convener BMI Personnel Committee.

- (x) Revs RSJ McIlhatton, Daniel Reyes-Martin, Alistair McNeely, Andy Carroll, Seamus Burke; Mrs Margaret McKenna.
- (y) Revs DH Brown, Ivan Steen, AD Davidson, Molly Deatherage, MD McNeely, MN Davidson, TJ Bruce.

## **B. RESEARCH AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Rev Stephen Richmond, Convener

Rev DH Thompson, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener and Secretary, Convener of Training and Resources Committee (BCT), Christian Training Development Officer (BCT), Communications Officer (BMI), Prof Practical Theology, Divine Healing Agent, one representative of Youth & Children's Ministry, Mission Overseas Board, Committee Secretary.
- (x) Revs Lesley-Ann Wilson, Dr RB Savage, JSB Drennan, Ben Walker, Colin Dickson, Gareth McFadden; Miss Roberta Irvine.
- (y) Revs David Clawson, SA Little, FP Sellar, Dr RM Crooks, GJ Kennedy, DJ Hyndman; Mrs Ruth Johnston.

## **C. CHURCH ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE**

TR Reid, Convener

Miss L Beatty, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Conveners of BMI Property Committee, Finance Committee, Committee Convener and Secretary.
- (x) Brian Knox, Kenneth Fleming, William Watt, John McCullagh.
- (y) Revs George Moore, Ian Carton; Uel Gamble, Mrs Joan Simpson.

## **VI.—SOCIAL WITNESS BOARD**

Rev CW Megaw, Convener

L Conway, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Residential Services Manager, Rev RA Liddle.
- (b) Revs CJC McMullen, MR Catney; Mrs Ann Murray — Revs WJI Thompson, PL McKelvey; Mrs Sadie Somerville — Revs DJ Kane, DB McCorrison; Mrs Phyllis Linton — Revs Dr Norman Hamilton, Samuel Newell; Miss Doreen Draffin — Revs BR Hughes, AE Tolland, Miss Mary Angus — Mrs Margaret Cromie, Don Harley, Mrs Sylvia McCracken — Revs David Chapman, GAJ Farquhar; Mrs Kay Fisher — Rev Dr RA Kane; Mrs Lorna Livinston, Miss Helen Lowry — Revs Amanda Best, PE Linkens, KA Jones — Miss Zena McAllister, Barry

Redhead, Mrs Joan Telford — Miss J McKee, Brian Magowan, Mrs M Staniland — Revs SW Rea; Ms Elizabeth Nicholson, \_\_\_\_\_  
— Rev Kenneth Nelson; Mrs Ruby Hamilton, Mrs Sharon Henry — Rev WJA Buchanan; Mrs Nan Bradford, Wilfred Carleton — Rev NJE Reid; RE McWilliams, Mrs Esther Barry — Rev RSG Beacom; Mrs EM Patterson, Miss IM Anderson — Revs Alan Buick, JP Stanbridge; Mrs Michele McClean — Rev ES McDowell; JH McClurg, Mrs Jane Robinson — Revs SJM Lindsay, Dr AR Rodgers; Mrs Eva Russell.

- (p) President, Home Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Mrs Christine Davidson, Mrs Evelyn Coleman, Mrs Lynda Stothers, Dr Jean Shannon, Mrs Anne Thompson.

**A. SPECIALIST MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

Rev SE Hughes, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Convener Kinghan Church, Chaplains, Forces, Student Services Committees.  
(x) Miss Muriel Cromie, Mrs Carol Houston, Mrs Sharon Henry.  
(y) Revs SJM Lindsay, David Chapman; Mrs Kay Fisher.

**B. OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Rev JN Seawright, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Residential Services Manager.  
(x) Local Support Committee Representatives.  
(y) Revs Amanda Best, NJE Reid; Mrs Sadie Somerville, Mrs Evelyn Coleman, Mrs Caroline Hawthorne, Mrs Lynda Stothers, Ms Elizabeth Nicholson, Mrs Esther Barry.

**C. FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Rev Anne Tolland, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Conveners Learning Disability; Disability, Health and Wellbeing, PCI Family Holiday; Residential Services Manager.  
(x) Miss Joyce McKee, Mrs Margaret McGuiggan, Mrs Sylvia McCracken.  
(y) Rev GAJ Farquhar; Miss Doreen Draffin, Don Harley.

