



MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Held at Belfast, June, 2011
FIRST SESSION

Monday, 6th June, 2011

7.00 p.m.

Within Church House

The Right Rev Dr T Norman Hamilton, 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 613 ministers being ex officio members and 468 elders on whose behalf commissions had been received had been entered on the Roll of the Assembly, together with 62 Assembly Elders, Conveners and nominees of the Business Board. In addition 212 people in various categories, not members of the Court, have been invited to sit and deliberate, 18 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>
H.D. McMorran .....	.....	Trinity, Bangor
J.McC. Auld .....	.....	R.E. Teacher
Dr. J. Ross .....	.....	High Street, Holywood
Dr. R. Sterritt.....	.....	Greenwell St., N'ards
N.J. Linkens .....	.....	Retired
D. Johnston .....	.....	First Newtownards
Dr. W.P. Addley.....	.....	Theological Professor
W.T. Corder .....	.....	First Bangor
Dr. D.J. Watts	+W. Graham	Clerk
Dr. D.R. Purce.....	G. McCutcheon	Groomsport
.....	J.T. McCullough.....	Cloughey
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
R.A. Patton.....	A. Crockard	Ballygilbert
.....	J. Cole	Shore Street, Donaghadee
C.W. Megaw	Mrs. E. McGucken	Helen's Bay
J. Campbell	Ms. C. Graham	First Newtownards
W.J. Carlisle	D. Lemon.....	Movilla
D.M. Spratt .....	.....	First Bangor Assoc.
C.J.C. McMullen.....	A. Ward.....	West Church, Bangor
W.G. Cameron	D. McKee	Glastry
-do.....	L. Finlay	Kirkcubbin
J.M. Wade .....	.....	Portavogie
R. Stirling.....	Mrs. E. Savage	Conlig
Dr. W.J.A. Sleith	R. Martin	Regent St., Newtownards
.....	Ms. H. Millar.....	Ballyholme
Dr. W.J.P. Bailie	+B.T. Knox	Mission Africa
A.M. Bates	J. Doherty	Scrabo
.....	A. McCauley	Strean, Newtownards
.....	Ms. K. Hinds	Kilcooley, Bangor
R.J. Stevenson.....	.....	Carrowdore & Ballyfrenis
M. Henderson.....	.....	Army Chaplain
G.J. Kennedy.....	J. McCormick	Ballygrainey
S. Henning	Ms. A. Rankin.....	Ballyblack
Dr. M.J. Welsh	W. Bowden	Greyabbey
D.W. Leach	+S. Dalzell.....	Hamilton Road Assoc.
M. Catney.....	L. Willoughby.....	St. Andrew's, Bangor
C.G. Anderson.....	J. Gibson.....	First Donaghadee
.....	Mrs. I. Cockcroft.....	Millisle & Ballycopeland

2. ARMAGH PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. W.M. Craig	First Portadown

Dr. J. Thompson.....	.....	The Mall, Armagh
T.A. Moore.....	.....	Hill Street, Lurgan
J. Gordon.....	Mrs. H. McCullagh.....	Second Keady
-do-.....	D. Hopps.....	Drumhillery
D.R. Byers.....	Mrs. E. Houston.....	Cladymore
-do-.....	Ms. M. McGuinness.....	Tassagh
S. van Os.....	.....	Army Chaplain
C.G. Harris.....	N.R. O'Hara.....	Ahorey
-do-.....	N.H. Cully.....	Clare
Dr. J.S. Carson.....	J. Mulligan.....	First Portadown
A.D. Davidson.....	.....	First Armagh
Christina U.R. Bradley.....	E. Whitten.....	Armagh Road, Portadown
R.I.A. Allely.....	C. Todd.....	Craigavon
-do-.....	J. Whittle.....	Vinecash
E.P. Gamble.....	T.H. Savage.....	The Mall, Armagh
D.J. Hutchinson.....	D. Blair.....	Moy
-do-.....	.....	Benburb
N.J. McCullough.....	K. Belshaw.....	Hill Street, Lurgan
S.D. Finlay.....	.....	Druminnis
-do-.....	.....	Redrock
D.S. Henry.....	N. McCleary.....	First Lurgan
P.L. McKelvey.....	J. MacQueen.....	Loughgall
-do-.....	E. Forbes.....	Tartaraghan
A.J. Dunlop.....	+W. Ruddell.....	First Portadown Assoc.
I. Thompson.....	.....	First Keady
-do-.....	.....	Armaghbrague
Dr. M. McClenahan.....	.....	Lislooney
-do-.....	G. Diffin.....	Knappagh
.....	G. Crooks.....	Waringstown

3. BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.J.A. Armstrong.....	.....	Second Broughshane
J.B. Mooney.....	.....	Grange
G.A. Preston.....	.....	Connor
Dr. R.E.H. Uprichard.....	H. Hamill.....	Trinity, Ahoghill
Dr. J.M. Finlay.....	.....	Harryville, Ballymena
D. Knowles.....	N. Stevenson.....	Grange with Craigmore
.....	F. Mark.....	Wellington, Ballymena
J.J. Andrews.....	J.R. Pope.....	Ballee
W.F. Dickey.....	.....	First Broughshane
A.A.P. Baxter.....	K. McKinley.....	First Portglenone
B. McManus.....	M. Simpson.....	Cloughwater
A.L. Kirk.....	.....	First Ahoghill
J.A. Beattie.....	I. Logan.....	Second Broughshane
D.J. Kane.....	M. Livingstone.....	West Church, B'mena
W.B. Boyd.....	R. Carson.....	Kells
-do-.....	J. Todd.....	Eslylane
Dr. D.A. Murphy.....	D. Warwick.....	Cunningham Mem.,
.....	.....	Cullybackey
K. McConnell.....	J. Compton.....	Clough

W. Sinclair.....	K. Dickey.....	First Ballymena
A.W.T. Brown.....	R. Agnew.....	Churchtown
N.A.L. Cameron.....	R. Mitchell.....	High Kirk, Ballymena
S.W. Dickinson.....	.....	Glenarm
-do.....	J. McClure.....	Cairnalbana
M.J.R. Neilly.....	J. Currie.....	Buckna
R.M. Murray.....	.....	Connor
J.C. Simms.....	J. Close.....	Rasharkin
W.J.A. Moody.....	W. Thompson.....	Brookside, Ahoghill
C.K. McDowell.....	.....	Killymurriss
D.B. McCorrison.....	D. Fulton.....	Ballyloughan
M.D. McNeely.....	W. Frew.....	Ballykeel
.....	W.J. Kerr.....	Third Portglenone
.....	J. Suinters.....	Harryville, Ballymena

4. NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J.W. Neilly.....	.....	Immanuel
J.S. Dallas.....	.....	Whiteabbey
R. Allen.....	.....	Rathcoole
Dr. J. Dunlop.....	.....	Rosemary
Dr. J.P. Taylor.....	+G. Crooks.....	Theological Principal
T.V. Patterson.....	.....	Immanuel
J.N. Seawright.....	Ms. T. Coffey.....	Abbey, Monkstown
.....	E. McMurrin.....	Woodvale
R.S. Hetherington.....	+H. Orr.....	Director of Min. Studies
G.F. McKeown.....	K. Neill.....	Rathcoole
.....	R. Manson.....	Carnmoney
T.C. Morrison.....	R. Johnston.....	Eglinton
D.W. Brice.....	B. Marshall.....	Glengormley
Dr. T.N. Hamilton.....	H.A. Groves.....	Ballysillan
I.D. Neish.....	G. Weatherall.....	Abbot's Cross
W.A. Abernethy.....	W. Chambers.....	Sinclair Seamen's
I.K. McDonald.....	.....	New Mossley
S. Elizabeth Hughes.....	A. McBride.....	Whitehouse
.....	F. Ashe.....	Crumlin Road
Margaret L. Johnston.....	.....	Fortwilliam Park
P.G. McCrea.....	Ms. M. Thompson.....	Rosemary
Dr. Lesley E. Carroll.....	D. Kirkwood.....	Fortwilliam & Macrory
R.N. Agnew.....	.....	West Kirk
B. McMillen.....	W. McCreedy.....	Ballygomartin
D.H. Thompson.....	+J. Clarke.....	BMI Mission Dev. Officer
.....	D. McCormick.....	Seaview
Cheryl A. Meban.....	.....	Chaplain U.U. J'stown & Belfast
.....	E. Keers.....	Whiteabbey
A.V. Stewart.....	.....	Alexandra
S. Newell.....	.....	Ballyhenry
N.S.R. Lockhart.....	.....	Newington
D.J. McIlwaine.....	T. Cadden.....	Cliftonville Road (Church Plant)
D. Leal.....	+L. Webster.....	.....
.....

D. Clawson.....	+Mrs. A. Fee.....	Ballysillan Asst.
.....	E. Crawford	Nelson Memorial
.....	R.A. Thompson	West Kirk

5. SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. K.N.E. Newell .....	.....	Fitzroy Avenue
.....	Ms. M. Hazlett.....	Fisherwick
Dr. G.A. Grindle .....	.....	Kinghan Church
W.P.H. Erskine	Mrs. H. Bamford	Windsor
.....	Dr. C. Walker	Malone
W.J. Orr.....	Dr. J. McQuoid.....	Newtownbreda
Dr. M. Ruth Patterson	+O. McAuley.....	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 .....	.....	Townsend Street
Dr. R.M. Crooks.....	.....	Belvoir
.....	+Mrs. M. Jackson.....	Chaplain City Hospital
J.H. Wilson.....	+A. Luke.....	Chaplain R.V.H.
Dr. W.G. Campbell.....	+M. Smyth.....	Theological Professor
.....	R. Davidson	Fitzroy Avenue
Dr. R.J. Greer	D. McCarthy.....	Richview
T.J. Wilson .....	.....	Kilmakee
R.W. Love	+D. McCleery.....	Taughmonagh (Ch. Ext.)
J.R. Burnett	Mrs. P. Martin.....	Lowe Memorial (Finaghy)
J.A. Peacock.....	.....	Youth Link NI
A.T. Wimberly	W. Irwin.....	McCracken Memorial
.....	Wm. Clarke	Ballycairn
Karen M. Mbayo.....	+Mrs. R. Wilson.....	QUB Chaplain, Dean
.....	.....	of Residence, Derryvolgie
G. Connor.....	A. Alexander.....	Dunmurry

6. EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. V.H. Ryan.....	.....	First Ballymacarrett
J.M. Maddock .....	.....	Carryduff
Dr. S.J. Campbell.....	.....	Cooke Centenary
Dr. J.R. Savage.....	.....	Stormont
Dr. I.A. McKay .....	.....	Dundonald
W. McKeown .....	.....	Ravenhill
K.A. McBride	J. Boyd.....	Orangefield
Joan Scott.....	.....	Missionary
G. Moffett .....	.....	Tullycarnet
Dr. A. Gibson	+M. Smyth.....	Theological Professor
J.N.I. McNeely.....	J. Campbell.....	First Holywood
.....	R. Robinson	Belmont
R.D. Maxwell.....	B. Harrison	St. Andrew's
.....	+A. Shott	Chaplain Marie Curie

F.P. Sellar	K. Shilliday.....	Bloomfield
W.S. Marrs	+M. Hampton	B.M.O. Secretary
J.H. McIntyre	T.D. Mahood.....	Cregagh
A.C. Rankin	Ms. L. Cardy.....	Stormont
R. Hornby.....	.....	Mersey Street
M.R. Burnside.....	T.W. Moore.....	Castlereagh
.....	N. Eves	High Street, Holywood
S.P. Moore.....	W. Smyth.....	Gilnahirk
R.J. Beggs	J. Gordon	McQuiston Mem.
J.R. Lambe	D.F. Kennedy.....	Mountpottinger
W.M. Brown.....	T. McCullough.....	Granshaw
D. Rankin	J.H. Black	Strand
W.A. McCully.....	C. Teer	Dundonald
M. Gibson .....	.....	Westbourne
C. Burcombe	J. McCandless.....	Mersey Street
P.G. McDowell.....	Ms. L. Wasson	Garnerville
C. Ebbinghaus.....	.....	Kirkpatrick Mem.
R.S.J. McIlhatton	T.J.R. Cooper.....	Christ Church
B.J. Walker.....	+Miss H. Reid	Knock Assoc.
.....	L. Scott	Ravenhill
.....	H. Mornin	Tullycarnet
.....	Miss H. Donaldson.....	Knock

7. CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D. Armstrong .....	.....	Greenisland
R.W.C. Clements.....	.....	Joymount
W.J. Johnstone .....	.....	Craigy Hill
R. Vallely.....	.....	Ballylinny
T.J. Stothers.....	A. Bell	Greenisland
R.J.A. Bell.....	M. Fisher	Ballyclare
D. Chapman	G.T. Atkinson	Second Islandmagee
T.D. Gribben	+N. Carmichael	Deputy Clerk
R.J. McCullough.....	T. Heron.....	Loughmorne
-do-.....	J. Stewart.....	Woodburn
T.R. Graham.....	.....	Joymount
Dr. C.D. McClure.....	Mrs. B. Moore	First Larne
Gabrielle A.J. Farquhar.....	Ms. D. Savage	Ballycary
R.J. Gilkinson	B. Clenaghan	Craigy Hill
.....	I. Thompson.....	Gardenmore
.....	J.B. Robinson	Cairncastle
R.I. Carton.....	J. Monteith.....	Whitehead
.....	W. Norton	First Carrickfergus
J.E. McDowell	J. Mann	Ballylinny
Karen Campbell	R. Nelson	First Islandmagee
.....	+Miss D. Bashford	Chaplain to Forces
T.N. Bingham.....	Ms. J. Paisley.....	Magheramorne
-do-.....	.....	Raloo
.....	D. Gorman.....	Downshire, Carrickfergus

8. COLERAINE & LIMAVADY PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. B. Kingsmore.....	.....	Evangelism Promoter
Dr. W.W. Porter.....	.....	Moneydig
Dr. D.H. Allen.....	.....	New Row, Coleraine
Dr. J. Frazer.....	.....	Ballywillan
V. Whyte.....	.....	Macosquin
Dr. R.N. Gordon.....	.....	Missionary
J. Clarke.....	.....	Balteagh; Bovevagh
A.McM. Kerr.....	.....	Aghadowey; Crossgar
T.V. Mawhinney.....	.....	Second Limavady; Myroe
S.J. Millar.....	.....	Hazelbank
W.J. Waring.....	.....	Ballyrashane
Dr. D. Clarke.....	J. Hutchinson.....	Terrace Row, Coleraine
W.I. Hunter.....	.....	Ballywatt
T.S. Lindsay.....	.....	First Garvagh
D.S. Irwin.....	.....	Drumachose; Derramore
J.A. McCaughan.....	F. Jeffers.....	First Dunboe
T.J. McCormick.....	S. Irwin.....	First Kilrea
-do-.....	J. Gilmore.....	Boveedy
J.A. Kirkpatrick.....	A. Warke.....	Portrush
T.P. Fleming.....	J.A. Cassells.....	First Coleraine
R. Kelly.....	A. Farlow.....	Main St., Garvagh
-do-.....	I. McKane.....	Killaig
R.S. McMullan.....	A. Cochrane.....	New Row, Coleraine
Dr. C. Glass.....	R. Haslett.....	Dungiven
-do-.....	.....	Largy
T.D. Allen.....	D. Vance.....	Ballyrashane
J.A. Noble.....	.....	Balteagh
-do-.....	.....	Bovevagh
Dr. S.D.H. Williamson.....	A. Mark.....	Ballywillan
T.J. Laverty.....	J. Jack.....	Portstewart
J.G. Jones.....	Mrs. H. Mullan.....	Second Limavady
-do-.....	P. McGregor.....	Myroe
R.D. Gregg.....	C. Lynn.....	Burnside
S.A. McCracken.....	C. Laird.....	Drumachose
-do-.....	.....	Derramore
.....	Miss E. Smyth.....	Ringsend
M.E. Donald.....	G. McIlroy.....	First Garvagh
A. McConnell.....	.....	First Limavady
-do-.....	.....	Magilligan
.....	D. Hood.....	Banagher
.....	C. Hutchinson.....	Second Kilrea

9. DERRY & DONEGAL PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
S.J. Gray.....	.....	Faughanvale; Gortnessy
J.M. Cathcart.....	.....	Waterside; Fahan
J. Fell.....	.....	Ebrington; Inch
D. Hillen.....	Ms. C. Kincaid.....	Magheramason

.....	J. McNeely.....	Moville
S.J. Hanna	W. McClay.....	Glendermott
R.L. Craig	C. Bolton	Kilfennan
Dr. D. Latimer.....	.....	First Derry & Claremont
-do-.....	.....	Monreagh
Dr. S.R. Jones.....	T. Allen.....	Donemana
Dr. B. Brown.....	I. Bates.....	Raphoe & Ballindrait
Dr. T.R. Buick.....	G. Barr.....	Carlisle Road
-do-.....	.....	Crossroads
J.L. Blair	D. Montgomery	Faughanvale
S. Stewart.....	.....	School Chaplain
A.J.A. Rosborough.....	R. Mitchell.....	Ballyarnett
-do-.....	R. Mackey	Knowhead
S.J. Richmond.....	O. Perry	Donegal
W.H. Higgins	E. Christie.....	Cumber
-do-.....	G. Wilson.....	Upper Cumber
.....	A. Wilson.....	Ebrington
K.A. Jones.....	W. McIlwaine	Waterside
-do-.....	D. Lamberton.....	Fahan
A.C. Wilson.....	H. Henderson.....	Ballykelly
Amanda Best.....	Mrs. M. Anderson.....	Ramelton
-do-.....	.....	Kilmacrennan
D.M. Shaw	W. Watson.....	Strabane
R.A. Mulholland	Ms. E. Elder.....	Donagheady
N.D. Craig.....	J. Hamilton	Ray
-do-.....	Ms. R. Gibson.....	Newtowncunningham
C.M. Wilson .....	.....	Ballylennon
-do-.....	I. McCracken.....	St. Johnston
M.F. Russell .....	.....	Leckpatrick
Janice M. Browne.....	E. Borland.....	Fannet
-do-.....	.....	Milford
-do-.....	Ms. C. Edwards	Rathmullan
C. McKibbin .....	.....	Donoughmore
-do-.....	.....	Carnone
-do-.....	.....	Convoy
.....	R. Henderson.....	Stranorlar
.....	T. Campbell	Carndonagh
.....	Mrs. B. Smyth	Malin
.....	D.G. Elder.....	Burt
.....	Ms. E. Corry.....	Letterkenney

10. DOWN PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
R.G. Johnston.....	.....	First Saintfield
Dr. W.J. Patterson.....	.....	Killinchy
W.N. Duncan.....	.....	Missionary
S.R. Conkey.....	.....	Raffrey
T.I. Harte.....	.....	Trinity, Boardmills
D.S. McIlwrath .....	.....	First Killyleagh
T.W. Gordon.....	W. Crawford.....	First Comber
.....	C. Black.....	Second Saintfield