**D. ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Rev CW Megaw, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Conveners Carlisle House and Thompson House, Residential Services Manager.  
(x) Revs Terry Laverty, Colin Anderson; Harry Minion.

- (y) Rev PE Linkens; Miss Helen Lowry, Miss Zena McAllister.

## VII.—BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Rev GJ Kennedy, Convener

Miss B McDade, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Acting Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry, Conveners of Research and Resources (BMI), Training and Resources (BCT) Committees, Full-time University Chaplains.
- (b) Revs RJ Montgomery, DW Leach — Rev PD Thompson; Graham Doherty — Rev WJA Moody; Jonathan Boyd — Rev EJ Hyndman; Miss Deborah McKelvey — Rev GR Connor; Johnny Bell — Andrew McCann, Mrs Laura Magee — RJ Collins, Stuart Hawthorne — Revs JA Kirkpatrick, CJ Aitchison — Rev DM Shaw; Andy Lamberton — Stanley McFarland, Scott Moore — Rev Gareth McFadden; M Glenn — Revs Andy Carroll, MRJ Anderson — Revs SW Hibbert, TP McCullough, — Charles Mills, Richard Carleton — Rev AD Mullan; Ronald Annett, — Rev NRA Cooper; C Busby — Revs Gareth MacLean, Peter Turton — Jonathan Alexander, RWH Hill — Revs JM Gracey, JD Montgomery.
- (g) Mrs C Murray, Mrs J Craig, Mrs S Campbell, Mrs G Ditty, Mrs C McQuigg, G MacLean, A Brown, Miss S Moore, Mrs Alison Fleming, Mrs Thia Dickie, Mrs S McKane, Mrs G Brownlow, Mrs L Dowey, Ms Christine Craig, Ms Nicole Craig, Convener and Secretary of SPUD.

### A. TRAINING COMMITTEE

Rev Darran McCorriston, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Acting Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry, Youth Development Officer, Children’s Development Officer, Young Adults’ Development Officer, 2 SPUD Representatives.
- (x) Mrs Michelle Purdy, Miss Nicola Morrison, Mrs G McCormick, Neil Harrison, Michael Ylie.
- (y) Revs GR Connor, Gareth McFadden, JA Kirkpatrick; Scott Moore, Mrs L Magee.

### B. MINISTRY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Rev DS Brownlow, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Acting Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry, Children’s Development Officer, Youth Development Officer, Young Adults’ Development Officer, 2 SPUD Representatives.
- (x) Mrs Nicola Clarke, Ms Ruth Strong, Miss Nicky Bradley, Mrs Clare Woodward, Jim McDowell.

- (y) Revs DM Shaw, Peter Turton, David Leach, PD Thompson; Jonathan Bell.

### **C. DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE**

Rev Richard Houston, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Acting Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Representative Board of Mission Overseas and Board of Mission in Ireland, Young Adults' Development Officer, 2 SPUD Representatives, Rev JH Flaherty.
- (x) Rev JA Curry; Mrs G Montgomery, Ms Ruth Spratt, Mrs L Robinson, Andrew Downey, Richard Houston.
- (y) Revs JM Gracey, JD Montgomery, AD Mullan, Andy Carroll, Jonathan Alexander, Andy Lamberton.

### **D. MINISTRY EVENTS COMMITTEE**

Rev AJ Thompson, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Acting Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, 2 SPUD Representatives.
- (x) Mrs Sharon Karayiannis, Mrs Nikki Gillan, Mark Moorhead, Aaron Ditty, David Penney.
- (y) Revs Gareth MacLean, MRJ Anderson; RWH Hill, Johnny Bell, Ross Collins.