.....	R. Shields.....	Downpatrick
R.McM. Mackay	G. Ball	Second Comber
A.S. Smyth.....	D. Burnett	Carryduff
B.A. Small.....	W.C.D. Morrow	Raffrey
Dr. A.F. Nel.....	R. Campbell.....	Killinchy
D. Stanfield.....	+N. Jackson	Youth Link NI
Mairisine Stanfield.....	Dr. T. Morrow.....	First Ballynahinch
R.I. Abraham.....	.....	Lissara
M.M. Stewart.....	B. Dumigan	Clough
-do-.....	T. Watson.....	Seaforde
S.A. Woodburn.....	J. Patterson.....	Edengrove
L.C. Orban .....	.....	Special Ministry
.....	H. Marshall.....	Second Killyleagh
.....	C. McCormick.....	First Killyleagh

11. DROMORE PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. D.M. Scott.....	.....	St. Columba's, Lisburn
Dr. R.J.G. Gray .....	.....	First Lisburn
D. McConaghy.....	.....	Cargyreevy & Loughaghery
Dr. S. Hutchinson.....	.....	Clerk of Assembly
.....	+A. Maxwell.....	B.B.C.
Dr. W.T.J. Richardson.....	.....	Hillhall
R. Lockhart .....	.....	Elmwood
D.C. Porter.....	.....	Second Dromara
J.I. Davey.....	Ms. M. Murphy	Hillsborough
D.B. Knox.....	Mrs. J. Finnegan.....	Harmony Hill, Lambeg
.....	Dr. S. Cameron.....	Railway St. Lisburn
J. Brackenridge	Miss M. Craig.....	First Lisburn
D.J. Bruce	+Miss E McConnell	B.M.I. Secretary
A.S. Thompson .....	.....	First Dromara
D.H. Gilpin	B. Lyness	Moir
.....	C. Gamble.....	First Dromore
R.A. McLernon.....	H. Jordan	Drumbo
W.J. Todd .....	.....	St. Columba's, Lisburn
W.J. Henry .....	.....	Maze
-do-.....	.....	Ballinderry
R.A. Liddle	R. Reid.....	Legacurry
R.D. Cameron .....	.....	Prison Chaplain
A.J. Thompson.....	J. Stanage.....	Elmwood
.....	B. Thomson	Magheragall
K.W.J. Hanna .....	.....	Second Dromara
Dr. S.P. Swinn.....	.....	Chaplain to Forces
P. Jamieson.....	J. Connor	Hillhall
G. McFadden	D. Gibson.....	Drumlough
-do-.....	J. Magee.....	Anahilt
L.A. Patterson .....	.....	Cargyreevy
-do-.....	C. Stanfield.....	Loughaghery
.....	K. Irvine.....	Sloan Street, Lisburn

12. DUBLIN & MUNSTER PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
A.V. Martin .....	.....	Abbey
C. McCurdy .....	.....	Drogheda & Ervey
R. Cobain .....	.....	Galway & Ballinasloe
G.D. Campbell	Mrs. M. White	St. Andrew's, Blackrock
-do-	K. Lux	Bray
Dr. T.W.J. Morrow .....	.....	Lucan
.....	H. Moreland	Trinity, Cork
Katherine P. Meyer	S. Smyrl	Christ Church, Sandymount
C. Mary Hunter	Ms. J. Binnie	Christ Church, Rathgar
Dr. D.K. McCrory .....	.....	Maynooth
D.T. Moore .....	.....	Kilkenny
Dr. S. Mawhinney	G. McCullagh	Adelaide Road
Dr. J.G. Millar .....	.....	Howth & Malahide
A.J. Boal .....	.....	Abbey Church
D.J. Montgomery	A. Foster	Greystones
Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie H. Borland .....	.....	Clontarf & Scots
C.J. Gamble .....	.....	Naas
S.J. Lockington	*Ms. J. Cowle	Corboy
-do- .....	.....	Mullingar
W.J. Hayes .....	.....	Mountmellick
-do- .....	.....	Tullamore
C.W.P. Kennedy .....	.....	Dun Laoghaire
M.R.J. Anderson .....	.....	Arklow
A. Carroll .....	.....	Donabate (Church Plant)
W. Montgomery .....	.....	Fermoy
-do- .....	.....	Cahir

13. IVEAGH PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
A. Clarke .....	.....	Glascar; Donaghmore
Dr. S.A. Matthews .....	.....	Bannside
W.H. Sanderson .....	.....	Ballydown; Katesbridge
J. Briggs .....	.....	Scarva Street, Banbridge
Dr. I.J. Patterson	W.O. McCammon	Newcastle
W.L. Orr .....	.....	Glascar; Donaghmore
W.A. Watson	T. Reid	Scarva St., Banbridge
H.S.W. Cubitt .....	.....	Second & Third Rathfriland
M.G. McClelland .....	.....	Tandragee
R.A. Moffett	I. Williams	Donacloney
G.E. Best	D. Nesbitt	Newmills
Patricia A. McBride	F. Cairns	Loughbrickland
-do- .....	.....	Scarva
Dr. M.C.A. Gray	D. Dodds	Bannside
W.B. Martin	B. Corbett	Garvaghy
-do- .....	.....	Anaghlonge
P.D. Thompson	C. Boyd	First Rathfriland
M.N. Davidson	K. Johnston	Drumgooland
-do- .....	.....	Kilkinamurry

T.P. McCullough	C. Murray	Ballyroney
-do-	E. Truesdale	Drumlee
R. McKibbin	B. McClelland	Glascar
-do- .....	.....	Donaghmore
J.L. Rutherford .....	.....	Ballydown
.....	T. McCaughey	Tullylish

14. MONAGHAN PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. R.B. Savage .....	.....	Kells
-do-	Miss J. Archibald	Ervey
S.G. Anketell	J. Stewart	First Bailieborough
-do-	Dr. A. Hunter	Corraneary
-do- .....	.....	Trinity, Bailieborough
N.S. Millen .....	.....	Dundalk &
.....	.....	Castlebellingham
-do- .....	.....	Carlingford
G. Jean Mackarel	K. Fleming	Drumkeeran
-do- .....	.....	Killeshandra
-do- .....	.....	Cavan
-do- .....	.....	Bellasis
.....	J. Stewart	Drum
.....	J. Fairbairn	Cootehill
D. Reyes-Martin	R. Gillanders	Ballyalbany
-do- .....	.....	Glennan
T.D. Hagan	D. McElnea	Middletown
-do-	R. Boyd	Clontibret
.....	E. Mackarel	Stonebridge
.....	S. Crawford	Newbliss
W.J.A. Buchanan	R. Hanna	First Ballybay
-do- .....	.....	Second Ballybay
-do-	L. Forster	Rockcorry
-do-	A. Hawthorne	Drumkeen
R.S. Agnew .....	.....	First Monaghan
-do-	J. Bole	Smithborough
Molly Deatherage .....	.....	Ballina
-do- .....	.....	Killala
-do- .....	.....	Ballymote
.....	Mrs. D. Holmes-Greer	First Castleblayney
.....	T. McBirney	Frankford

15. NEWRY PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D.C. Scott .....	.....	Cremore; Tyrone's Ditches
Dr. D.J. McGaughey .....	.....	Mourne
S.A. Finlay	J. Hanna	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
S.S. Johnston.....	G. McCullough.....	Kilkeel
R.K. Graham.....	D. Smyth.....	C'bridge & First N'hamilton
-do-.....		Garmany's Grove
-do-.....	K. Dickson.....	McKelvey's Grove
J.K.A. McIntyre.....		Bessbrook
-do-.....		Tyrone's Ditches
B.D. Colvin.....	Miss E. Cunningham.....	Downshire Rd., Newry
.....	U. Wright.....	Ryans
D.J. Irvine.....		First, Second Markethill
N.J.E. Reid.....	G. Hamilton.....	Tullyallen
-do-.....	M. Agnew.....	Mountnorris
A.D. Mullan.....	+G. Bingham.....	Mourne Assoc.
M.B. Wilson.....	W. McKee.....	Cremore
-do-.....	B. Reaney.....	Poyntzpass
-do-.....	N. Martin.....	Fourtowns

16. OMAGH PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
R.S.K. Neill.....	.....	First Castledearg; 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
N.R. McCormick.....	.....	Ballygawley; Ballyreagh
W.J. Kelly.....	.....	Clogher; Glenhoy
R. Herron.....	R. McCay.....	Trinity, Omagh
-do-.....	A. Scott.....	Gillygooley
W.D. Cupples.....	J. Phillips.....	Enniskillen
R.B. Thompson.....	.....	Badoney; Corrick
-do-.....	.....	Glenelly
C.F.D. Clements.....	J. Kerr.....	Irvinestown
-do-.....	N. Baxter.....	Pettigo
-do-.....	I. Young.....	Tempo
I. McClean.....	.....	Ballygawley; Ballyreagh
J.H. Hanson.....	.....	Dromore
-do-.....	.....	Drumquin
H.J. Honeyford.....	J. Mitchell.....	Second Castledearg
-do-.....	.....	Alt
J.A. Gordon.....	G. Donald.....	Fintona
-do-.....	J. Nevin.....	Ballynahatty & Creevan
D.W. Reid.....	.....	Ardstraw
-do-.....	D. McElrea.....	Douglas
R.A. Campbell.....	A. Beatty.....	Clogher
-do-.....	R. Mulligan.....	Glenhoy
C.I. Dickson.....	Dr. C. McKibbin.....	Cavanaleck
-do-.....	.....	Aughtentaine
K. Nelson.....	.....	Mountjoy
-do-.....	M. Surphlis.....	Drumlegagh

C.W.A. Jones.....	W.A. McCrea.....	Seskinore
-do-.....	J. Gilmour.....	Edenderry
R.G. McElnea.....	W.J. Baxter.....	Newtownstewart
-do-.....	A. Cook.....	Gortin
R.N. Orr.....	Dr. P. Hale.....	First Castleterg
-do-.....	J.S. Young.....	Killeter
N.R.A. Cooper.....	S. Wiggam.....	Ballygawley
-do-.....	T. McDaniel.....	Ballyreagh
.....	Ms. I. Anderson.....	N't nbutler
.....	Dr. C. Givan.....	Aughnacloy
.....	D. Allen.....	Ballymagrane
.....	Miss R. Kerr.....	Clogherney
.....	T. Henderson.....	Urney
.....	N. Gailey.....	Sion
.....	H. Alexander.....	First Omagh

17. ROUTE PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J. Hume.....	.....	Dunluce
Dr. A.W.G. Brown.....	.....	Ballycastle
Dr. R.F.S. Poots.....	.....	Deputy Clerk
J.T. McCullough.....	.....	Toberdoney; Croaghmore
J.T. Magowan.....	.....	St. James's, Ballymoney
Dr. J.A. Thompson.....	.....	Dervock
D.I.J. McNie.....	.....	Trinity, Ballymoney
N. McClean.....	S. Tweed.....	First Kilraughts
D. Bannerman.....	.....	Toberkeigh
H.W. Mullan.....	W. Fulton.....	Drumreagh
-do-.....	.....	Dromore
S.T. Carson.....	R. Sharpe.....	Dunluce
K.D.W. Crowe.....	.....	Bushvale
R.W. Gaston.....	B. Gilmore.....	Finvoy
W.S. Smart.....	.....	First Ballymoney
K. Henderson.....	.....	Ballyweaney
Dr. M. Jones.....	.....	Roseyards
Dr. P.B. Wilson.....	R. Freeman.....	Bushmills
P. Turton.....	.....	Armoy
-do-.....	.....	Ramoan
.....	Ms. M. Warner.....	Croaghmore
.....	M. Ferris.....	Garryduff
.....	A. McDowell.....	Dunloy

18. TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.D. Weir.....	Killead; Loanends
Dr. J.H. MacConnell.....	First Ballyeaston
Dr. S.J. Dixon.....	First Antrim
Dr. W.D. Patton.....	J. Walker.....	Randalstown O.C.
B. Kennaway.....	Crumlin
T. Pollock.....	First Randalstown, Duneane

G. Moore	Mrs. A. Bowden	Kilbride
.....	+J. McClurg.....	Theological Professor
R.L. Brown	W. Pollock	Second Randalstown
J.L. Tosh.....	T.J. Gawn.....	Second Donegore
.....	D. Robinson.....	Hydepark
J. Holmes	J. Smyth.....	Lylehill
-do-.....	G. Patton.....	First Randalstown
.....	.....	Duneane
W.J. Murdock.....	W. Hyde.....	Killead
-do-.....	J. Watt	Loanends
P.E. Dickinson.....	N. McQuillan.....	Muckamore
J.P. Moxen.....	.....	Greystone Road, Antrim
E.S. McDowell.....	S. Waugh.....	First Ballyeaston
W.J.M. Parker	K. Alexander.....	First Antrim
R.C. Kerr	L. Hamill	Templepatrick
.....	D. Craig	Second Ballyeaston
D.J. Steele .....	.....	Dundrod
.....	H.L. McKnight	Crumlin
.....	R.W. Vaughan.....	High Street, Antrim

19. TYRONE PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. A.R. Rodgers.....	.....	Dungannon
I.F. Smith.....	.....	Orritor & Claggan
Dr. J.I. Thompson	C. Rea	First Cookstown
A.S. Thompson .....	.....	Dungannon
T.J. Conway .....	.....	Culnady
-do-.....	.....	Swatragh
J.H. Flaherty.....	*O. Gibson.....	Tobermore
-do-.....	.....	Draperstown
T.W.A. Greer .....	.....	Molesworth, Cookstown
Dr. K.O. Patterson.....	E. Fulton	Castledawson
-do-.....	N. Kane	Curran
J.J. Currie	R. Stewart	Union Road, M'felt
-do-.....	W. Badger	Lecumpher
J.A. Curry.....	R.J. Hamilton.....	First Magherafelt
S.J.M. Lindsay	H. Watt.....	Pomeroy
-do-.....	.....	Sandholes
.....	D. Wells	Castlecaulfield
W.G. Hamilton	S. Laughlin	Orritor
-do-.....	T. Bell	Claggan
J.E. Sloan	N. Bruce.....	Bellaghy
-do-.....	W. Bownes.....	Knockloughrim
G.W.D. Stewart	R. McKee.....	Maghera
D.S. Brownlow	S. Kennedy	Newmills
-do-.....	H. McLean.....	Carland
J.D. Montgomery	Ms. B. Miller	First Moneymore
-do-.....	Ms. M. Quinn	Second Moneymore
J.M. Gracey.....	.....	Coagh
-do-.....	.....	Ballygoney
-do-.....	A. Johnston.....	Saltersland
.....	N. Condy	Upper Clonaneese
.....	R. Cuddy.....	Lower Clonaneese

IRISH MISSION WORKERS

K. Hargaden

LICENTIATES

P.A. Bovill	J. Boyd	T.J. Bruce
J. Cowan	D.T.R. Edwards	A. Faulkner
W.I. Ferris	G. Fowles	Mrs. H.M. Freeburn
Mrs. L.M. Keys	G.J. Maclean	G. McConville
W.D.S. McCullagh	M.W.J. McKeown	D.C. Millar
N.G. Mulholland	Miss P.J. Nelson	N.L. Smyth
J.A. Spence	J.P. Stanbridge	

MINISTERS UNDER THE CARE OF PRESBYTERY

D.R. Baker	L.H. Eagleson	C.I. McKnight
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MINISTERS TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER CHURCH

B. Reid

SPUD DELEGATES

Miss E. Morrow	M. Drennan	Miss L. Crossett
N. Wilkinson	Miss L. Hutcheson	J. Currie

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**ARDS PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. F. Watts	Mrs. E. Cobain
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ARMAGH PRESBYTERY

Mrs. L. McMullan	Mrs. E. McIlwaine
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BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

Mrs. L. Murray	Mrs. E. Wright
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NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

Mrs. C. Maginnis	Mrs. E. Abernethy
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SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

Miss M. Angus

EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY

Mrs. V. Tweedie Mrs. J. Maxwell Ms. S. Spence

CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

Mrs. K. Fisher Mrs. M. McDowell

COLERAINE AND LIMAVADY PRESBYTERY

Mrs. M. Conn Mrs. V. Millar Mrs. N. Nixon

DERRY AND DONEGAL PRESBYTERY

Mrs. I. McNally Mrs. V. Stewart Mrs. G. Hunter

DOWN PRESBYTERY

Miss Z. McAllister

DROMORE PRESBYTERY

Mrs. A. Liddle

DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY

Miss E. Barnett

NEWRY PRESBYTERY

Mrs. E. Chambers Mrs. H. Graham

OMAGH PRESBYTERY

Mrs. J. Donald Mrs. M. Nelson Mrs. R. Honeyford

ROUTE PRESBYTERY

Mrs. B. Thompson

TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY

Mrs. E. Nesbitt

TYRONE PRESBYTERY

Mrs. I. Reid

**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH
ARDS PRESBYTERY**

Miss R. Spratt

BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

M. Boyd

NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

G. Abernethy

SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

P. Graham

EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY

P. Brown

CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

A. Howard

D. Penney

DERRY AND DONEGAL PRESBYTERY

B. Smyth

DOWN PRESBYTERY

Miss M. McCauley

DUBLIN & MUNSTER PRESBYTERY

A. Gill

IVEAGH PRESBYTERY

Mrs. R. Elkin

NEWRY PRESBYTERY

D. Gordon

TYRONE PRESBYTERY

P. Leonard

The Moderator welcomed, on behalf of the Assembly, the Deputy Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor, 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 Ivan James Patterson	12 nominations
The Rev Robert Alexander Patton	3 nominations
The Rev Joseph John Andrews	2 nominations
The Rev Robert Lyle Craig	1 nomination
The Rev Robert McMaster Mackay	1 nomination

On the motion of the Rev RA Patton, seconded by the Rev JJ Andrews, the Rev Dr IJ Patterson was unanimously called to the Chair, welcomed by the retiring Moderator and commended to God in prayer.

The Right Rev Dr IJ Patterson addressed the House.

The sederunt came to a close at 8.55pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 7th June, 2011

9.45am

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** (Reports pp 1-7) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, together with the following Supplementary Report:

**BUSINESS
BOARD**

During the year the Business Board has carefully considered the invitation from the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal for the General Assembly to meet in Derry/Londonderry during 2013, the City's year as UK City of Culture. It also consulted with the General Board (see Supplementary Report), who invited Presbyteries to indicate their view also. It concurs with the General Board that the opportunity to share something of Presbyterian culture and heritage should be welcomed. It also recognises the importance of fostering good local relationships and so endorses the view that twenty additional invitations to Opening Night should be issued by the local Presbytery. While some questions have been raised as to cost, the Business Board is confident that the increased budget will not exceed £10,000 and does not believe this should be a determining factor. An appropriate resolution is attached.

The Business Board also considered requests for other Courts of the Church to meet to do business while the General Assembly is in session. The Board felt it necessary to turn down two requests – one from a Kirk Session and one from a Presbytery.

The General Synod of the Church of Ireland (2011)

The Very Rev Dr J Stafford Carson reports:

Along with Mr George Russell, Session Clerk in First Portadown, I attended the Church of Ireland General Synod which was held in the City Hotel, Armagh from 12 to 14 May 2011. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed rich hospitality and good fellowship with many long-standing friends.

In his presidential address, the Most Rev Alan Harper, Archbishop of Armagh, made a plea for passion in the discussion of key issues which were coming before the Synod. He believed that measured, tolerant and reserved contributions can sometimes be interpreted as indifferentism. He went on to say that there was an important difference between engendering division and exposing division, and that diversity need not be a source of division. Sound-bite journalism trivializes issues and excludes good debate. The President asked the synodical delegates, “What are we passionate about?”

The next couple of days answered the Archbishop’s question. It revealed that some members of the Church of Ireland are passionate about mission and evangelism, and about the future of Christianity in Ireland.

But that passionate debate was prefaced by a more controlled and rather boring session as the synod used its traditional pattern of dealing with its business by following a 19th century form of parliamentary debate. An example of this was the proposal of Bishop Harold Millar to amend the Book of Common Prayer (2004) to include a prayer for the Northern Ireland Assembly. It took thirty-three separate steps and three days before the bill to include the new prayer was enacted. Afterwards I joked with my friend, Bishop Millar, that I hoped the re-constituted Northern Ireland Assembly would survive until the Church of Ireland were allowed to pray for it!

The passionate debate surrounded a report prepared by the Venerable Gary Hastings, Archdeacon of Tuam, on the future of the Church of Ireland. He prophesied that the “vanishing point” for many small churches is no longer over the horizon, but will arrive in our lifetimes. Young people, having departed from the church after confirmation, no longer return in later life with their own children as was once the case. A cord has been cut, the tradition of osmotically passing on the faith, combined with weekly church attendance, is past.

“Metaphors of cancer and the Titanic may be too dramatic, it’s more a matter of slow, quiet, respectable deflation, a gentle haemorrhaging allowing us to drift off to sleep in the damp but hallowed halls of elder glory. If it is a crisis, it is a crisis in slow motion. Yet things are going to change and we should prepare for the change. There is time but we should look at trends and plan ahead where we can.”

Presbyterians will readily identify the same disease as afflicting our own denomination, and will be interested in the response of our brothers and sisters in the Church of Ireland. Canon David McClay warmed our hearts as he reported on some exciting initiatives in Willowfield Parish in East Belfast, where a new concern to connect with people in their community is proving fruitful. Another speaker pointed out that Christ must be our primary identity and if Christ is not our primary identity, then we have no future. Many people are not clear what church membership is or what it means. For that reason, one speaker recommended that the parish must be seen as a unit of mission and not just pastoral care.

The General Synod also received the report of the Covenant Council and agreed to receive the “Second Statement on the Interchangeability of Ministry and Episcopate” and encouraged congregations to celebrate the Covenant relationship between the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church. Proposing the report and the accompanying motion, the Most Rev Richard Clarke, Bishop of Meath and Kildare, emphasised that this would not “organically unify” the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church, but would “effect a relationship parallel”. It was crucial at this point that there be an identical intentionality in both Churches and not a “mere crafting of a form of words”, in order that the shared place of the two Churches within the tradition of the historic episcopate should be made public and manifest.

Seconding the motion, the Rev Nigel Dunne (Diocese of Cork) told the Synod that the discussions between the two Churches had now arrived at the stage where both could mutually endorse each other’s expression of the office and function of “episcopate”, and that the time had come to move forward and bring this theological and ecclesiological agreement into real and tangible expression, in order that the mission of Christ’s Church on this island might be strengthened.

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Rev Paul Kingston, was invited to address the Synod and told members that he was “very excited” about what was being proposed. Speaking of his positive experience of co-operation between the two Churches, Mr Kingston hoped that both would wholeheartedly embrace the concept of interchangeability of ministry, “in obedience to the prayer of Christ that his people might be one”.

When I was given an opportunity to address the Synod, I endorsed the Archbishop’s desire for passionate and heart-felt debate, but, in the light of the recent history of our own church, commended those who had an eye for detail and who were prepared to scrutinize the less exciting aspects of a denomination’s common life to ensure that “all things were done decently and in order”. These aspects are just as important to a denomination’s life as are the enthusiastic and passionate debates.

Like ourselves, the times are a-changing for the Church of Ireland, but where there is a whole-hearted commitment to Christ and to the gospel there are indications that they will find new ways of living the gospel and of being a church.

The Church of Scotland General Assembly (2011)

The Right Rev Dr T Norman Hamilton reports:

The Church of Scotland is famous for the warmth and generosity of welcome to its visitors, and this year was no exception. There is also an oft expressed desire – even expectation – that visiting delegates will contribute to the debates, and I was privileged to do so on several occasions.

The most high profile debate of the week, with a whole day given over to it, was the report of a Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry. The full report is available online on the Church of Scotland website, and I would urge all who are interested to read it there. The levels of angst were obvious from the earliest contributions, but the newly installed moderator, the Rt. Rev. David Arnott handled the whole day (indeed the whole week) with such great grace and sense of fairness that the angst never became adversarial or bitter.

Yet I sensed at the outset that the more ‘liberal’ option would be accepted, and it was. Whatever the nuances in the report (and there were many), the public understanding was expressed in the opening words of the leader article in *The Scotsman* the next day:

It was a long and understandably passionate debate, but finally last night the General Assembly of Church of Scotland voted to allow Presbyteries across the country to choose gay or lesbian ministers. The vote among the commissioners to throw out the ban on gay clergy brought in two years ago was clear, 351 to 294, but showed how divisive the issue has been in the Kirk.

There is a widespread view that the traditionalist position on the ordination of those who are gay/lesbian was rejected for what was described as the ‘revisionist’ position. Those who were advocating this latter position included one minister who spoke warmly of the contribution that bisexuals and those who are transgendered can make to Christian ministry, whilst another spoke of how the Bible had been shown to be wrong in the past and that we now know better. The traditionalist view was articulated by many in the Kirk, and by every visiting delegate who spoke (myself included), and there is no doubt that many of those who hold this position within the Church of Scotland seem seriously demoralised and deeply apprehensive about future developments.

It also has to be said however, that the Assembly was unambiguously clear that there should be no antagonism towards or marginalisation of those who are gay / lesbian within congregations. This is as important a principle for us in PCI as it is for the Church of Scotland.

The other debate which I followed with great interest was the report of the Panel on Review and Reform. This was the product of work going back as far as 2001, and the Convenor reminded the Assembly that his role had been described as a ‘poisoned chalice’ when he took it up. That report too is available on-line, and from my perspective was memorable for two reasons:

- (a) it is brutally honest about how the work of Presbyteries is perceived within the Church of Scotland.

- (b) it does not recommend anything less than a total overhaul of the role and work of Presbyteries and has many highly creative suggestions as to how that might be done.

The vision for change was set out for the Assembly as follows:

Affirm that the purpose of Presbytery reform must be to enable the mission of Christ.

Affirm the vision begun at the Reformation and expressed in the Church without Walls (CWW) report1 that the Church of Scotland's foundation for mission is rooted in the local church, through the ministry of all God's people.

Affirm that local mission planning is a priority for the Church and the Presbytery is the church community which should resource and support the local gospel imperative.

Agree that Presbytery planning should take place within the wider context of Presbytery reform and be conducted in partnership with Presbyteries to ensure the strategic distribution of the Ministry and Mission allocation.

Note with concern the present situation in many Presbyteries where compliance with governance, planning and finance cannot be fully achieved.

Affirm the need for a mechanism of devolved authority to reform the present Presbyteries so that they may become the regional areas of proclamation, support and oversight as envisaged in the report.

It was however, largely rejected. What surprised me was the rejection did not seem to be based on the core thinking or rationale of the report, but on the practicalities of making the changes needed. I said it at the time, and am happy to repeat my view here, that there is much in this report that we would do well to take on board in our own review of our structures.

The other high profile event was 'Roll Away the Stone', described as follows: *On General Assembly Sunday, from 1pm till 6pm, the Church took over a large area of Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh for a time of Celebration, Inspiration and Discovery.*

"Significance comes from the Cross and resurrection life flows from the Tomb." So celebration, inspiration and discovery began with reflections around a huge cross in the garden area near the Ross Bandstand. Meantime at the Bandstand itself, in the picturesque avenue and fountain areas, and in St Cuthbert's Church at the west end of the Gardens there was space for worship, praise and singing amongst a whole range of other things to see and do.

Between 5-6000 people attended. Personally the highlights were a splendid half hour gospel concert by around two dozen members of the Scottish African Massed Choir in full national dress with wonderful jazz accompaniment. The audience was enthralled. So was I.

The other enthralling event was a young man doing superlative rope tricks and explaining the core gospel message as he did it. Personal testimony to the transforming power of Christ given in a highly creative and compelling way.

Of course there were many other memorable events – the Ceremony of the Keys in Holyrood Palace; the great welcome of the 'Irish Gathering' of

ministers, elders and their wives; the reception in the historic Parliament Hall attended by the first minister of Scotland, Alex Salmond and the services in St Giles' Cathedral.

It was a privilege to attend, albeit it seemed to be a somewhat troubled Assembly in a somewhat troubled church. There was much to learn, but maybe most of the learning will happen in the weeks and months to come as members of and visitors to the Assembly reflect deeply on what happened and what was discussed – as they must and no doubt will do.

Resolutions

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 on the first Tuesday of February Presbyteries should meet in the evening to nominate the next Moderator of the General Assembly and remain in session until voting is complete.
4. That the General Assembly accept, with thanks, the invitation of the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal to meet in Derry/Londonderry in 2013, that the normal invitations to Opening Night be issued and that when the General Assembly meets outside Belfast twenty additional invitations to the Opening Night be issued by the local Presbytery.
5. That the professional amplification controller and visual display operator be admitted to the Private Session each year at the General Assembly.
6. That a grant of £16,000 be made from the Incidental Fund to the Arrangements Committee.
7. That the Business Board, with its associated working Committee, be appointed in accordance with Par 275 of the Code for the ensuing year beginning 15 March, 2011.

Presbyteries

The Report of the **PRESBYTERIES** (Reports pp 8-14) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts.

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

1. That the Report be received.

Corresponding Members

The **Corresponding Members** were received from the Church of Scotland. These were the Right Rev David Arnott, Rev Joanne Hood and Mr Robin Arnott.

The Moderator welcomed the Corresponding Members. The Right Rev David Arnott replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Val Morrison and Rev Dr Jim Coleman of the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom; and Rev Iain Hodgins of the Presbyterian Church of Wales. The Rev Iain Hodgins replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Rev Donald Ker and Mr TG Wilson, delegates from the Methodist Church in Ireland; Most Rev Michael Jackson, delegate from the Church of Ireland; and Mr Mervyn McCullagh from the Irish Council of Churches. Mr Mervyn McCullagh replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed other delegates from: the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, the Rev Francis Njoroge; the CCAP Nkhoma Synod, the Rev Davidson Chifungo; the Church of North India Gujarat Diocese, Mr Reuben B Christie; Károli Gáspár University, Prof Anne Marie Kool; the Presbyterian Church USA, the Rev Doug Baker; and the Waldensian Church, the Rev Bruno Gabrielli. The Rev Davidson Chifungo replied and conveyed greetings.

The Report of the **2010 SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE** (Reports pp 297-298) was submitted by the Rev TC Morrison.

**Special
Assembly**

Moved by the Rev TC Morrison, seconded by the Rev DH Thompson and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That consideration be given to holding a PCI Residential Conference in 2015; that the financial surplus from “Confident in Christ” be retained for this purpose; and that the General Board be instructed to report, with recommendations and costings to the 2012 Assembly.

Business lapsed (see below)

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 12.55 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

THIRD SESSION

Tuesday, 7th June, 2011

2.00pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

Report of the 2010 Assembly Conference Committee – debate resumed (see above)

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

3. That the Revs Colin Morrison and David Thompson be thanked for their services as Co-Conveners of the 2010 Assembly Conference Committee.

4. That the 2010 Assembly Conference Committee be thanked and discharged.

**Presbyterian
Women**

The Report of **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** (Reports pp 153-156) was submitted by Mrs Edna McIlwaine and Mrs Caroline Hawthorne.

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

That the Report be received.

**BOARD OF
MISSION
IN
IRELAND**

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp 122-152) was submitted by the Rev RA Patton, together with the following Supplementary Report:

Convener, Strategy for Mission Committee

The Rev Alistair R Bill reports:

The street outreach work of Nightlight continues in the entertainment areas of Belfast with Mr John Luke as Director. The staff team consists of Mrs Linzie Cobain (Development Officer, Golden Mile), Brian Simons (Development Officer, Odyssey Complex), and Mrs Catherine Dalzell (Clerical & Resource Officer). Teams of volunteers, working on rota, take Christ onto the streets in the Golden Mile on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and on Friday and Saturday nights in the Odyssey Complex.

Team Members

Without voluntary Team Members Nightlight could not operate. Accordingly, the Panel is always looking for new people to come along, initially to watch and listen, and then to offer themselves on a weekly basis if possible. Night Tours are still available for individuals and groups - contact the Nightlight office (Tel +44(0)28 9033 2777). Team Members are provided with the Nightlight Mission Statement, the Nightlight Statement of Beliefs and Guiding Principles, and the Nightlight Guidelines for Voluntary Involvement and Recruitment. During the year a Team Member Agreement was also drawn up, to which those participating in the street work agree to adhere.

Training Programme

A pilot Training programme for street work was undertaken by members of the Core Group in the autumn of 2011. This programme is presently being refined and it is planned that all Team Members will undertake it beginning

September 2011. It is anticipated that it will then be made available to other teams around the country. We are grateful to the Rev Danny Rankin for developing this programme.

Review of Nightlight

A comprehensive review process was undertaken during the period May to September 2010, under the visionary and efficient leadership of the Rev David Thompson. This resulted in the identification of a significant number of desirable tasks for the improvement of the work. Grouped in 7 areas, these include a Values Statement (P - presence; U - unconditional kindness; R - relationship; E - evangelism) now being used on all Nightlight literature; a more solid connection of the Nightlight Panel to the Strategy for Mission Committee; the desire to build the network of those involved in street work across Ireland and beyond. We also plan to explore other sources of funding for the work.

Strategy for Mission Committee

The Rev David J Bruce writes:

The BMI conveys its deep appreciation to the Rev William Henry who since 2006 has served as Convener of the Home and Irish Mission Committee (latterly the Strategy for Mission Committee). William has brought gifts of communication and insight to his work with the Board and these Committees. His vision for the mission of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is rooted in his own experience as parish minister in Maze and Ballinderry. In this convenership William has always been ready to travel as a member of various working groups to all parts of Ireland where his wisdom and counsel have been highly valued. He has helped to steer the Board forwards through the process of Mission Planning towards Mission Development, and has been closely involved with the reconfiguration of Irish Mission work and the management of Deaconesses by the Board. We pray God's blessing on William as he completes this period of service with the Board.

Moved by the Rev RA Patton, seconded by the Rev DJ Bruce and agreed:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. That the report be received. | Resolutions |
| 2. That the recommendations outlined in the Revised Strategy for Future Mission Development section of the Report be agreed. | Strategy |
| 3. That the BMI Mission Development Officer maintains annual contact with Presbytery Clerks and Mission Development Co-ordinators to offer support in mission development in whatever manner is deemed appropriate. | |
| 4. That the General Assembly support the formation of a series of networks built around urban, rural and missional Church. | Networks |
| 5. That the General Assembly commend to Kirk Sessions the Course for the Training of Evangelists and invite them to consider nominating and supporting suitable candidates as participants from their Congregations. | Evangelists |
| 6. That the Panel on the Revision of the Book of Public Worship reviews the wording of Pars 10-14 of The Code and reports to next year's General Assembly. | Public Worship |

7. That the Panel on the Revision of the Book of Public Worship reviews the wording of the questions put at services of ordination, licensing and installation or induction and reports to next year's General Assembly, taking note of the requirement in the present Code regarding the significance of subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith, and further considering the promises of the minister as set out in the present Code.

8. That the General Assembly request the Panel on the Revision of the Book of Public Worship to send the final sections of its work relating to the sacraments down to Presbyteries for consideration and response by 31 December, 2011.

9. That in light of Presbytery comments received, the Board of Mission in Ireland be requested to publish all completed sections of the revision to the Book of Public Worship as an on-line, downloadable resource for general use by ministers.

Nightlight 10. That the General Assembly commend the work of Nightlight under its Director, Mr John Luke and encourage volunteers to offer themselves for service in this and other outreach projects within the Church.

Bible Sunday 11. 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.

12. That the resignation of the Rev WJ Henry as Convener of the Strategy for Mission Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Business Board be authorised to make an appointment in his place.

13. That the Board of Mission in Ireland with its associated working committees for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 280 of the Code as follows:

Rev RA Patton, 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; Conveners of BMI Finance, Personnel and Property Committees; two Deaconess representatives, Nightlight Director.
- (b) Revs SA Little, Douglas Bradley; Mrs Marbeth Russell — Revs DS Henry, AD Davidson; Miss Janice Allen — Revs MD McNeely, JG Johnston; Mrs Joy Carson — Revs ID Neish, DJ McIlwaine; Mrs AJ Henderson — Revs Dr RM Crooks, CH Deering; Mrs Jean Gwyn Patton — Revs Mervyn Gibson, Danny Rankin; Mrs Lynda Gibson — Rev RI Carton; Alan Doole, Mrs Jane McClure — Revs TJ McCormick, Raymond Kelly; Mrs Nan Nixon — Revs KA Jones, WH Higgins; Mrs Olive Boreland — Revs DJ Hyndman, Scott Woodburn; Ms Jean Shields — Rev WJ Todd; James McDowell, Mrs Vera Mawhinney — Revs Dr Samuel Mawhinney, SJ Lockington, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie — Rev DJM Boyle, MD Davidson; Mrs S

Shilliday — Revs NS Millen, Molly Deatherage; Uel Gamble — Revs WT Bingham, BD Colvin; Mrs Ruth Johnston — Rev CI Dickson; TR Reid, Ms Valerie Reid— Revs HW Mullan, Denis Bannerman; Mrs Betty Robinson — Revs Stephen Simpson, George Moore; Mrs Joan Simpson — Revs JJ Currie, DH Brown; Mrs Elsie Farr.

- (p) President, Home Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Mrs. Pat Martin, Mrs Hazel Clarke, Mrs Elaine Crockett, Mrs Ann Blue, Mrs Violet Miller.

A. STRATEGY FOR MISSION COMMITTEE

_____, **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, Rev WJ Henry.
- (x) Revs Dr WP Addley, BD Colvin, JR Lambe, Dr Gary Millar, Dr TN Hamilton, JE McDowell; DF Adair.
- (y) Revs SJ Lockington, Stephen Simpson, AD Davidson, Molly Deatherage, Dr Samuel Mawhinney, MN Davidson, Mervyn Gibson.