## **VIII.—BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Rev Dr Colin McClure, Convener

Rev TD Gribben, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Principal UTC, Full-time University Chaplains, Transferors' Representatives on Area Boards, Directors of Primary & Secondary Education in the Republic of Ireland.
- (b) Revs WG Cameron, RJ Montgomery — Revs DJ Hutchinson, DS Henry — Rev WE Chestnutt; I Hutchinson — Rev Brian McMillen; William McDowell — Prof F Boal, CWL Graham — Miss Joan Williams, Mrs Hilary Gourley — Mrs N Johnstone, Richard Wallace — Rev ME Donald; Mrs Jennifer Campbell — Alan Rowan, Mrs Christine Edwards — Revs TW Gordon, Lesley-Ann Wilson — J Wilkinson, H Stewart — Ross McCarter, Mrs Eleanor Petrie — Rev MN Davidson; M Patton — Rev DJM Boyle; Ronnie Gillanders — Revs MB Wilson, NJE Reid — Rev RA Campbell, T McDaniel — Rev DIJ McNie; Mrs SE Cusick — Mrs IK Nesbitt, DMcC Humphries — Shaw Campbell; Ms Nancy Anderson.

- (g) Revs Stanley Stewart, James Rogers; John Shivers, Mrs M Robinson, Dr M Hollinger, Mrs J Bell, Miss Barbara McDade, Uel McCrea.

### **IX.—BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING**

Rev JNI McNeely, Convener

Deputy Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener and Secretary; Members of Faculty; 2 student representatives; Christian Training Development Officer.
- (b) Revs Dr WJP Bailie, WG Cameron — Revs Dr JS Carson, NJ McCullough — Revs JG Johnston, AAP Baxter — Revs NSR Lockhart, SE Hughes — Revs CH Deering, TJ Wilson — Revs RJ Beggs, Colin Burcombe — Revs RJ McCullough, R Graham — Revs RS McMullan, JA Noble — Revs Dr RL Craig, MF Russell — Revs Dr AF Nel, BA Small — Rev JG Trueman; W Gordon — Revs Dr KD McCrory, \_\_\_\_\_ — Revs Dr IJ Patterson, Raymond McKibbin — Rev DTR Edwards; Eric Latimer — Revs MB Wilson, RK Graham — Revs RA Campbell, LM Keys — Revs William Harkness, HSW Cubitt — Rev RL Brown; Joseph Smyth — Rev JE Sloan; Graeme Orr.
- (g) Revs Karen Campbell, Janice Browne, Mairisine Stanfield, DH Thompson, Amanda Best; Mrs Isabel McAuley; Joe Campbell.

#### **A. COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT**

Rev Dr WJM Parker, Convener

Director of Ministerial Studies, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Principal UTC, Students' Bursary Fund Convener, Director of Ministerial Studies, Professor of Practical Theology, Christian Training Development Officer.
- (x) Revs William Sinclair, Stephen Simpson, RL Brown; Andrew Faulkner, Joe Campbell, Miss Anne Taylor, Mrs Rosemary Dunlop.
- (y) Revs Dr IJ Patterson, Dr WJP Bailie, Colin Burcombe, Amanda Best, NJ McCullough, RL Brown, Dr KD McCrory.

#### **B. COMMITTEE FOR TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

Rev NJ McCullough, Convener

Christian Training Development Officer, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Convener of Ministerial Studies and Development Committee, Professor of Practical Theology, Christian Training and Development Officer; Director of Ministerial Studies.

- (x) Revs AR Bill, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, David Johnston, Stephen McCracken; Roy Thompson, Ossie McAuley.
- (y) Revs AAP Baxter, CH Deering, NSR Lockhart, Dr AF Nel, Dr RL Craig; Graeme Orr.

### **C. UNION THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Rev Dr Alastair Dunlop, Convener

Deputy Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Convener and Secretary of the Board of Christian Training, Principal of Union Theological College, Convener of Ministerial Studies and Development Committee, one member of Faculty (on annual rotation), Convener of the Union Theological College Management Committee.
- (x) Revs BJ Walker, SP Moore, David Leach; Dr Lena Morrow, Desmond Fulton, Trevor Bradford, Mrs Evelyn Shaw, Norman Bennett, Dr John Gillespie.