B. RESEARCH AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Rev CWP Kennedy, 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 GE Best, Dr RB Savage, DJ Hyndman, Denis Bannerman, JSB Drennan, Ben Walker.
- (y) Revs BD Colvin, SA Little, DJM Boyle, Dr Rodger Crooks, Douglas Bradley; 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, Committee Convener and Secretary, Rev GD Simpson.
- (x) Brian Knox, Kenneth Fleming, William Watt.
- (y) Revs JR Lambe, George Moore, CH Deering.

Overtures The following **Overtures anent Pars 204 and 210(1) of the Code** were submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce:

Anent Par 204 of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that Par 204 of the Code be deleted and the following substituted in its place:

“204. The ordination or installation of ruling elders shall be conducted by the Presbytery, or a commission thereof, who shall appoint ministers and ruling elders to officiate at the service.”

Anent Par 210(1) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that sub-paragraph 210(1) of the Code be deleted and the following substituted in its place:

“(1) appoint ministers and ruling elders to conduct the service.”

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

That the overtures anent Pars 204 and 210(1) of the Code be received and that, under the Barrier Act, Code Par 112, they be sent down to Presbyteries.

The following **Overtures anent Pars 205(2) and 212(2) of the Code** were submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

Anent Par 205(2) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in sub paragraph 205(2) of the Code the words:

“(a) The Presbytery shall then be constituted publicly by prayer.

(b) The Moderator shall then make a Declaration on the following lines –” be deleted and the following substituted in their place:

“The Presbytery, having been constituted by prayer, the Moderator shall then make a Declaration on the following lines – ”

Anent Par 212(2) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in sub-paragraph 212(2) of the Code the words “shall then be constituted publicly by prayer; and the Clerk” be deleted and the words “having been constituted by prayer, the Clerk or Convener” substituted in their place.

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

That the overtures anent Pars 205(2) and 212(2) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The following **Overture anent Par 212(1) of the Code** was submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

Anent Par 212(1) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in subparagraph 212(1) of the Code the words “an address dealing with” be deleted and the words “an address or statement dealing with” substituted in their place.

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

That the overture anent Pars 212(1) of the Code be received.

A card vote was taken, 181 votes were cast for and 166 votes were cast against. The resolution was declared passed and the overture placed on the books for one year.

Intermission

The Report of the **BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S MINISTRY** (Reports pp 176-189) was submitted by the Rev JP Moxen.

Moved by the Rev JP Moxen, seconded by Ms Lynda Gould, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That a grant of £9,736 be paid from the Incidental Fund to Youth Link:
NI.
3. That the General Assembly approve the Youth and Children’s Project to support the work of Kids’ Alive International and Friendship House in Sandy Row.
4. That the resignation of the Rev Graeme Kennedy as Convener of the Ministry Resources Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev David Brownlow be appointed in his place.
5. That the Board of Youth and Children’s Ministry, with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed as follows:

Rev JP Moxen, Convener

Miss R Stirling, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Director of Youth and Children’s Ministry, Director of Programmes, Conveners of Research and Resources (BMI), Training and Resources (BCT) Committees, Full-time University Chaplains.
- (b) Revs RJ Montgomery, GJ Kennedy — Rev SD Finlay; Noel McKee — Rev WJA Moody; Jonathan Boyd — Miss Doreen Draffin, Michael Wylie — Rev Grant Connor; Johnny Bell — Andrew McCann, Mrs JM Noteman — Stuart Hawthorne, Andrew Howard — WBM Willis, _____ — Revs ND Craig, DM Shaw — Stanley McFarland, Mrs Claire Woodward — Rev Gareth McFadden; M Glenn — Revs MRJ Anderson, Andy Carroll — Revs Raymond McKibbin;

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

Resolutions

Project

Philip McCullough, — Rev Troy Morgan, Richard Carleton — Ronald Annett, Andrew Mullan — Revs CFD Clements, RA Campbell — Revs Peter Turton, Kenneth Henderson — GA Barkley, RWH Hill — Revs Martin Gracey, JD Montgomery.

- (g) Rev Amanda Best; Mrs C Murray, Mrs J Craig, Mrs J Robinson, Mrs S Campbell, Mrs G Ditty, Mrs F Cromie, Mrs G Graham, Mrs L Keys, Mrs C McQuigg, P McKinstry, A Ditty, T McAllister, G MacLean, A Brown, Mark Beattie, Miss S Moore, Miss N Bradley, Miss Alison Armstrong, Mrs Jocelyn Brown.

A. TRAINING COMMITTEE

Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Youth Development Officer, Children's Development Officer, Regional Youth and Support Worker, Director of Programmes, Young Adults' Development Officer.
- (x) Paul Brown, Mrs Jenny Robinson, Dr Alistair McCracken, Miss Michelle McCauley.
- (y) Revs Kenneth Henderson, Grant Connor, Gareth McFadden; Michael Wylie.

B. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Ms Lynda Gould, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Rev RS Stockman.
- (x) Glenn Jordan, Mrs Sonia Mawhinney, Chris Hunter, Philip Scott.
- (y) Revs SD Finlay, Troy Morgan, RJ Montgomery; Stuart Hawthorne.

C. MINISTRY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Rev DS Brownlow, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Children's Development Officer, Youth Development Officer, Regional Youth and Support Workers, Director of Programmes, Young Adults' Development Officer, Rev GJ Kennedy.
- (x) Rev RL Brown; Jim McDowell; Mrs Ruth Elkin.
- (y) Revs Mark Shaw, Peter Turton; Jonathan Bell.

D. MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE**Rev JH Flaherty, Convener**

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Representative Board of Mission Overseas and Board of Mission in Ireland, Director of Programmes, Young Adults' Development Officer.
- (x) Revs Dr MJ Welsh, JA Curry; David McCullagh, Mark Moorhead, Mrs Karen Martin.
- (y) Revs Martin Gracey, JD Montgomery, RA Campbell, ND Craig; Andrew Mullan.

E. MINISTRY EVENTS COMMITTEE**Rev AJ Thompson, Convener**

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, Director of Programmes.
- (x) Rev Nick Cooper; Lachlan Webster, Robert Penney, Mark Moorehead.
- (y) Rev MRJ Anderson; Andrew Howard, Rick Hill, Jonathan Bell.

The Report of the **BOARD OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL** (Reports pp 236-283) was submitted by Mr John Hunter, CB, along with the following Supplemental Report :

**BOARD OF
FINANCE
AND
PERSONNEL**

PENSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE**Retirements**

Page 243 of the Board's report refers to the retirement of Rev Dr JA Thompson following his 64th birthday, on 4 May 2011. The date should have read 4 May, 2012. An amended resolution is appended.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**Church House Development**

The Contract for the refurbishment and redevelopment of the first phase of Church House, comprising the upgrading of the Assembly Hall and the second and third floor offices, together with the new entrance, lift and reception area, was successfully completed and handed over as agreed on 19 May 2011.

The next phase comprises the refurbishment of the first floor to provide committee/meeting rooms and to upgrade the offices for the staff in the Finance and Personnel department.

Savings on the external works contract, reported to the 2010 General Assembly, together with the anticipated savings on this current contract amount to a total of approximately £350,000, although final figures have not yet been agreed in detail with the relevant contractors.

The current contractor, Felix O'Hare & Co Ltd, has indicated his willingness to carry out additional work to the first floor at competitive rates based on the existing contract, and it is anticipated that the savings outlined above should substantially complete the first floor work. It is therefore recommended that the saving of approximately £350,000 should be utilised for this work as an extension to the existing contract.

It is fully appreciated, in these stringent economic and financial times, that expenditure should be kept to a reasonable minimum, and therefore that the additional costs should not exceed the amounts already approved by the General Assembly. A resolution is appended.

Shopping Mall

The Property Management Committee is currently marketing the vacant retail units in the Spires Mall. Consequently the letting agents have received a number of inquiries from the "Service Sector." While such operations are not strictly retail they may require Sunday opening. The Property Management Committee would therefore seek guidance from the General Assembly on the acceptability of such potential occupiers. A possible resolution is appended.

FINANCE, LEGAL AND IT COMMITTEE

Presbytery Returns

In 2009, the General Assembly passed a resolution "That Presbyteries submit an annual statistics return, in a form to be approved by the Board of Finance and Personnel, and that a summary report be prepared each year for the General Assembly; the first return to be made for the year ended 31 December, 2010".

The Board asked Presbyteries to "trial run" a proposed form for the year ended 2009 with a view to introducing the new form for the year ended 31 December 2010. All Presbyteries submitted a return for 2010 and a summary of the returns is appended.

Appointment of Auditors

In accordance with the provisions of the Code Para 286(3) (b), the Board of Finance and Personnel nominated Ernst & Young for re-appointment as Auditors. This re-appointment to apply to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Appendix 1 – Tyrone Memorial Review Panel

The following sentence to be included at the end of paragraph 19 of the report (page 263 of the Annual Reports):

“In the absence of clear agreement on the level of payment, the Panel decided to give further consideration to whether the non Regium Donum part of the Bonus should be incorporated into either the Basic Minimum or the Incremental Allowances.”

SUMMARY OF PRESBYTERY RETURNS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	INCOME			EXPENDITURE					TOTAL EXPEND- ITURE	SURPLUS -(DEFICIT)	CLOSING BALANCE
	OPENING BALANCE	Assessment Congre- gations	Other	TOTAL INCOME	Presbytery Clerk	Other Staff	Insurance	Other			
1 Ards	9,036	21,512	759	22,271	(9,823)	(5,343)	(213)	(2,242)	(17,621)	4,650	13,686
2 Armaagh	3,226	11,052	503	11,555	(7,447)	(1,000)	(205)	(1,873)	(10,525)	1,030	4,256
3 Ballymena	10,422	15,605	22,220	37,825	(10,555)	(2,000)	(205)	(12,720)	(25,480)	12,345	22,767
4 Belfast North *	5,193	17,118	8,378	25,496	(9,922)	(11,927)	(303)	(3,201)	(25,353)	143	5,336
5 Belfast South	4,212	19,640	3	19,643	(7,970)	(340)	(126)	(14,236)	(22,672)	(3,029)	1,183
6 Belfast East	8,609	18,952	506	19,458	(8,570)	(1,600)	(205)	(12,962)	(23,337)	(3,878)	4,730
7 Carrickfergus	6,683	10,159	6	10,165	(7,076)	(1,918)	(126)	(1,426)	(10,546)	(381)	6,302
8 Coleraine & Limavady	26,919	16,810	2,384	19,194	(7,809)	0	(284)	(3,003)	(11,096)	8,098	35,017
9 Derry & Donegal	34,268	18,029	24,129	42,158	(11,474)	(13,751)	(283)	(16,224)	(41,732)	426	34,694
10 Down	1,779	9,532	2,010	11,542	(5,611)	(1,000)	(205)	(1,177)	(7,993)	3,549	5,328
11 Dromore	639	12,714	10	12,724	(10,090)	(1,419)	(205)	(408)	(12,122)	602	1,241
12 € Dublin & Munster	49,014	20,158	40,367	60,525	(6,489)	(24,758)	(630)	(12,697)	(44,574)	15,951	64,965
13 Iveagh	9,111	13,212	446	13,658	(10,867)	(500)	(205)	(1,421)	(12,993)	665	9,776
14 € Monaghan	65,535	6,270	718	6,988	(2,050)	(2,385)	(382)	(4,808)	(9,625)	(2,637)	62,898
15 Newry	1,514	7,266	1,213	8,479	(6,648)	(140)	(126)	(1,287)	(8,201)	278	1,792
16 Omagh	12,376	10,943	340	11,283	(6,890)	(1,296)	(205)	(2,605)	(10,996)	287	12,663
17 Route	56,758	11,179	10,077	21,256	(8,463)	0	(205)	(5,049)	(13,717)	7,539	64,297
18 Templepatrick *	11,696	16,600	3,605	20,205	(7,938)	(5,170)	(269)	(8,907)	(22,284)	(2,079)	9,617
19 Tyrone	3,777	8,590	1,395	9,985	(7,340)	(500)	(205)	(2,933)	(10,978)	(993)	2,784
Sterling	206,218	238,913	77,984	316,897	(144,493)	(47,904)	(3,575)	(91,674)	(287,646)	29,252	235,469
Euro	114,549	26,428	41,085	67,513	(8,539)	(27,143)	(1,012)	(17,505)	(54,199)	13,314	127,863

* for the year ended 28 February 2011

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Douglas Crowe:

Resolutions

That the Report be received.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev James Burnett, seconded by the Rev Dr Roger Purce, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received and that the section relating to the review of the Tyrone Memorial be referred to a Panel appointed by the General Board for consideration on Biblical grounds, and report to the General Assembly of 2012.

**Tyrone
Memorial
Review**

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

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 65)

The sederunt came to a close at 6.10pm the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 8th June, 2011

9.30am

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

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

The Report of the **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING** (Reports pp 190-217) was submitted by the Rev JNI McNeely.

**BOARD OF
CHRISTIAN
TRAINING**

Moved by the Rev JNI McNeely, seconded by the Rev Dr RB Savage, 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:

Candidates

Name	Congregation	Presbytery
Adrian Adger	Trinity, Ahoghill	Ballymena
Chris Barron	Fisherwick	South Belfast
Jeffrey Blue	Mourne	Newry
David Cromie	Fisherwick	South Belfast
David Currie	Mountpottinger	East Belfast
Michael Fryer	Carnmoney	North Belfast
Norman Kennedy	Wellington	Ballymena

Ross Kernohan	Kells	Ballymena
Philip Leonard	1st Cookstown	Tyrone
Gary McDowell	Ballygilbert	Ards
Mark McMaw	1st Holywood	East Belfast
David McMillan	1st Portglenone	Ballymena
Trevor McNeill	Ravenhill	East Belfast
Jeff McWatters	West, Bangor	Ards
Graham Mullan	Newmills	Iveagh
John O'Donnell	Greystones	Dublin & Munster
James Warburton	Whitehead	Carrickfergus
Keith Ward	West, Bangor	Ards

3. That students for the ministry, commencing their course of study in or after 2012, should normally be required to complete a total of at least three years approved theological study prior to eligibility for licensing.

**Pastoral
Care**

4. That the General Assembly endorse the three models of pastoral care proposed by the Panel on Pastoral Care (Appendix 2) and commend them for use throughout the Church.

5. That the General Assembly, having endorsed three models of pastoral care, request the Clerk of Assembly to consult with the Panel on Pastoral Care and bring appropriate overtures to the 2012 General Assembly to ensure that the Code reflects the variety of approaches which may be adopted by Kirk Sessions.

6. That the General Assembly authorise the printing of 6,000 copies of the three models of pastoral care as set out in Appendix 2 for study by Kirk Sessions.

7. That the General Assembly request all Kirk Sessions to review their pastoral care, in light of the three models of pastoral care endorsed by the Assembly, by the end of September 2013.

8. That the General Assembly request the Panel on Pastoral Care to commend and/or produce resources and training courses to assist Kirk Sessions in considering and implementing new models of pastoral care or enhancing existing ones.

**Accredited
Preacher**

9. That the General Assembly welcome the large number of applicants for the Accredited Preacher Scheme and commend both the course and the new Accredited Preachers to the Church.

Leadership

10. That the General Assembly commend the production and promotion of the leadership development resources outlined in paragraph 14(A) of the report of the Panel on Leadership (pp 198-200) and approve the recommendations therein as a means of equipping the Church for effective leadership in the 21st century.

**Ruling
Elders**

11. That the General Assembly recommend the use of the guidelines for the involvement of Presbyteries in the approval and training of Elders Elect referred to in paragraph 14 (B)(i) of the report of the Panel on Leadership (p 200) and fully outlined in Appendix 3.

Moved by the Rev JN McNeely, seconded by the Rev Dr RB Savage:

12. That the General Assembly encourage Ruling Elders to participate in 'learning opportunities' as outlined in paragraph 14 (B)(ii) of the report of the Panel on Leadership (pp 200-201).

Moved as an amendment by the Rev ML Johnston, seconded by Rev Joan Scott:

12. That the General Assembly normally require Ruling Elders to participate in 'learning opportunities' as outlined in paragraph 14(B)(ii) of the report of the Panel on Leadership (pp 200-201).

A vote was taken, 102 votes were cast for and 137 votes were cast against. The amendment was declared lost.

On being put to the House, the original resolution was agreed.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 72).

Intermission

The Report of the **BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS** (Reports pp 218-221) was submitted by the Rev Dr RA Russell.

**BOARD OF
COMMUNI-
CATIONS**

Moved by the Rev Dr RA Russell, seconded by the Rev Ivor Smith, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That a grant of £1,000 for 2011 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Church Architecture Committee.
3. That a grant of £16,750 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Presbyterian Historical Society.
4. That the resignation of the Rev George Simpson as Convener of the Church Architecture Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services, and Mr TR Reid appointed in his place.
5. That the Church Architecture Committee be transferred to the supervision of the Board of Mission in Ireland.

**Church
Architecture**
**Historical
Society**

Moved by the Rev Dr RA Russell, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, and agreed:

6. That the resignations of Mr Maurice McNicholl and the Rev Ivor Smith as Co-Conveners of the Communications Administration Committee be accepted and that they be thanked for their services.

Moved by the Rev Dr RA Russell, seconded by the Rev Ivor Smith, and agreed:

7. That the Presbyterian Historical Society be invited to report annually to the General Board.

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

8. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Alan Russell as Convener of the Communications Board be accepted and that he be thanked for his services.

Moved by the Rev Dr RA Russell, seconded by the Rev Ivor Smith, and agreed:

9. That the Board of Communications together with its associated Committees be thanked and discharged and its responsibilities transferred to a Committee to be formed under the supervision of the General Board.

**BOARD OF
SOCIAL
WITNESS**

The Report of the **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS** (Reports pp 157-175) was submitted by Mr Lindsay Conway, OBE.

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

That the Report be received.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 74)

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

The sederunt came to a close at 1.15pm the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FIFTH SESSION

Wednesday, 8th June, 2011

2.15pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**GENERAL
BOARD**

The Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 15-75) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following Supplementary Report:

General

The General Board discussed in detail the invitation from the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal to hold the General Assembly in Derry/Londonderry during the year in which the City will be UK City of Culture, 2013. The Board also consulted with Presbyteries. It recognised the opportunity to share something of Presbyterian culture and heritage in this important year in the life of the City and recommended to the Business Board that the invitation be accepted. It further recommended that to acknowledge the importance of building good relationships locally, when the General Assembly meets outside Belfast an additional twenty invitations to the Opening Night should be issued by the local Presbytery. The resolution to the General Assembly on this matter will come from the Business Board.