### **X.—BOARD OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

John Hunter, Convener

Clive Knox, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Financial Secretary, Convener of Union Commission.
- (b) Rev TWD Johnston; Alexander Dalzell — Rev Barry Reid; WK Belshaw — Rev Dr DA Murphy; Lyle Cubitt — David McConkey, Roy Eakin — Rev Dr WI Hull; RD Guiller — Rev RSJ McIlhatton; Martin Hampton — Mrs A Barron, Ronnie Nelson — Rev Dr David Clarke; Basil McCorriston — Rev RA Mulholland; Stuart Ramsey — Norman Jackson, Desmond Milligan — Rev John Brackenridge; R McCullagh — Alan Foster, Stuart Ferguson — Rev Dr MCA Gray; Leslie White — Rev RS Agnew; Allan McAdoo — Rev DJ Irvine; John Peacock — N Baxter, E Stevenson — Rev RW Gaston; Robert McKane — TJ Livingstone, Alex Chestnutt — Nigel Kane, Kenneth Sharkey.

### **A. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, LEGAL AND IT**

Robert McCullagh, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Financial Secretary.
- (x) RD Guiler, Alan Meban, Robert McKane.
- (y) Revs Dr WI Hull; Martin Hampton, Stewart Ramsey.

**B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** Robert Campton, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener, Committee Convener, Head of Personnel, Financial Secretary.
- (x) Ian Moore, Len Murray, John Francey.
- (y) Revs Dr DA Murphy, Dr WI Hull; Desmond Milligan.

**C. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Rev RA McLernon; Convener

Jonathan Kelly, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener and Secretary, Financial Secretary.
- (x) JDD O'Neill, John Francey.
- (y) Rev Dr David Clarke; Ronnie Nelson, Basil McCorrison.

**D. PENSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE**

Basil McCorrison, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Financial Secretary, Rev DC Porter.
- (x) Revs R McIlhatton, DJ Irvine; Brian Topping, Clarence Scott.
- (y) Rev TWD Johnston; Ronnie Nelson, Alex Chestnutt, Leslie White, Roy Eakin.

**XI.—UNITED APPEAL BOARD**

Rev RIA Allely, Convener

The Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener.
- (b) Alexander Dalzell — Alan Ince — Rev NAL Cameron — Mrs Sadie McCullough — Rev AR Bill — Martin Hampton — R Nelson — Rev TJ Lavery — Rev AC Wilson — William Keown — Rev Gareth McFadden — \_\_\_\_\_ — Richard Fleming — J Bole — J Peacock — N Morrison — Rev KDW Crowe — Mrs Laura Martin — Rev Dr JI Thompson.
- (g) Revs Dr John Dunlop, DJ Irvine; Miss DE McCaughan, Douglas Crowe, Raymond Adams, WK Belshaw, Peter McGimpsey, David McCleery.

3. That the Union Commission be appointed, under Par 128 of the Code, for the ensuing year, as follows:

## II.—COMMISSION ON UNION OF CONGREGATIONS

Rev WJ Henry, Convener

TJ Livingstone, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Commission Convener and Secretary, Board of Mission in Ireland Secretary, Strategy for Mission Convener, Representative of Central Ministry Fund.
- (b) Rev Dr RA Russell; Miss Pearl Hassard — Rev RIA Allely; WK Belshaw — Rev Desmond Knowles; Dr S Paul — Rev CJ Gamble; Roy Thompson — Rev MS Gault; JH Martin — Rev William McKeown; Robert Tinney — Rev Dr CA Grant; Mrs M Crawford — Rev JG Jones; Joe Cassells — Rev Dr Brian Brown; Eric Christie — Rev RI Abraham; Francis Johnson — Rev Dr WTJ Richardson; Dr C Reid — Rev JG Faris; Stuart Ferguson — Rev Dr MCA Gray; Henry Plester — Rev TD Hagan; George McConkey — Rev RK Graham; WJ McKee — Rev CFD Clements; JB Wilson — Rev Denis Bannerman; David Smyth — Rev John Holmes; TJ Livingstone — Rev IF Smith; Jim Hayes.
- (c) Revs Dr JW Lockington, Dr SDH Williamson, JH McIntyre, AE Tolland, PG McCrea; L Murray, John Stanage.

4. 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 D Clarke, Dr S Hutchinson; Revs Dr DJ Watts, TD Gribben; Sir Bruce Robinson, N Bennett, D Crowe, Leslie McKeague.