Memorial Record

The Very Rev Dr W Donald Patton reports:

The Rev David Alderdice, MA, BD, Minister Emeritus of the congregation of Wellington, Ballymena, in the Presbytery of Ballymena, died on 23 April, 2011 in the 82nd year of his age and the 58th year of his ministry. He was born on 19 June, 1929, the youngest of five children to David Alderdice, farmer, and his wife Amy, née King, who lived at Mullaghglass, near Bessbrook, in County Armagh. He was educated at Mullaghglass Primary School and Shaftesbury House College, Belfast. At the age of 16 he responded to the call of Christ to take Him as his personal Saviour and he responded to the call of God to serve him in full-time ordained ministry. He worked hard to complete the entrance requirements for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church and studied at Magee University College, Londonderry; Trinity College, Dublin; New College, Edinburgh and the Assembly's College, Belfast. He graduated BA in 1950; BD in 1953; and achieved his MA in 1959 while ministering in his first congregation. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Newry on 8 June, 1952 and served as Assistant in the congregations of Nelson Memorial and Strand, Belfast. He received a call from the congregation of Donacloney and was ordained there by the Presbytery of Banbridge on 4 March, 1954. On 3 April that year he married Annie Margaret Helena Shields and in the years following four children were born to them, David King, Helen Anne, John Thomas, now Lord John Alderdice, and Ruth Pauline. In 1960 he moved to Westbourne in East Belfast being installed there on 21 January, and served for five years until his call to Wellington Street, Ballymena, where he was installed on 8 January, 1964 and remained until his retirement on 30 June, 1994. A big man with a big heart, David was a caring pastor and fluent preacher. His gift for evangelism was recognised by the wider church when he was appointed to the Panel of Evangelists, and he conducted many evangelistic missions throughout the land being used of God to win souls to Christ. He had a wonderful memory for literature and story which he used to great effect in his preaching. His evident humanity and sense of humour commended the man and his message, opening up many opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the pulpit and in personal conversation. His main hobby was gardening and for some years he shared his knowledge with readers of the *Presbyterian Herald* in the articles he wrote under the heading 'Into the Garden'. He and Helena retired to Glenariffe, where they created a beautiful garden from moor land which they opened to visitors, hosting many church outings. He put together a slide presentation of their work and spoke to church meetings using it to present the Gospel to his audience with wit and wisdom. It was said of him – 'True instruction was found in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.' (Malachi 2:6) He was delighted to be present at the official opening of the new Wellington church premises at Galgorm on 4 April, 2009, rejoicing in the growth of the congregation. During the last year of his life he battled courageously with illness drawing strength from his faith, his family and the prayers of God's people. He now enjoys the

presence of his Lord in the heavenly country and our thoughts are with his wife Helena, their children and the wider family circle whom we commend to the comforts of Christ the Saviour.

The Rev Samuel Malcolm McSparran, BA, Minister Emeritus of Monreagh congregation in the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal, died on 13 May, 2011 in the 94th year of his age and the 67th year of his ministry. He was born on 17 January, 1918 at Lockgate, Balne, Yorkshire, to James McSparran, farmer, and his wife Catherine, née Creswell. Following the tragic death of his father on Christmas Eve, 1930, his widowed mother returned to her roots at Beachmount, Nedd, Ballykelly, with her six children. Mr McSparran began his education at Pollington Elementary School, Yorkshire, then Ballykelly Elementary School, and Limavady Academy. He went on to study at Magee University, Londonderry; Trinity College, Dublin; the Assembly's College, Belfast and New College, Edinburgh, graduating BA. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Glendermott on 5 December, 1943 and served as Assistant in the congregation of Nelson Memorial on the Shankill Road. He was ordained and installed in the congregation of Monreagh in the Presbytery of Donegal on 12 January, 1945 and remained there until his retirement on 31 October, 1987. He married Mary Margaret McCartney on 4 September, 1945, and four children were born to the marriage, two sons, John and David, and two daughters, Ruth and Claire. Mr McSparran was well known to all the people around Monreagh and enjoyed happy cross-community relationships. He is remembered, in particular, for his part in securing a piped water supply from nearby mountain springs to the homes in the parish to replace water drawn from wells. This was initiated as a private scheme to which householders subscribed but was taken over later by the public authorities. His successor, the Rev Dr David Latimer, also minister of First Derry, in a funeral tribute observed of him that 'Christianity for the Rev McSparran ... primarily was being amongst the people and living out the love of God in a host of everyday practical ways.' Mr McSparran's enduring legacy lies in the hearts and memories of those among whom he lived and worked during his long and settled ministry in this County Donegal parish. To his family we extend our sympathy and appreciation of their father's life and work together with the assurance of the prayers of the Church in their loss.

Priorities Committee

If the General Assembly agrees to the Priorities Committee developing an Assembly theme each year, beginning in 2012-13, there would need to be some budget available from the Incidental Fund for the production of resource materials and other initiatives around the theme. This would need to be carefully managed by the General Board. An additional resolution asks the Assembly to provide the General Board with a budget for this purpose of up to £20,000, but only to be used at the discretion of the Board.

Church Relations Committee

The Rev Cheryl Meban reports:

World Communion of Reformed Churches European Area Council

Leaders of 24 European churches belonging to the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) gathered in Prague on 4-5 March 2011 to renew relationships and to discuss developments in European and global church life. The Rev Dr Donald Watts represented the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

WCRC President, Dr Jerry Pillay, (South Africa) brought input from the strategic planning process that is underway, focussing the vision and purpose of WCRC to further the Mission of God in the world, through holistic mission that includes seeking justice and deeper communion.

Dr Guy Liagre (Belgium) spoke about the future of reformed theological work in Europe. There was also an opportunity to discuss with him personally the complexity of the current political situation in Belgium, and the strain on the church of functioning in different languages, particularly at times when the different ethnicities of the country are pulling apart.

Meanwhile the Hungarian Reformed Church has been able to reunite six different church groupings in different jurisdictions which had been split since World War 1. It was salutary, too, to be in the company and receiving the hospitality of Czech leaders who, having lived through the persecution of Communist regime, now face the tides of secularism in the form of consumerism, and to talk with our Romanian brother about the ongoing discrimination against the Reformed Church in his country.

Rev Cheryl Meban, one of the four European members of the WCRC Executive Committee, was also present. Cheryl has been part of the strategic planning process of WCRC, and attended the European Steering Group meeting in October. She has been involved in the process of selecting a new Executive Secretary for Justice and Partnership, and continued her involvement with the Strategic Planning Group and Executive Committee in Geneva in May. Her presence in Europe and beyond ensures that the commitment of PCI to the mission of Christ in the world, and our Board of Mission Overseas emphasis on Leadership Development, are being put at the centre of WCRC's Vision, Mission and Strategy.

Church and Society Committee

Sectarianism

1. The recent murder of Ronan Kerr was a criminal act, with little political support, and is to be condemned as wrong. It reminds everyone of the need to maintain a real and practical commitment to a society in which violence has no part, in which differences are resolved by peaceful means and in which there is mutual respect and tangible growth in trust and co-operation. There is a need to remain vigilant and attend to separation arising from different histories, geographical locations, cultural backgrounds, and education systems, otherwise there will remain great potential for sectarianism to take root and flourish.

2. The responses from Presbyteries were careful to note that no one can claim to be free from sectarianism, not least because it so often 'blind sides us'.

So boundaries may become hardened without it being noticed, other people may be overlooked and feel overlooked again without this being noticed and it is only a short step to words and then practices that marginalize, belittle, dehumanize or demonize. The act of recognising and accepting sectarianism as part of one's own behaviour as well as that of others, is perhaps even more painful and sobering than the recognition of the sectarianism of others. But any hope of healing and reconciliation depends deeply on both forgiving and being forgiven. All acquiescence, acceptance or collaboration with sectarianism, including that which is quite unintentional and due more to neglect, has to be clearly identified and purposefully resisted.

3. It cannot be said often enough that relationships matter. At the heart of the gospel lies relationship with God. How relationships are constructed with neighbours feeds the kind of society that grows and develops over a period of time. So if good relationships with neighbours, particularly those who are different, are not attended to then they are likely to fall by the wayside and eventually break down. Such break down may only become evident at times of difficulty or contention, otherwise the break down lies under the surface but with separateness being built up as communities live parallel, rather than integrated, lives.

4. It is with all of this in mind that the Committee appends a resolution asking that everyone be careful not to focus on any speck in someone else's eye while ignoring the log in their own. (Matthew 7:3-5) The Committee also invites members of congregations to seek to build relationships with neighbouring Catholic people, or to renew those relationships that may have fallen by the wayside. Joint worship is not being advocated, although some may choose to worship with their Catholic neighbours. Rather the Committee is asking that some form of relationship be developed which allows people to get to know each other without fear and to live less parallel lives; to respect one another despite differences and, while not compromising matters of faith, to become friends. Such relationships could, for example, take the form of social events, or of taking the opportunity to talk about local socio-economic issues, or an Open College Network course addressing transition from conflict in countries including Northern Ireland which gives people the opportunity to talk about past experiences and hopes for the future. What happens locally can change the atmosphere and landscape both locally and further afield.

5. Across society there are many groups working towards the better relationships that not only bring sectarianism to light but also help communities to find alternative ways of being together, ways built on co-operation and not contention. Local Councils have Good Relations Partnerships or Community Relations Officers. These groups and individuals have a much clearer picture of what is going on than churches do. They have knowledge and learning to share. At the same time they may have little understanding or knowledge of what churches are doing or of what they potentially could do. So the Committee is asking Presbyteries to take a determined lead in making connections with their local councils through their Good Relations or equivalent committees or through their Community Relations Officers. The Committee believes there is

much to be learned from them and much for churches to put their weight behind in partnership with others so that much more effect is made on sectarianism in society and more hope is seen for a shared and better future.

6. The Committee is greatly encouraged that the responses from Presbyteries show there is scope and willingness for much more work to be done in this area. To test the mind of the Assembly as to what that further work might be resolutions are appended to facilitate debate.

7. Three further avenues for work remain possible:

- (i) Through asking the Church & Society Committee to make sectarianism a particular focus of conversations with political parties and to develop an informal group with the Catholic Church in Ireland, perhaps through its bishops, to consider the issue;
- (ii) Through the General Assembly's Good Relations Committee whose work has always focused more towards congregations and local groups. Within their remit they could, for example, be asked to consider developing some materials for use by primary schools and Sunday schools to help address sectarianism and building good relationships. This can, of course, take existing work both from within PCI and also other organisations into account;
- (iii) Through a specially appointed panel or group to consider all the suggestions made by Presbyteries which could be undertaken at denominational level and to decide on which are viable and how they might be achieved. Having made that decision, and gaining the approval of the appropriate Board, they should then be tasked to take the work forward.

8. Every time sectarianism is spoken about it needs to be remembered that there are those who still carry hurts from the past that run deep and bring very painful memories to mind. It is important that this work continues to be victim-sensitive in the areas of both politics and sectarianism. The Committee will continue to work with groups such as the NI Commission for Victims and Survivors and encourage local ministers in the sturdy pastoral work that they have offered over the years.

Decade of Centenaries

9. As the decade of centenaries approaches the Committee is aware of both the challenges and opportunities of remembering the past. On the one hand, it is important to note that remembering can undermine processes of reconciliation and can put unnecessary stumbling blocks in the way of others. On the other hand, it is equally important to be aware that remembering is part of who people are and it is only in owning and sharing who they are, and meeting others who likewise own and share who they are, that there is any real chance of understanding and reconciliation.

10. The Committee attach a short reflective paper to give the General Assembly the opportunity to think and talk about how to remember and how to approach the decade of remembering. Resolutions are appended to focus that discussion.

Prisons, Prisoners and the Work of Reform

11. In conjunction with the Director of Social Service the Church & Society Committee is in the process of setting up an inter-board panel to reflect on work that is being done in prisons, the prison structure and the impact on prisoners and the potential for their reform.

12. All of this work will be done with particular reference to the final report from Dame Anne Owers, who was appointed by the Minister for Justice to head a Prison Review Team. An interim report was received in February and a full report is expected soon.

13. The format for the work of the Panel on Prisons will be consultative and it will report to the Church & Society Committee and hence to the General Board.

Recent Events

14. Across the Island of Ireland, on both sides of the border, there was warm welcome for the visit of the Queen. The grace with which Her Majesty carried out her visit, the warmth with which she was received by President McAleese and the people of Ireland and the wisdom of their words all inspired real hope for the future and for better and more reconciled relationships across the Island of Ireland and across these Islands. On this island near neighbours to one another remain people who have much to learn about one another.

15. Towards the end of the Queen's visit the Committee was saddened to hear of the death of Dr Garrett Fitzgerald, former Taoiseach and an individual who would have greatly appreciated and welcomed what the Queen had to say. While it is obvious that not everyone shared Dr Fitzgerald's politics, it is the case that he had a warmth of personality and a commitment to something better in terms of relationships between North and South than was the case at the height of the Troubles. The Committee extends sympathy to his family and note the contribution he made and the hopes he had for a new Ireland, North and South, in which there would be respect for one another and a greater commitment to sharing.

APPENDIX C

DECADE OF CENTENARIES

“With the benefit of historical hindsight we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all.”

Queen Elizabeth II, speaking at Dublin Castle on 19 May, 2011

The upcoming decade of centenaries is both a challenge and an opportunity for society. This short paper is offered not as a position paper but as a tool for reflection. The resolutions appended to the main report provide the opportunity for the General Assembly to discuss, consider and decide what might be done as the decade approaches.

The years 1912-1922 were critical years in shaping the life of the different parts of Ireland up until the present day, including events concerning Home Rule, the gunrunning and birth of the Ulster Volunteers, the Ulster Covenant, the rise of armed Nationalism, and significant turning points in gender and labour politics. But the past is over, and the Church wants to be forward-looking. So why should the Presbyterian Church in Ireland be interested in how our history is remembered?

Let us look at our calling and how it relates to the context in which we find ourselves.

What is our role as Church?

- To love our God, our neighbour and our enemy. And to bear witness to the love of God that we have received in Christ, which is available to all.
- To keep close (or get close) to the outcast and the marginalised – we won't be faithful to Jesus if we fail to listen to those who have felt excluded.
- To articulate a view of the past, present and future which take account of the dignity of all human beings, as creatures made in the image of God, and which deals with the reality of human wrongdoing, falling short of God's glory.
- To pass on to children and children's children the story of God's grace justice and truth, at work in the midst of human weakness, betrayal and injustice.
- To demonstrate the power of God for change in human lives and societies, as illustrated in our own life, by our willingness to take responsibility for our past wrongdoing, and to live lives of hope in the transforming grace which allows us to break the cycles of hatred and violence and guilt and fear which bind human individuals and societies.
- To grow into maturity, so that while there are elements of the past we can take as a model, an encouragement and wisdom for the future, there are also elements of what was done – on every side – which were less noble than we would wish.
- To graciously remind ourselves and the world that most of the time people are doing the best they can, and that this falls short of our calling, which is the perfect love of God.
- To be able to say that the Church played its part in history, and takes seriously her responsibility for the fear and distrust fomented at any given time.
- With an eye to faithful interpretation of Scripture and discernment of the leading of the Holy Spirit, to learn from how the Bible and theology were used (and abused) in the past, both to reinforce the quest for justice and truth, and to justify people acting out of fear rather than love.

- To discern the “signs of the times”, and to guard against the trap of theologising the spirit of this age, rather than daring to trust in God for the future.

Rather than leave reflection on the events of a century ago to those with a political agenda, who may wish (or feel the need) to be selective in order to gain support from one part of society over against another, it is the place of the Church to deal in truth and in honest, humble relationships that sow seeds of peace.

Humble reflection on the past is required for an honest relationship with God, both as individuals and as a whole community and Church. Is it legitimate to say, as we look at our history, that as a Church, we at times have allowed ourselves to become unduly co-opted by the powers of this age? Have we fed the hatred and fear that led to injustice, oppression or conflict? Have we at times failed to remember that our enemy and our neighbour were also created in God’s image? Have we (or our forebears) preferred to trust in chariots and horsemen, or at least in battalions and guns, rather than trust God to protect us? Insofar as any of that is true, and while it is important that we recognise the context and reasons for why they did what they did, we would do better to acknowledge humbly that there might have been a better way, and set ourselves the task of engaging constructively and relationally with those who may have suffered from our past actions, however well intended.

Some may call for public acts of repentance for the part we played in the past. Indeed, there may be times and places where public apology and repentance is what is required, in order to move forward. Whilst there may be appropriate opportunity for this, we should be careful not to engage too lightly in such acts, lest we cause more hurt and alienation, particularly amongst the poor or marginalised. More significant in kingdom terms is active engagement in a new life, a new way of living, a turning away from fear, and a turning towards God and towards our diverse neighbours in love and confidence. We cannot fix the past by symbolic acts of repentance, but we are called to engage with each other towards a shared future. Parts of the Church remain in fear, bound by hatred and distrust. Sectarianism is deeper within us than we care to admit. Yet the presence of Christ among us demands that we dare to face down the demons of fear and hatred, and make room instead for the Spirit of courage, love and self-control.

As the Church, can we help our society to find a more sophisticated vocabulary than that of victimhood? How can we look at the past and say, we did some wrong and we did some right, we suffered wrong, and we received kindness. Terrible as parts of the past have been, we must also recognise the Good that has accompanied us, without which, the bloodshed might have been substantially worse. Now, as recipients of such grace, how can we be gracious to each other? We are called, not to judge our neighbour or our predecessors or ancestors, but to judge ourselves with the measure of grace we hope will be used in judging us. We may then receive with gratitude the gift of life we have been given, and then offer the same to others, past and present, in the same spirit of faith, courage and generosity.

What are the Risks of remembering?

There are risks to remembering the past: Those suffering from old hurts, from unhealed trauma, may feel their pain revived by talking about the past. Equally, the old bitternesses and animosities may be revived by taking people back to places in their minds and memories where they felt threatened, humiliated, depersonalised, diminished or outraged.

Another major risk in looking at history is to fall into the trap of believing that from our current perspectives, we are in a position to judge or approve those who acted in ways that undermine or affirm us and our position now. It is human nature to tend to select the parts of a story that resonate with current feelings, and to ignore the actual context which pertained at the time of the events being addressed. We may become side-tracked into introversion – looking inward whilst forgetting to learn about the wider European and global contexts. Our reading of history can therefore be a rewriting from 21st Century perspectives, and through preferred cultural and political lenses, which affirm prejudices and assumptions rather than challenging and maturing us in our current relationships. Our reading of history, as with our current relationships, ought to make us more compassionate, more understanding of those who do not behave as we think we would like. And history should enable us to engage locally as the global church, rather than be held hostage to local and national imperatives.

The task of exploring and remembering may raise the ante for those for whom reading history is a competitive activity, and for those for whom a selective reading is a central tenet of cherished commitments. There is the risk that by treading in these waters, the church be blamed for muddying them.

What are the Risks of doing nothing?

Whoever controls the past controls the future. The way we engage with the power of (his)storytelling is crucial to the envisioning of future generations and peoples for or against each other. For the Church to fail to engage in exploring the history would allow others with different agendas to set the agenda for the future and rewrite the history without corrective influence or balancing voices.

But more crucially, we have an opportunity to engage with our neighbours, to learn together and to communicate the love and value God places on them by our willingness to listen and learn from their experience and perspectives. To avoid looking at the history of this place is to miss our responsibility to love our neighbour (and even our enemy) by denying their place in our history, and the place of their voice in our understanding of the past and our commitments to create a shalom-filled community and society.

“...we have much to do together to build a future for all our grandchildren; the kind of future our grandparents could only dream of.”