5. That the following corresponding members be appointed:  
To the Church of Scotland 2015  
The Right Rev Dr Michael Barry  
The Rev Dr TJ McCormick  
Mr Stanley Bond
6. That the delegates to the Presbyterian Church of Wales 2015, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland 2015 and the Methodist Conference 2015 be appointed by the Business Board.
7. That the Clerk be given authority to make corrections to the Daily Minutes as and when required.
8. That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Monday, 1 June, 2015.



**CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator conducted a closing act of worship and thanked: the Clerk of Assembly and the Deputy Clerk; his Chaplains; Mrs Joyce Anderson, Mrs Jenny McClure, Mrs Michelle James and Miss Alicia Cotter of the General Secretary's Office; Ed Connolly (Presentations), IT Staff and those responsible for the sound-desk; Rebecca McConnell, with James, Sarah and Lisa, who were responsible for our media relations and to the journalists and others who have covered the Assembly; all Assembly Buildings staff, especially Mr Harry Orr; the Rev Gordon Best (Arrangements Convener) and Mrs Fiona Watts (Hospitality Secretary); the Caterers – McKees; Mrs Pat Crossley (flower arrangements); all the organists and musicians; stewards of the Belfast City Mission and others; and the timekeepers.

Thereafter he declared the Assembly to be dissolved and convened the next Stated General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, on Monday 1st June, 2015.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.20 p.m.

Attested by  
DONALD J WATTS  
Clerk of Assembly

# CHANGES IN THE CODE

## 2014

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS,  
BELFAST, BT1 6DW  
AUGUST, 2014

The following changes have been made in the 1997 edition of the Code, which should be corrected accordingly.

Donald J. Watts  
Clerk of Assembly

### **Par 30(1) of the Code**

In Par 30(1) add the following words at the end of the paragraph:

“In exercising this leadership the Kirk Session shall oversee and work along with other members who have leadership roles in the congregation.” (I.A. 2014)

### **Par 30(3) of the Code**

Delete Par 30(3) and substitute the following in its place:

“(3) In the discharge of their duties each elder should be assigned by the Kirk Session pastoral responsibilities and/or other leadership roles in the congregation.” (I.A. 2014)

### **Par 30 of the Code**

Following Par 30(3) add a new sub-paragraph:

“(4) The Kirk Session, along with the Minister, should seek to ensure that all elders are equipped to fulfil their duties.” (I.A. 2014)

### **Par 35 of the Code**

In Par 35 add the following new sub-paragraph and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

“(b) ensure a scheme for pastoral care is in place in the congregation, in line with current General Assembly guidelines.” (I.A. 2014)

### **Par 72(e) of the Code**

In Par 72(e) delete the word “deaconesses” and substitute the words “deaconesses, auxiliary ministers”. (I.A.2014)

### **Par 73(b) of the Code**

In Par 73(b) delete the word “discharged;” and substitute the words

“discharged and that elders are suitably equipped;” (I.A. 2014)

**Par 75(a) of the Code**

In Par 75(a) delete the words “in cases of difficulty;” and substitute the words “in cases of difficulty and seek conciliation where it is appropriate;” (I.A. 2014)

**Par 82(4) of the Code**

In Par 82(4) delete the words “let or sold” and substitute the words “let, sold or provided as security”. (I. A. 2013, confirmed 2014)

**Par 97(h)(iv) of the Code**

In Par 97(h)(iv) “Executive Committee” and substitute the word “Trustees”. (I.A. 2013, confirmed 2014)

**Par 111(6) of the Code**

In Par 111(6) delete the words “1978 Ministers’ Pension Scheme Fund” and substitute the words “Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension (2009) Fund”. (2014)

**Par 122 of the Code**

In Par 122 add the following:

“(7) The Trustees shall have Assembly powers to deal with all cases where trustees or others desire to transfer any property, real or personal, to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland under the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Acts, 1871 and 1901 and to accept any such transfer on such terms as it deems expedient.”

“(8) The Trustees shall provide for a compilation annually of an abstract of bequests received by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and an abstract of bequests notified but not yet received.” (I.A. 2014)

**Par 126(5) of the Code**

In Par 126(5) delete the words “the Union Commission and the Commission on Trusts” and substitute the words “and the Union Commission”. (I.A. 2014)

**Par 127(1) of the Code**

In Par 127(1) delete the words “the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly and” and substitute the words “the Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, the Convener of the Commission and” (I.A. 2014).