Queen Elizabeth II, speaking at Dublin Castle on 19 May, 2011

Parish Bounds

The East Belfast Presbytery reported as follows:

Ballymacarrett Congregation amalgamated with Ravenhill Congregation on 31 October, 2010. Presbytery has reviewed the Ballymacarrett parish bounds and agreed that the district be subsumed by Mountpottinger, Westbourne and Mersey Street Congregations. It also wants to take this opportunity to transfer the bounds of the former Megain Memorial parish into the name of Mersey Street Congregation. The boundary between Ravenhill and Mountpottinger now follows a main road rather than several side streets.

Agreement has been obtained on behalf of all Congregations concerned.

PROPOSED NEW BOUNDARIES

Westbourne

From Albert Bridge (3496 7396) down river and round lower Twin Island, and up Musgrave Channel to South End (3555 7517), thence by straight line to Convention Court (3565 7464), along Convention Court via Tower Street to Newtownards Road , along Newtownards Road to Templemore Avenue (3560 7437) to Albertbridge Road, to Lagan River at Albert Bridge (3496 7396).

Megain Memorial – name change to Mersey Street

From where the Conn’s Water goes under Sydenham By-Pass (3563 7503) to Connswater Bridge (3635 7422), along Newtownards Road to Albertbridge Road (3622 7425), thence along Albertbridge Road to Templemore Avenue (3568 7394), thence along Templemore Avenue to Newtownards Road (3549 7437), thence along Newtownards Road to Tower Street, thence along Tower Street to Convention Court and continuing in a straight line to the South West end by Musgrave Channel (3555 7515).

Mountpottinger

From Lagan River at Albert Bridge (3496 7396) along Albertbridge Road to Newtownards Road (3622 7425), to Connswater Bridge (3636 7422), along Connswater river to Loop Bridge (3637 7354), along Beersbridge Road via Cherryville Street to My Lady’s Road, along My Lady’s Road to Ravenhill Road to Lagan River at Albert Bridge (3946 7396).

Ravenhill

From Lagan River at Albert Bridge (3496 7396) up Lagan River to point opposite Balfour Avenue (3457 7271), thence across Ormeau Park to Earl Haig Gardens (3561 7263), to Ardenlee Avenue (3506 7261), up Ardenlee Avenue to Ardenlee Gardens (3550 7250), to Ranelagh Street (3566 7268), to Carlingford Street (3561 7289), by Killowen Street (3558 7306) to Woodstock Road (357 7310), to My Lady’s Road (3559 7346), to Pearl Street (3552 7343), along Cherryville Street (3543 7354) to My Lady’s Road, along My Lady’s Road to Ravenhill Road, to Lagan River at Albert Bridge (3946 7396).

Resolutions

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Very Rev Dr JS Carson, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That the General Assembly give thanks for the progress in finding an acceptable solution to the Presbyterian Mutual Society crisis and gratefully acknowledge the contribution and commitment of many people in Government, Civil Service, the Administrator's office and the Church in reaching this point.

**Financial
Crisis**

3. That the General Assembly acknowledge with gratitude the patience and forbearance of the vast majority of savers in the Presbyterian Mutual Society throughout this difficult period when there was no access to their funds.

4. That the General Assembly accept the five aspirational headings noted in the Priorities Committee report as five Assembly themes for the years 2012-2017.

Priorities

5. That the theme for the 2012-13 year be, "A Prophetic Voice" and the 2013-14 year be, "A Place of Transformation".

6. That the General Assembly approve an additional budget to the General Board from the Incidental Fund of up to £20,000 for the use of the Priorities Committee, if necessary, in providing helpful materials to focus the mind of the Church on the agreed theme for 2012.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by Mr Robert McCullagh, and agreed:

7. That the General Assembly approve the proposed arrangements, as outlined in the report of the Pensions and Assessments Panel.

Assessments

Moved as a licensed additional resolution by the Very Rev Dr JW Lockington, seconded by the Rev NJ McCullough and agreed:

**Church of
Scotland**

8. That the General Assembly endorse the actions of the General Board and the Clerk (Reports p 16) in relation to the "Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry" of the Church of Scotland and view with concern the deliverances of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on the Report of the Special Commission.

Intermission

The Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports p 15-75) – debate continued.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev Dr Lesley Carroll, and agreed:

9. That the General Assembly, recognising the awesome and God-given responsibility which political leaders have, do not want to abandon them to the task but assure the political leaders of the Assembly's prayers and willingness to engage with them.

**Political
Leaders**

10. That the General Assembly encourage Congregations to continue to pray for those given leadership in society.

11. That the General Assembly express concern for the citizens of the Irish Republic and for fellow Presbyterians in particular, wish them well in these challenging times and assure the new government, under the leadership of Mr Enda Kenny, of their concerned prayers and good wishes.

**Dissident
Groups**

12. The General Assembly, conscious of the anxiety in which some members of this society live, of the threat to members of the PSNI, the Prison Service and others, and of the threat to the future stability and the rebuilding of society that comes from dissident groups, encourage the wider church to pray without ceasing for those who remain afraid and anxious because of the divisions in this society and to work for peace in every way possible.

**Economic
Difficulties**

13. That the General Assembly affirm the talent with which God has gifted members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and that this talent remains despite our economic difficulties, enabling them to continue to joyfully and willingly serve God.

14. That the General Assembly commend the Church and Society Committee on its determination to stimulate meaningful responses by the Church to the broad and deep economic issues being faced across the island.

**Consultat-
ions**

15. That the General Assembly note the consultation responses made by the Church and Society Committee during the past year.

**Good
Relationships**

16. That the General Assembly adopt the position paper, 'Building good relationships: our hope for a more reconciled society' and ask that a version prepared for congregational use be provided and circulated as a cost to the Incidental Fund.

Prisons

17. That the General Assembly note the appointment of a Panel from the Church and Society Committee in conjunction with the Board of Social Service to consider prisons, prisoners and the work of reform and encourage the Panel to fully consider the proposals of Dame Anne Owers and to consult on this issue, including consultation with PCI's Prison Chaplains.

Sectarianism

18. That the General Assembly believe sectarianism is insidious, is no respecter of persons, is historically rooted and given vitality by perceptions and by narrow or parallel lifestyles that take little or no account of the 'other' and that Sectarianism therefore needs to be addressed with urgency if it is not to continue to take root in the Church and in society.

19. That the General Assembly, believing in the insidious nature of sectarianism, encourage every Presbyterian when thinking about those who are different, or when speaking about sectarianism to first of all look for the log in their own eye.

20. That the General Assembly, recognising that sectarianism can thrive where separation and a measure of 'parallel living' exists, encourage:

- (i) all congregations to find ways to build relationships with their Catholic neighbours;
- (ii) Presbyteries both to acquaint themselves with 'good relations' committees and Community Relations Officers at local council level and also to identify with some of their work that they can support, lead or get involved in.

21. That the General Assembly request the Church & Society Committee to:
- (i) make sectarianism a particular focus of conversations with political parties;
 - (ii) develop an informal group with the Catholic Church in Ireland, perhaps through its bishops, to consider the issue of sectarianism and report to the 2012 General Assembly.

22. That the General Assembly request the Good Relations Committee to consider developing materials for use by primary schools and Sunday schools to help address sectarianism through building good relationships and to keep sectarianism as a concern in their work.

23. That the General Assembly request the Church & Society Committee to consider all the suggestions made by Presbyteries with regard to addressing sectarianism and bring proposals to the 2012 General Assembly regarding those which could be undertaken at denominational level.

24. That the General Assembly encourage Congregations and Presbyteries to take every opportunity to seriously engage across the community with neighbours and (former) enemies and to use the decade of centenaries to listen, learn and love, bringing our own cultural and moral selves to the encounters, so that sharing our history can teach us what are the challenges, obstacles, and useful pathways towards a shared and peaceable future.

Centenaries

25. That the General Assembly, mindful of the risk of polarisation in the next decade, ask that those engaging with others would seek to do so constructively and in such a way as to encourage a more inclusive listening, learning and sensitive commemoration of events for community-building, involving both intra and inter community meeting and engagement.

26. That the General Assembly invite individuals, Congregations and Presbyteries to set their hearts to listen for the Spirit of God as He convicts of sin and so makes His people slow to judge and gracious and patient towards those who may have sinned against them.

27. That the General Assembly commend the initiative of Contemporary Christianity in Ireland to facilitate a well-researched and presented History Roadshow, with a view to making available to schools, church fora, cross-community, good relations and combined single identity groups, an opportunity to engage in history together.

28. That the General Assembly note the Environment Panel is considering the possibility of initiating an "Environment Sunday".

Environment

29. That the General Assembly encourage the Race Relations Panel as it resources the strategic mission of the Church with immigrants and minority ethnic people.

**Race
Relations**

30. 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)	£5,000
Churches Asylum Network (RoI)	£500

- Faith Relations** 31. That the General Assembly encourage the on-going discussions of the Global Concerns Committee on Abrahamic faith relations.
- Good Relations** 32. That the General Assembly instruct the General Board to appoint a new Panel on Building Good Relations, with the remit outlined in the Future of Peacemaking Report.
- Structures Review** 33. That the General Assembly note the work of the Panel to review Board and Committee Structures.
- Consultation Review** 34. That the General Assembly note the work of the Panel to review the Presbytery Consultation process and authorise the General Board to approve for trial any new Consultation process.
35. That the General Assembly approve the following budgets from the Incidental Fund:
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| General work of the Board | £6,000 |
| Church and Society | £2,000 |
| Building Good Relations | £8,000 |
| Environmental Issues | £2,000 |
| Pastoral Care of Manse Families | £2,000 |
- Moved by the Rev Colin Burcombe, seconded by the Rev Uel Marrs, and agreed:
- Parish Bounds** 36. That the General Assembly confirm the changes to Parish Bounds as reported by the East Belfast Presbytery.
- Church Relations** Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev Lorraine Kennedy-Richie and agreed:
37. That the General Assembly appoint the following:
- to the Irish Council of Churches Executive: Revs John Brackenridge, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, Dr Donald Watts;
- to the Irish Inter-Church Committee Revs Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, Dr Donald Watts.
38. That the following grants be made available from the Incidental Fund:
- | | |
|--|---------|
| Irish Council of Churches | £19,000 |
| Irish Inter-Church Meeting | £10,000 |
| World Communion of Reformed Churches | £13,000 |
| Conference of European Churches | £5,000 |
| Church and Society Commission (Brussels) | £2,000 |
| Community of Protestant Churches in Europe | £3,000 |
- Reception** 39. That the General Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiate Committee on Ministers and Licentiate without charge.
40. That the Rev Colin Harris be appointed as Acting Convener of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiate Committee
- Pastoral Care** 41. That Ministers and Manse families be encouraged by Presbytery Clerks and colleagues to avail of the care available.

42. That the General Board with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 272 of the Code as follows:

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 James Gordon, AD Davidson; JG MacQueen, JLA McIlwaine — Revs JJ Andrews, RM Murray; Nathaniel Rea, Samuel Wallace — Revs TC Morrison, DW Brice; HA Groves, Richard Doggart — CWL Graham; Revs DJ Boden, WJ Orr; _____ — DC Cowan; Rev FP Sellar; CM Young, John McKibbin — Revs TJ Stothers, GAJ Farquhar; Edwin Boal, James Armstrong — Revs WI Hunter, Richard Gregg; Cecil Lynn, George McIntyre — Revs Stanley Stewart, Dr David Latimer; Mrs Ruby Millar, Ian McCracken — Revs Dr BCG Black, AS Smyth; John Hanna, William Poole — Revs JI Davey, Paul Jamieson; Norman Mawhinney, Miss Evelyn Whyte — Stuart Ferguson; Rev AJ Boal; _____, AW Finlay — Revs GE Best, RA Moffett; JB McClean, Dr TJ Robinson — Revs SG Anketell, GJ Mackarel; J Fairbairn, Wilson McConkey — Revs SA Finlay, WT Bingham; James Chestnutt, Samuel Walker — Revs Robert Herron, RA Campbell; TJG Wilson, JA Patterson — Revs Noel McClean, Dr JA Thompson; Victor McLean, EC Redmond — Revs WJ Murdock, Brian Kennaway; JH McClurg, Mrs Adrienne Bowden — Revs TJ Conway, AS Thompson; Orr Gibson, WGN Johnston.
- (g) Revs Dr RI Birney, DH Thompson, IF Smith, RA McLernon; Mrs Caroline Hawthorne, Mrs Deborah Webster, Mrs Maeve Magowan, Mrs Sarah Harding, Mrs Avril Heenan, Mrs Pauline Kennedy, Miss Barbara McDade, Miss Muriel Cromie, D Bell, JH Martin, WJ Cairns, Mervyn McCullagh.

A. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Revs Dr LE Carroll; AJ Boal, Co-Conveners

- (a) The Moderator, preceding Moderator, Clerk, former Clerks, and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Moderator-Designate, Global Concerns Convener, Church and Society Conveners, Communications Secretary.
- (x) Revs John Brackenridge, AC Wilson, JA Kirkpatrick, Mary Hunter; ESR McCarter.
- (y) Revs WT Bingham, Richard Murray, Brian Kennaway; JA Patterson, I McCracken.

B. GLOBAL CONCERNS **Rev Dr AF Nel, 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 CM Hunter; Mrs Fiona Watts, Dr John Gillespie.
- (y) Revs Dr WP Addley, Dr RA Russell, AD Davidson; 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 John Brackenridge, KDW Crowe, Dr JC McCullough, TJ Wilson, DB Knox, Simon Henning.
- (y) Revs GAJ Farquhar, SG Anketell; CM Young, Dr TJ Robinson, Stuart Ferguson.

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

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, General Assembly's Theological Professors.
- (x) Revs GJ Kennedy, SD Finlay Dr Michael McClenahan; R Thompson, Miss D Ford.
- (y) Revs AD Davidson, GJ Mackarel, Dr RA Russell, SA Finlay, AJ Boal, RA Moffett.

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

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Secretaries.
- (x) Conveners of: Union Commission; Communications; 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, GAJ Farquhar, AD Davidson; Mrs Adrienne Bowden, DC Cowan, JLA McIlwaine, CWL Graham, Stuart Ferguson.

F. MODERATOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**The Clerk, Convener**

- (a) The Moderator, preceding three Moderators, Clerk, former Clerks, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Communications and Press Secretary.

- (x) Rev DR Baker; Mrs Rosemary Dunlop, Mrs Cherry Poynton, Lindsay Conway, MA Morrow QC.
- (y) Revs JJ Andrews, TJ Conway, SG Anketell; Mrs Adrienne Bowden, Mrs Ruby Millar.

G. RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES COMMITTEE

Rev CG Harris, Acting 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, SD Finlay, SS Johnston, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie; David McMullan, Miss Anne Taylor.
- (y) Revs SA Finlay, WJ Murdock, TC Morrison, GAJ Farquhar; Mrs Adrienne Bowden, Alan Boyd.

The **Overtures Anent Pars 25 and 48 of the Code** (Reports pp75-76) were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts **Overtures**

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

That the overtures anent Pars 25 and 48 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The Overture **Anent Par 33 of the Code** (Reports p76) were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts

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

That the overture anent Par 33 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The Overture **anent Par 81 of the Code** (Report p 76) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr JW Lockington.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr JW Lockington, seconded by the Very Rev Dr SJ Dixon, and agreed:

That the overture anent Par 81 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

An **Overture Anent Par 76(e) of the Code** was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, as follows:

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in subparagraph 76(e) of the Code the words “proportional to the amount of stipend paid,” be deleted.

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

That the overture anent Par 76(e) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

Overtures Anent Pars 235, 313(1), 318(B)(2), 320(2) and 325(2) of the Code were submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, as follows:

Anent Par 235 of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that Par 235 of the Code be deleted and the following substituted in its place:

“235. (1) Within the total income of a congregation certain items are designated as Assessable Income and include –

- (a) Weekly Freewill Offering;
- (b) Income for Stipend;
- (c) Income for the Central Ministry Fund;
- (d) Sunday and other collections for general congregational purposes;
- (e) Rental income retained for general purposes less related expenditure including financing costs on related loans;
- (f) Income on general bequests;
- (g) Any other general income on which no restriction has been applied by the donor.

(2) Money received by way of repayment of Income Tax on a contribution shall be treated as part of that contribution.

(3) Assessable Income does not include collections for building and repairs, repayment of debts and other designated objects approved by the Presbytery with reference, if necessary, to the Board of Finance and Personnel, monies raised in Sunday School or Church organisations (other than for general congregational purposes), collections for the United Appeal, World Development or other religious and charitable objects, bequests, grants and restricted endowment income.

Where a congregation adopts the Weekly Freewill Offering method, the Congregational Committee shall provide envelopes and appoint a WFO Secretary to supervise their distribution and return.”

Anent Par 313(1) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in subparagraph 313(1) of the Code the words “on the stipend paid to the minister in the preceding year, or as fixed by the Union Commission in giving leave to call in a vacancy,” be deleted and the words “on Assessable Income,” be substituted in their place.

Anent Par 318(B)(2) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in sub-paragraph 318(B)(2) of the Code the words “in the preceding financial year, or as fixed by the Union Commission in giving leave to call in a vacancy,” be deleted.

Anent Par 320(2) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in sub-paragraph 320(2) of the Code the words “assessed on the stipend paid to the minister in the preceding financial year, or as fixed by the Union Commission in giving leave to call in a vacancy,” be deleted and the words “on Assessable Income,” be substituted in their place.

Anent Par 325(2) of the Code

It is hereby overtured to the General Assembly to enact that in sub-paragraph 325(2) of the Code the words “on the stipend to the minister in the preceding year, or as fixed by the Union Commission in giving leave to call in a vacancy,” be deleted and the words “on Assessable Income,” be substituted in their place.

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

That the overtures anent Pars 235, 313(1), 318(B)(2), 320(2) and 325(2) of the Code be received and placed on the books.

The sederunt came to a close at 6.06pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

On Wednesday evening, 8 June, 2011, at 7.45pm, an Evening Rally was held in the Assembly Hall led by the Moderator.

SIXTH SESSION

Thursday, 9th June, 2011

9.30am

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

In Private

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports pp 77-78) was submitted by Mr Mervyn A Morrow QC, along with the following Supplementary Report:

**JUDICIAL
COMMISSION**

**REFERENCE FROM THE AHOREY COMMISSION OF THE
ARMAGH PRESBYTERY**

The Judicial Commission recognises that there have been very difficult and sensitive matters for the Presbytery and its Commission to deal with, and the Judicial Commission acknowledges the many hours spent by the Presbytery members in seeking the best way forward for the Ahorey Congregation. Following receipt of the Presbytery Commission's reference dated 2 June 2010, the Judicial Commission heard and considered the responses of (a) Presbytery representatives, (b) the Ruling Elders and (c) the Minister and his wife respectively to a number of questions.