**Par 127(2)(a) of the Code**

In Par 127(2)(a) delete the words “for five years.” and substitute the words “for five years and who may be reappointed for one further period of five years.” (I.A. 2014)

**Par 128(3) of the Code**

In Par 128(3) delete the words “special ministries provided” and substitute the words “special ministries provided, auxiliary ministry posts established, additional pastoral personnel posts authorised”. (I.A.2014)

**Par 130 of the Code**

Delete Par 130. (I.A. 2014)

**Par 132 of the Code**

In Par 132 add the following sub-paragraph: “(4) A court shall always consider the possibility of conciliation before entering into a formal process of discipline.” and renumber the subsequent sub-paragraphs. (I.A. 2014)

**Par 137 of the Code**

In Par 137 delete the words “or Synod”. (I.A. 2014)

**Par 161(1)(b) of the Code**

In Par 161(1) add the following sub-paragraph (b): “invite conciliators appointed by the General Assembly’s Conciliation Service to seek a way forward” and renumber the subsequent sub-paragraphs. (2014)

**Par 162(2) of the Code**

In Par 162(2) delete the words “thinks fit.” And substitute the words “thinks fit and, if appropriate, invite conciliators to be appointed by the General Assembly’s Conciliation Service.” (2014)

**Par 177(2) of the Code**

In Par 177(2) delete the words “in the matter” and substitute the words “in line with current General Assembly guidelines in the matter”. (2014)

**Par 180(1) of the Code**

Delete Par 180(1) and substitute the following in its place:

“The name of every ruling elder elect shall be reported to the appointed Presbytery commission, who, in line with General Assembly guidelines, shall confer with the elder elect respecting their acquaintance with divine truth, their personal faith and character, their sense of the responsibilities and duties of the

office and their gifting and availability for the exercise of that office.” (2014)

**Par 201(1) of the Code**

In Par 201(1) delete the word “deaconesses” and substitute the words “deaconesses, auxiliary ministers”. (2014)

**Par 202(3) of the Code**

In Par 202(3) delete the word “deaconesses” and substitute the words “deaconesses, auxiliary ministers”. (2014)

**Par 202(7) of the Code**

In Par 202(7) delete the word “deaconess” and substitute the words “deaconess, auxiliary minister”. (2014)

**Par 217(1)(b)(iii) of the Code**

In Par 217(1)(b)(iii) delete the word “Elocution” and substitute the words “Public Speaking”. (2014)

**Par 217(2)(b) of the Code**

In Par 217(2)(b) delete the word “Elocution” and substitute the words “Public Speaking”. (2014)

**Par 217(3) of the Code**

In Par 217(3) delete the word “Elocution” and substitute the words “Public Speaking”. (2014)

**Par 219(3)(b)(i) of the Code**

In Par 219(3)(b)(i) delete the words “the World Alliance of Reformed Churches” and substitute the words “the World Communion of Reformed Churches”. (2014)

**Par 230(3)(a) of the Code**

In Par 230(3)(a) delete the words “Synod or”. (2014)

**Par 257(2)(a) of the Code**

In Par 257(2)(a) “approval” and substitute the word “. (2014)

**Par 285 of the Code**

In Par 285 add the following new sub-paragraph and renumber the subsequent sub-paragraph:

“(2)(f) oversee the selection process, training course and on-going accreditation for the Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Ministry Schemes;” (2014)

**Par 311(4)(a) of the Code**

Delete Par 311(4)(a) and substituted with: “(a) The Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension Scheme (2009) (in these Rules referred to as the ‘2009 Pension Scheme’).” (2014)

**Par 313(2) of the Code**

In Par 313(2) delete the words “1978 Pension Scheme” and substitute the words “2009 Pension Scheme”. (2014)

**Par 317(a) of the Code**

In Par 317(a) delete the words “1978 Pension Scheme” and substitute the words “2009 Pension Scheme”. (2014)

**APPENDIX 1 of the Code**

In Appendix 1 (II) (1) delete the words “the opening of the second session of”.

In Appendix 1 (III) delete the words “Thereafter the” and substitute the word “The”.

In Appendix 1 (XII) delete the word “Synod,”. (2014)