2. Having heard and considered their respective responses the Judicial Commission is satisfied:

- (a) that reports of events, circumstances and relationships which had been the subject of concern to the Commission of Presbytery have not irreparably impaired the ministry of the Minister;
- (b) that the relationships between the Congregation, Ruling Elders and the Minister have been clarified and harmony is being restored;
- (c) that the Ruling Elders desire closure of the issues that had caused concern to the Commission of Presbytery, and desire to go forward in their work with the ministry of the Minister in the Congregation, and both intend to work together and look to Presbytery for support.

3. In the forgoing circumstances the Judicial Commission finds and determines:

- (1) that the reasons for the concerns which had been expressed by the Commission of Presbytery in its reference and in its written and oral submissions no longer require further response of or inquiry by or directions from Presbytery;
- (2) that it is not appropriate for the Judicial Commission to instruct Presbytery in the matter of the appointment of the Clerk of Presbytery, but notes and endorses the expressed wish and intention of the Minister to devote his time to the primary task of rebuilding relationships in the congregations of Ahorey and Clare and that he does not seek to return for the time being to the office of Clerk of Presbytery;
- (3) that representatives of the Judicial Commission are available to assist the parties to further the restoration of harmonious relationships in Ahorey Congregation and for this purpose intend to meet with the Minister and such other parties as are deemed appropriate.

4. The Judicial Commission commits the Minister and his wife, the Ruling Elders and Members of both the Congregations of Ahorey and Clare and the Members of Presbytery to the care, guidance and help of Almighty God in their work. It looks forward in prayer to the restoration of harmonious relationships in Ahorey Congregation, which will glorify God and bear witness to His Kingdom.

27 August 2010

APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

Appeal of Junior Christian Endeavour Leaders to the Judicial Commission against the decision of the Ballymena Presbytery Commission, made on 6 July 2010, that they be dismissed as leaders of the Junior Christian Endeavour in Cairnalbana Presbyterian Church

The Judicial Commission, having considered the record of the Cairnalbana Commission of the Ballymena Presbytery in the case including extracts from the Minutes of the Cairnalbana Kirk Session and of the Presbytery Commission, met on 13 September 2010 to consider the written and oral submissions of the Appellants and the oral submissions of representatives of the Kirk Session and of the Presbytery Commission, and Finds:

1. On 3 November 2009 the Presbytery Commission was appointed following a request from Cairnalbana Kirk Session to look into the situation in Cairnalbana congregation and to give assistance to the Kirk Session.

On 30 March 2010 the Presbytery Commission issued its Finding which included four recommendations, of which the fourth is “Commission directs that the Junior C. E stop as soon as practically possible and that the issues regarding communication between leaders and the minister be resolved to the Commission’s satisfaction. [This organisation] shall recommence at the Commission’s discretion once the Commission is satisfied that outstanding issues have been dealt with.” In the Conclusion the Finding included “Due to the nature of the issues and the complexity of relationships [the Commission does] not believe [removing people from posts] is the best way of resolving matters at this stage”.

2. Members of the Presbytery Commission attended the Kirk Session stated meeting on 14 June 2010. The Commission advised the Kirk Session to assess the confidence it had in the leadership of the Junior Christian Endeavour in a secret ballot. One of the appellants, a member of the Kirk Session, remained present and was included as one of the voters in the ballot for the purpose of indicating the Kirk Session’s confidence in the Christian Endeavour leadership and was permitted to vote with the other elders, except in relation to the vote concerning himself. The Minister, to whom the Presbytery Commission had referred in its fourth recommendation (quoted above), remained also and was included as one of the voters in the ballot and was permitted to vote with the other elders. None of the voters were permitted to vote in relation to any of their respective family members. The votes were cast for each of the Christian Endeavour leaders seriatim. The results recorded in the minutes disclose that a majority of the voters expressed their confidence for each of the four leaders.

3. The Presbytery Commission noted that all the leaders of the Junior Christian Endeavour had received less than two-thirds of the votes and advised the Kirk Session that it would be unwise to appoint leaders obtaining such a percentage of votes and that the Christian Endeavour leadership should be stood down.

4. On 6 July 2010 the Presbytery Commission decided, acting under paragraph 20 (1) (b) of The Code, to send a letter to one of the Christian Endeavour Leaders confirming that the Christian Endeavour leaders did not receive a two-thirds vote of confidence from the Kirk Session and that as a result the Junior Christian Endeavour leadership had been stood down. The Presbytery Commission sent a letter dated 8 July 2010 with three copies in the foregoing terms to that Leader, and in which the Commission asked him to so inform the rest of the Christian Endeavour leadership.

5. The Presbytery Commission submitted to the Judicial Commission that it considered that at least a two-thirds majority vote of confidence was required because it took the view that a minister should obtain that majority from a congregation before it would be considered safe to issue a call to the congregation.

6. The evidence before the Judicial Commission has disclosed that the minister considered that relationships and communications between the Christian Endeavour leadership and himself had broken down. There was no evidence before the Judicial Commission that the Presbytery Commission had met with or interviewed the minister or any of the Christian Endeavour leaders, other than the one to whom they had written in relation to the problem.

7. The Judicial Commission is satisfied that the Presbytery Commission was not justified in reaching the conclusions and decisions which are the subject of this appeal on the grounds that none of the leaders of the Christian Endeavour had received two-thirds of the votes of confidence, because:

- (1) it was improper for one of the appellants and the minister, both being the members of Kirk Session who were primarily concerned in and affected by the issues the subject of the ballot, to be present and to vote in the ballot. Consequently the results of the ballot undertaken by the Kirk Session on 14 June 2010, in so far only as they related to the leadership of the Junior Christian Endeavour, are determined by the Judicial Commission to be null and void;
- (2) in any event, each of the leaders had received a majority of the votes of the Kirk Session and it was not appropriate in the circumstances to adopt a practice which may have been adopted in relation to the issue of a call to a minister to a Congregation to the matter of whether leaders of Christian Endeavour who had already been appointed by the Kirk Session should be dismissed from the position they held.

In Conclusion, the Judicial Commission directs:

1. That the decision of the Presbytery Commission at its meeting on 6 July, 2010 to stand down the Junior Christian Endeavour Leadership be set aside.
2. That the Junior Christian Endeavour should not recommence until the Presbytery Commission is satisfied that outstanding issues have been dealt with, in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Presbytery Finding Recommendations of 30 March, 2010.
3. That the Appellants and Minister are to take part in meaningful conciliation, facilitated by the Presbytery Commission with the help of the

General Assembly's Conciliation Panel and each of the parties – Appellants, Minister and Presbytery Commission – are to report back to the Judicial Commission no later than 13 December, 2010.

The Judicial Commission commends the Appellants and their families, the Minister, Kirk Session and Congregation of Cairnlabana and the Presbytery of Ballymena to the grace and peace of Almighty God.

4 October 2010

APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION OF THE BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

Notice of Appeal was received from a person who had applied to the Ballymena Presbytery to be nominated to the Board of Christian Training in order to proceed to the next stage of the Accredited Preacher Scheme. While the Appeal is in order, the Judicial Commission decided that it should report to the General Assembly under Code Par 165(3) and recommend that a special Commission be appointed to deal with this and any similar appeal through the year. The special Commission should also recommend to next year's Assembly how a review process may be built into a Presbytery nomination procedure rather than a judicial appeal. This report should refer to all nominations such as Accredited Preacher, Auxiliary Minister and Candidate for the Ministry. The recommended membership of the special Commission is: Moderator, Clerk, 3 members Judicial Commission; 3 members Board of Christian Training; 2 members Doctrine Committee.

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENT TO JUDICIAL AND SPECIAL COMMISSION

The resignation of the Rev TJ Conway as Tyrone Presbytery representative to the Judicial Commission was noted with regret. The nomination of the Rev TWA Greer to the Judicial Commission was also received.

The Judicial Commission nominate the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey to the Special Commission.

Moved by Mr Mervyn A Morrow QC, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, and agreed:

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the following Commission be appointed to consider any appeal against a Presbytery decision not to nominate an applicant for the Accredited Preacher course and to consider how such appeals should be dealt with in the future: Moderator, Clerk; Revs TJ Conway, M Stanfield; MA Morrow QC; Revs JNI McNeely, TD Gribben, Dr RB Savage; Rev Prof JP Taylor, AD Davidson.
3. That the resignation of the Rev TJ Conway be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev TWA Greer appointed in his place.
4. That the Rev Dr DJ McKelvey be appointed a member of the Special Commission.

In Public

UNITED APPEAL The Report of the **UNITED APPEAL BOARD** (Reports pp 285-291) was submitted by the Rev RIA Allely.

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the United Appeal for 2012 be as set out in the Schedules (III) and (IV).

Review of Staffing 3. That the General Assembly instruct the Priorities Committee to initiate an independent review by an outside consultant of the core costs, including staffing, of each Board and report to the 2012 Assembly.

Moratorium 4. That the General Assembly impose a moratorium on all new posts during the year 2011-2012, unless approved in special circumstances by the General Board.

5. That the General Assembly commend the Briefing and DVDs on the work supported by the United Appeal to Congregations and ask that they be used creatively.

6. That the United Appeal Board for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with par 287 of the Code as follows:

Rev RIA Allely, Convener
The Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener.
- (b) Mrs EJ Mann — JN Greenlee — Rev NAL Cameron — Billy Elliot — Rev AR Bill — Martin Hampton — R Nelson — Rev TJ Laverty — Stewart Ramsey — William Keown — James McDowell — Rev Mary Hunter — Rev S Newell — J Bole — Rev DJ Temple — N Morrison — Rev KDW Crowe — Mrs Laura Martin — Rev WG Hamilton.
- (g) Rev Dr John Dunlop, John Brackenridge; Miss DE McCaughan, Dennis Alexander, Douglas Crowe, Raymond Adams, WK Belshaw, Peter McGimpsey.

Memorial The **MEMORIAL OF THE KIRK SESSION OF FIRST DERRY AND CLAREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** was submitted by the Rev Stanley Stewart:

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Belfast on 6th day of June, 2011.

The Memorial of the Kirk Session of First Derry and Claremont Presbyterian Church Respectfully Showeth:

That a successful assimilation of First Derry and Claremont Churches has taken place.

That the city's oldest congregation is known and exclusively referred to as First Derry.

That the congregation, following 8.75 years displacement due to severe structural problems caused by dry-rot, has returned to its spiritual home on the site of the first church built in 1690.

The Kirk Session considers that the appropriate name for the congregation, which has met on the same site since 1690 should now be First Derry Church (incorporating Claremont). Memorialists therefore pray your Venerable Assembly to approve the change of name from First Derry and Claremont Presbyterian Church to that of First Derry Presbyterian Church (incorporating Claremont), and Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Adopted by the Kirk Session at its meeting on 27th March 2011

DAVID LATIMER, Moderator

DEREK R LEE, Clerk of Session

Licensed and transmitted by the Presbytery of Derry and Donegal at its meeting in Gortnessy on Tuesday 3 May, 2011 with the strong recommendation that the prayer of the Memorialists be granted.

R BUICK, Moderator

S STEWART, Clerk

Moved by the Rev Stanley Stewart, seconded by the Rev Dr Stewart Jones, and agreed:

That the Memorial be received and its prayer granted.

BOARD OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL (Reports pp 236-283 & Supplementary Reports p 33)– debate resumed (see page 37)

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Douglas Crowe and agreed:

2. That the rate of assessment for the Central Ministry Fund for 2011 be 18.5p in the £ of stipend.

3. That the rate of assessment for the Retired Ministers' Fund for 2011 be 1.5p in the £ of stipend.

4. That the rate of assessment for the Widows of Ministers' Fund for 2011 be 4.0p in the £ of stipend.

5. That the rate of assessment for the Prolonged Disability Fund for 2011 be 0.25p in the £ of stipend.

6. That the rate of assessment for the Church House Repair Fund for 2011 be 3.50p in the £ of stipend.

7. That the rate of assessment for the Incidental Fund for 2011 be 5.00p in the £ of stipend.

8. That the rate of assessment for the PCI Pension (2009) Fund for 2011 be 30.00p in the £ of stipend.

**BOARD OF
FINANCE
AND
PERSONNEL
(cont'd)
Assessments**

9. That the rate of assessment for the Sick Supply Fund for 2011 be 0.25p in the £ of stipend.

10. That the General Assembly approve the new Rules as set out in Appendix 4 for the Retired Ministers House Fund.

Church House

11. That the contract of Felix O'Hare & Co Ltd be extended to carry out work to the first floor of Church House, up to a value of the savings of approximately £350,000, but that no additional money be expended which has not already been approved by the General Assembly.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Douglas Crowe:

12. That the General Assembly authorise the General Board to advise the Property Management Committee, if necessary, in agreeing terms with potential tenants.

Moved by the Rev Joseph Andrews, seconded by Mr Jonathan Pope, and agreed:

12. That the General Assembly:

- (a) recognising its custom and practice, authorise the General Board to advise the Property Management Committee, if necessary, in agreeing terms with potential tenants;
- (b) request the General Board to set up a Panel to examine the wider issues connected with the commercial property aspect of the Church House complex and report to the General Assembly of 2012.

Prolonged Disability

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Douglas Crowe and agreed:

13. That rule 17c of the Prolonged Disability Fund be amended to add the word "currently available" as follows "evidence which demonstrates to the satisfaction of reasonable medical opinion that all currently available, appropriate treatment option have been thoroughly investigated and appropriately explained to the applicant/prospective applicant."

Auditors

14. That Ernst & Young, LLP be appointed as auditors for all the Committees, Boards, Trusts, Commissions and Agencies of The General Assembly for the year 2011.

Retirement

15. That under the provisions of the Code Par 223(3) the Rev JA Thompson (Dervock) be given permission to retire on or after his 64th birthday, on 4 May, 2012.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by the Rev Dr Donald Watts, and agreed:

16. That the resignation of Mr Douglas Crowe as Convener of the Pensions and Assessments Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev DC Porter be appointed in his place.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by Mr Douglas Crowe and agreed:

17. That the resignation of Mr Michael Fitch as Convener of the Finance, Legal and IT Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Mr Robert McCullagh be appointed in his place.

18. That the resignation of Mr David Lamb as Convener of the Personnel Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Mr Robert Campton be appointed in his place.

19. That the resignation of Mr Hubert Martin as Co-Convener of the Property Management Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev Adrian McLernon become sole Convener of the Committee.

20. That the Board of Finance and Personnel, with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 286 of the Code as follows:

John Hunter, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Financial Secretary, Convener of Union Commission.
- (b) Rev NJ Linkens; Mrs EJ Mann — Rev RIA Allely; AG Sleator — Rev Dr DA Murphy; Lyle Cubitt — Rev WA Abernethy; Alan Bridle — Rev Dr WI Hull; _____ — JD McKibbin, Martin Hampton — Rev RJA Bell; Ronnie Nelson — Rev Dr David Clarke; Basil McCorriston — Rev Dr Brian Brown; Robin Young — Norman Jackson, Desmond Milligan — Rev John Brackenridge; R McCullagh — Alan Foster; James Gregg — Rev Dr SA Matthews; Herbert Smyth — Rev RS Agnew; Allan McAdoo — John Peacock, Mervyn Agnew — Alex Fletcher, RH Kidd — Rev Dr PB Wilson; Robert McKane — Alex Chestnutt, SJ Waugh — Rev John Flaherty; 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, Michael Fitch.
- (x) Rodney Power, Tim McQuoid, Alan Meban.
- (y) Revs. Dr WI Hull; Alan Bridle, Martin Hampton.

B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (3) Robert Campton, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener, Committee Convener, Head of Personnel, Financial Secretary, David Lamb.
- (x) Brian Phillips, Ian Moore, Len Murray, John Francey.
- (y) Revs NJ Linkens, PB Wilson; Desmond Milligan, Herbert Smyth.

C. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**Rev RA McLernon; Convener****Jonathan Kelly, Secretary**

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Conveners and Secretary, Financial Secretary, JH Martin.
- (x) WJ Cairns, JDD O'Neill, John Francey.
- (y) Rev Dr David Clarke; Mrs EJ Mann, Basil McCorrison.

D. PENSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE**Rev DC Porter, Convener**

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Financial Secretary.
- (x) Revs R McIlhatton, DJ Irvine; Brian Topping, David Munster, David Clements, Clarence Scott.
- (y) Revs WA Abernethy, RIA Allely, RJA Bell; Alan Bridle, Alex Fletcher, Mrs EJ Mann.

Overture The **Overture anent Par 318(2) of the Code** (Reports pp 283-284) was submitted by Rev Dr DJ Watts.

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

That the overture anent Pars 318(2) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, be made the rule of the Church.

Intermission**BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS Resolutions**

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS** (Reports pp 102-121) was submitted by the Rev WS Marrs.

Moved by the Rev WS Marrs, seconded by the Rev John Hanna.

1. That the Report be received.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 76)

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

The sederunt came to a close at 1.10pm the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SEVENTH SESSION

Thursday, 9th June, 2011

2.15pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** (Reports pp 222 - 235) was submitted by the Rev Dr CD McClure.

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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 welcome the reports on 'Supporting Christians in Education' and 'Supporting our Local School' and encourage the Board of Education to progress this work.

Reports

3. That the General Assembly uphold the fundamental right of church members to continue to make a contribution to all aspects of our common life in society and in particular the presentation of the values of the Christian faith as a vital element in the education of children and young people in schools.

4. That the General Assembly express thanks to those who serve as Transferor representatives on Education and Library Boards in the current difficult transitional period and again express deep regret that the legal right of representation continues to be denied for Transferors on the South Eastern Education & Library Board.

Thanks

5. That the General Assembly welcome a public debate on the potential for shared education in NI and encourages dialogue between schools and educational sectors with the aim of developing closer relationships through opportunities for collaboration and sharing.

**Shared
Education**

6. That the General Assembly encourage the Board of Education to take steps to promote enhanced educational opportunities that will enable young people from across the different school sectors in Northern Ireland to integrate together through contact, collaboration and sharing.

7. That the General Assembly strongly support recent efforts to identify factors contributing to educational underachievement particularly among disadvantaged Protestant communities and call for the identification of policy and practical measures to help address these issues.

**Educational
Under-
achievement**

8. That the Board of Education be appointed in accordance with Par 284 of the Code as follows:

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 John Hutchinson, TA McNeely — Rev William Sinclair; William McCartney — Rev Brian McMillen; William McDowell — Rev AT Wimberley; CWL Graham — Miss J Williams, Mrs Hilary Gourley — Rev Karen Campbell; Richard Wallace — Revs TV Mawhinney; ME Donald — Rev Dr SR Jones; Alan Rowan — Rev AA Cole; Gary McCreery — J Wilkinson, AJ Cochrane — Rev GD Campbell; Mrs Eleanor Petrie — Rev MN Davidson; Mervyn Patton — Rev TD Hagan; Ronnie Gillanders — Revs BD Colvin, DJ Irvine — Revs RA Campbell, Miss C Trimble — Rev WS Smart; Mrs Mildred Poots — Mrs IK Nesbitt, DMcC Humphries — Rev GWD Stewart; Robert Stewart.
- (g) Rev Stanley Stewart; John Shivers, Mrs M Robinson, Dr M Hollinger, Mrs J Bell, Uel McCrea.

**UNION
COMMISSION**

The Report of the **UNION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 79-100) was submitted by the Rev Dr SA Matthews, together with the following Supplementary Report:

At its meeting on 31 May, 2011 the Union Commission briefly considered the issue of holiday entitlement for Ministers in Pastoral Charges, an issue which had been raised with the Commission by the Clerk's office.

It was noted that the Call to a Minister, from a congregation or linkage, includes the following promise from the congregation(s):

...and to meet as a congregational expense the cost of a holiday pulpit supply for one month annually during vacation ...

It was further noted that in 1979 the General Assembly decided (Minutes page 99 resolution 17):

That congregations should consider granting their minister holidays, which would include a Sunday, following Christmas and Easter.

Over the years there have been various interpretations of the exact meaning of these decisions and it is felt that greater clarity would assist all concerned. For instance, both Ministers and congregations often seek to ascertain what is the exact holiday entitlement of Ministers because of a genuine desire to do what is right. Further, those dealing with these issues in College, and especially in Licentiate training, need clarity so that there can be a consistency in what is said.

The Union Commission therefore proposes to consult with others, as appropriate, regarding this issue, and report back to the 2012 General Assembly with any necessary recommendations.

Resolutions

Moved by the Rev Dr SA Matthews, seconded by the Rev EP Gamble and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

2. That CMF be authorized to pay inadequate expenses grants towards expenses incurred by Ministers, up to a limit of NI £6,000 or RI €9,100, within the terms of resolution 3, p 70 General Assembly Minutes, 1988. **CMF**

3. That the Union Commission be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with par 128 of the Code as follows:

Rev Dr SA Matthews, Convener

Rev WJ Henry, 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 DR Purce; Miss Pearl Hassard — Rev EP Gamble; James Whittle — Rev Desmond Knowles; James Gregg — Rev PG McCrea; Roy Thompson — Rev _____; Brian Milligan — Rev William McKeown; Robert Tinney — Rev Dr Cecil Grant; Norman Carmichael — Rev JG Jones; Colin Beck — Rev AJA Rosborough; Eric Christie — Rev RI Abraham; Norman Jackson — Rev Dr WTJ Richardson; WEC Ford — Rev JG Faris; Keith Talbot — Rev TJ Hagan; JB McClean — Rev SG Anketell; George McConkey — Rev Dr MA Barry; Adam Barber — Rev CFD Clements; JB Wilson — Rev Noel McClean; James Kane — Rev PT Dalzell; TJ Livingstone — Rev Dr KO Patterson; Dr Harold McNeill.
- (c) Revs Dr JW Lockington, Dr SDH Williamson, JH McIntyre, AE Tolland, AD Davidson, DC Porter; AJ Giffen, Dr TJ Robinson.

Intermission

The Report of the **TRUSTEES** (Reports pp 293-296) was submitted by Mr David Bell CB, together with the following Supplementary Report: **TRUSTEES**

Since the Report was written the resignation has been received with regret of Mr RA Wilson from the Board of Trustees. The Trustees wish Mr Wilson well in the future.

Moved by Mr David Bell CB, seconded by Mr AT Ross and agreed: **Resolutions**

- 1. That the Report be received.
- 2. That the recommendation regarding the Mrs A M 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.

7. 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 Rev Dr S Hutchinson, Revs Dr DJ Watts, RJA Bell, WJ Orr; Mr Wilson Ervin, CBE, Sir Eric McDowell, Mr David Bell, CB, Mr AT Ross, Mr John Millar, OBE.

**COMMISSION
ON TRUSTS**

The Report of the **COMMISSION ON TRUSTS** (Reports p 292) was submitted by Mr AJ Rankin.

Resolutions

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 for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 130 of the Code as follows:-

AJ Rankin, Convener

Moderator, Clerk, Convener; V Revs Dr David Clarke, Dr Samuel Hutchinson; Rev WJ Orr; Sir Eric McDowell, Messrs David Bell, Wilson Ervin, George McCullagh, John Millar, AT Ross.

**BOARD OF
CHRISTIAN
TRAINING
(cont'd)**

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING (Reports pp 190-217 & Supplementary Reports) – debate resumed (see page 39)

Moved by the Rev JNI McNeely, seconded by the Rev Dr RB Savage, and agreed:

Leadership

13. That the General Assembly request that the Panel of the General Board currently reviewing the guidelines for the Presbytery Consultation Process include the area of congregational leadership within that review.

14. That the General Assembly encourage all Presbyteries to actively promote and facilitate congregational leadership development as outlined in the report of the Leadership Panel, particularly paragraph 14 (B)(iv) (p 201).

15. That the General Assembly agree that Presbyteries be requested to inquire what leadership development has taken place in Congregations, or linkages, along with the other information being considered at the time of a vacancy.

16. That the General Assembly request that the Committee for Ministerial Studies and Development, and any other relevant panels and committees, consider the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 15-18 of the report of the Panel on Leadership (pp 201-202) and take action where appropriate.

Assessments

17. That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme for 2011 be 0.25p per £ of stipend.

18. That the rate of assessment for the Students' Bursary Fund for 2011 be 5.75p in the £ of stipend.

19. That the General Assembly agree that the In-Service/Sabbatical Grant be increased to £300 per week from 1 September, 2011.

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

20. That the resignation of the Rev Dr RB Savage as Convener of the Committee on Training and Resources be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that Rev NJ McCullough be appointed in his place.

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

Rev JNI McNeely, Convener

Rev TD Gribben, 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, Robert Stirling — Revs NJ McCullough, Dr JS Carson — Revs JG Johnston, AAP Baxter — Rev JR Dickinson; Trevor Long — Revs Dr DJ McKelvey, TJ Wilson — Revs RD Maxwell, Colin Burcombe — Revs LJ Addis, RJ McCullough — Revs RS McMullan, JA Noble — Revs AC Wilson, RL Craig — Revs TW Gordon, BA Small — Rev JG Trueman; Dr C Reid — Revs DK McCrory, DJ Montgomery — Revs IJ Patterson, WA Watson — Rev John Rushton; Eric Latimer — Revs FJ Gibson, BAH Wilson — Revs WD Cupples, DW Reid — Revs DIJ McNie, WS Smart — Rev Dr WD Patton; Mrs J Wright — Revs TWA Greer, JE Sloan.
- (g) Revs Karen Campbell, Janice Browne, Mairisine Stanfield, DJ Montgomery, DH Thompson, Amanda Best; Mrs M Myers, Mrs Isabel McAuley; WJ Cairns, Joe Campbell.

A. COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Rev 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, AV Stewart, RL Brown; Andrew Faulkner, Miss Anne Taylor, Mrs Rosemary Dunlop.
- (y) Revs Dr IJ Patterson, Dr WJP Bailie, Colin Burcombe, JR Dickinson, WD Cupples, NJ McCullough.

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, Rev Dr RB Savage.
- (x) Revs AV Stewart, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, David Johnston; Roy Thompson, Ossie McAuley, Mrs J Gibson.
- (y) Revs WD Cupples, TWA Greer, TW Gordon, BAH Wilson, RL Craig, John Rushton.

C. UNION THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**Very 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 Dr JS Carson, Dr Philip Wilson, WJ Orr, SP Moore; Dr Lena Morrow, Robert Martin, Uel McCrea, Trevor Bradford, Mrs Evelyn Shaw.

The **Overture anent Par 190(2)(a) of the Code** (Reports p 217) was submitted by the Rev Trevor Gribben.

Moved by the Rev Trevor Gribben, seconded by the Rev Dr RB Savage and agreed: That the overture anent Par 190(2)(a) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

**BOARD OF
SOCIAL
WITNESS
(cont'd)**

BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS (Reports pp 157-175) – debate resumed (see page 40)

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

DHSSPS

2. That the General Assembly continue to call on government to increase the budget of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and ask the Minister to review decisions on the distribution of funding.

3. That the General Assembly thank those Congregations who participated in the recent Taking Care Audit, assisting greatly in the future planning of Taking Care Training and Resources. **Taking Care**

4. That the General Assembly agree that a Taking Care Audit be carried out in Congregations every three years.

5. That the Board of Social Witness, with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed with Par 281 of the Code as follows:

Rev RA Liddle, Convener

L Conway, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Residential Services Manager.
- (b) Revs HS Boyd, Dr WJA Sleith; Laurence Willoughby — Revs WJI Thompson, PL McKelvey, BA McDonald — Revs CK McDowell, DB McCorrison; Mrs Phyllis Linton — Revs JK Doherty, JN Seawright; Mrs Sadie McCullough — Revs JA Braithwaite, BR Hughes; Miss Muriel Cromie — Don Harley; Mrs Margaret Cromie, AJ Spence — Revs David Chapman, AE Tolland; Mrs Kay Fisher — Rev Dr RA Kane; Mrs Lorna Livingston, Miss Helen Lowry — Revs Amanda Best, RA Mulholland; Mrs Heather Buick — Rev _____; Barry Redhead, Mrs Joan Telford — Miss J McKee, Brian Magowan, Mrs A Magowan — Revs SW Rea, DT Moore; Elizabeth Nicholson — Rev PD Thompson; Mrs Ruby Hamilton, Mrs Elsie Kinnear — Rev WJA Buchanan; Mrs Joyce Blackburn, Mr Wilfred Carleton — Rev NJE Reid; RE McWilliams, Mrs Esther Barry — Rev Kenneth Nelson; Mrs EM Patterson, Miss IM Anderson — Rev Dr Mark Jones; Mrs Michele McClean, Mrs Maeve Magowan — Rev JL Tosh; Neil Simpson, Mrs Jane Robinson — Rev SJM Lindsay; WR McKee, Mrs Eva Russell.
- (p) President, Home Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Mrs Winnie Moffett, Mrs Lynda Stothers, Dr Jean Shannon, Mrs Anne Thompson, Mrs Sandra Stokes.

A. SPECIALIST MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Very Rev Dr WD Patton, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Convener Kinghan Mission, Chaplains, Forces, Student Services Committees.
- (x) Miss Muriel Cromie, Mrs Carol Houston, Mrs Sadie McCullough.
- (y) Rev SJM Lindsay; Mrs Kay Fisher, Mrs Winnie Moffett.

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, PD Thompson, CK McDowell; Mrs Margaret Stevenson, Mrs Winnie Moffett, Mrs Caroline Hawthorne, Mrs Lynda Stothers, Mrs Sandra Stokes.

C. FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE**Rev Anne Tolland, Convener**

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Conveners Taking Care, Learning Disability; Disability, Health and Wellbeing, Residential Services Manager.
- (x) Miss Joyce McKee, Mrs Margaret McGuiggan, Mrs Sylvia McCracken.
- (y) Miss Muriel Cromie, Mrs Winnie Moffett, Mrs Maeve Magowan.

D. ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**Rev CW Megaw, Convener**

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Conveners Addiction Services, Carlisle House and Thompson House, Residential Services Manager.
- (x) Dr Lesley Calderwood, David McAuley, John Luke.
- (y) Revs JK Doherty, Dr Mark Jones; Laurence Willoughby.

**BOARD OF
MISSION
OVERSEAS
(cont'd)**

BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS (Reports pp 102-121) – debate resumed (see page 68)

Moved by the Rev WS Marrs, seconded by the Rev John Hanna, and agreed:

Personnel

2. That the General Assembly give thanks for the faithful service and dedicated witness of PCI's overseas missionary personnel and their families, recognise the particular benefits of incarnational, long-term missionary service, and encourage BMO to equip missionary personnel for costly discipleship given the diversity of new situations of risk encountered.

3. That the General Assembly encourage BMO to explore further the possibility of offering associate missionary status to PCI members serving with other mission agencies and societies.

4. That the General Assembly encourage BMO to establish and maintain standards for partnering in mission, and prepare guidelines for PCI Congregations and Presbyteries seeking to partner overseas.

Partners

5. That the resignation of the Rev Dr Mark Gray as Convener of the World Development Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Katherine Meyer appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev WS Marrs, seconded by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, and agreed:

6. That the resignation of the Rev John Hanna as Convener of the Board of Mission Overseas be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Cheryl Meban appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev WS Marrs, seconded by the Rev John Hanna, and agreed:

7. That the General Assembly give thanks for the witness of all who come from partner Churches and agencies to study and serve in Ireland, recognise the role of overseas partner Churches in shaping PCI's journey in mission, and acknowledge BMO's commitment to consult with and listen to the voice of such partners in the process of forging genuinely reciprocal relationships of inter-dependency and mutuality.

8. That the General Assembly acknowledge the guidelines on sustainable development and affirm its continued commitment to encourage and assist PCI's overseas partners in this work.

**Sustainable
Development**

9. That the General Assembly affirm the work of World Development as an integral part of Christian calling and give thanks that the World Development Appeal continues to be well supported in an exceptionally difficult economic period.

10. That the General Assembly give thanks for the exceptional generosity shown across PCI for the Moderator supported Haiti and Pakistan Special Appeals.

11. That the General Assembly encourage Ministers, along with Congregational and Presbytery mission agents, to make known the resources and opportunities available through BMO for informing and envisioning PCI Church members about what God is doing in his world today, in order that PCI might increasingly become a mission-hearted Church.

**Resources and
Opportunities**

12. That the General Assembly give thanks for those Congregations sending teams overseas and encourage them to 'Do It Well', by making good use of the various training events and resources available through BMO.

**Training
and
Resources**

13. That the Board of Mission Overseas, with its associated working Committees, be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 279 of the Code as follows:

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), Rev SJ Hanna.

- (b) Revs NW McAuley, Dr WJP Bailie; Mrs OE Byers — Revs DR Byers, Philip McKelvey; Mrs Joan Thompson — Rev DB McCorrison; Nathaniel Rea, Mrs Joan Hamill — Revs JSB Drennan, IK McDonald; Mrs Renee Gifford — Revs Robert Love, Prof WG Campbell; Mrs Margaret Jackson — Rev Joan Scott; Mrs Ruth Campbell, Miss Leonora Wasson — John McKay, Miss Denise Savage, Miss Marie Kane — Rev Dr Clive Glass; George McIntyre, Mrs Margaret Conn — Rev GP Young; Victor McKean, Miss Kathleen McConnell — Revs Mairisine Stanfield, Dr AF Nel, _____ — Rev RA McLernon; Norman McKinney, Mrs Elma Leeburn — Revs KP Meyer, JG Faris; Heather Moore — Rev PD Thompson; Dr John Kyle, Miss Muriel Groves — Rev Daniel Reyes-Martin; Eric Latimer, Mrs Patricia Martin — Revs RK Graham, BAH Wilson; Mrs Grace McCullough — Revs JH Hanson, CI Dickson; Mrs Rosemary Honeyford — Revs RW Gaston, KDW Crowe; Miss DE McCaughan — Rev DJ Steele; HH Meekin, Mrs Jean Duncan — Rev JA Curry; Dr Maureen Stevenson, Mrs Anne McGuckin.
- (p) President, Overseas Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Mrs Margaret Stevenson, Mrs Lynn Murray, Mrs. Valerie Reid, Mrs Edith Holmes, Mrs Moyra Stirling.

A. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5)

Rev Dr WG Campbell, Convener

Miss Pamela Forester, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener; Mission Development Officer (Overseas), Mission Training Officer.
- (x) Revs BAH Wilson, NSR Lockhart, Stephen McCracken, David Stanfield; Miss Deborah Ford, Mrs Isobel McAuley.
- (y) Revs Dr Clive Glass, JH Hanson, D Reyes-Martin; Mrs Margaret Jackson, Miss Marie Kane, Mrs Ruth Campbell.

B. MISSION INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (5)

Rev Dr MJ Welsh, 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; Miss Sharon Creighton, Miss Deborah Ford, Stephen Lynas, Maurice McNicholl, Mrs Brenda Kerr.
- (y) Rev JSB Drennan; Norman McKinney, HH Meekin, Mrs OE Byers, Mrs Edith Holmes, Mrs Elizabeth Moffett.

C. OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (5)

Rev SJ Richmond, 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.
- (x) Revs TP Fleming, NE Dorrans, David Steele; Mrs Valerie Tweedie, Dr Maureen Stevenson.
- (y) Revs CI Dickson, RA McLernon, PD Thompson; Mrs Patricia Martin, Miss Denise Savage, Mrs Lynn Murray.

D. WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (5)

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), Mission Training Officer, Church Relations representative, Convener of Outreach Ministries Committee, Rev Dr MCA Gray.
- (x) Revs Dr Samuel Hutchinson, JT Magowan; Alf McCreary, Mrs Shiela Phillips, Ralph Sheppard, Mrs Fiona Watts.
- (y) Revs Joan Scott, Gilbert Young, Dr AF Nel; George McIntyre, Miss Leonora Wasson, Mrs Moyra Stirling.

The **Overture anent Par 57 of the Code** (Reports pp100 - 101) was submitted by the Rev Dr SA Matthews. **Overtures**

Moved by the Rev Dr SA Matthews, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben, and agreed:

That the **overture anent Par 57 of the Code**, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The **Overtures anent Pars 106(g), 128(3), 128(5)(a), 128(5)(d), 128(6)(b) of the Code** (Reports p101) were submitted by the Rev Dr SA Matthews.

Moved by the Rev Dr SA Matthews, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben, and agreed:

That the overtures anent Pars 106(g), 128(3), 128(5)(a), 128(5)(d), 128(6)(b) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

**BUSINESS
BOARD
Final Report**

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

The Business Board notes the dates agreed for the General Assembly next year due to public holidays in the UK on Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 June: Monday, 28 May – Thursday, 31 May, 2012

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly express appreciation of the important contribution of the SPUD delegates which have greatly enhanced the work of the Assembly.
3. That the following corresponding members be appointed:

To the Church of Scotland 2012

The Right Rev Dr Ivan J Patterson

Chaplain

Mr Brownlow McClean

4. That the delegates to the Presbyterian Church of Wales 2012, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland 2012 and the Methodist Conference 2012 be appointed by the Business Board.

5. That the Clerk be given authority to make corrections to the Daily Minutes as and when required.

6. That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Monday, 28 May, 2012.

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 and the staff of the General Secretary's Office; Mr Stephen Lynas, the audio visual and IT teams and the media; the Church House staff, including Mr Harry Orr; the Rev GE Best, Mrs Fiona Watts; the caterers, McKees; Mrs Pat Crossley; the organists, musicians and others who assisted in leading worship; the SPUD delegates; those who acted as stewards from Belfast City Mission and others; the time-keepers.

Thereafter he declared the Assembly to be dissolved and convened the next Stated General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Church House, Belfast, on Monday 28th May, 2012.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.45pm.

Attested by
DONALD J WATTS
Clerk of Assembly

CHANGES IN THE CODE

2011

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS,
BELFAST, BT1 6DW
AUGUST, 2011

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 25

Add the following sub-paragraph:

“(3) Remunerated employees of the congregation may be members of the Kirk Session but shall not sit and deliberate with the Session when matters affecting their employment, and that of other remunerated employees, are under discussion.” (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 33

Add the following sub-paragraph:

“(3) A ruling elder who has reached the age of 65, or is in special circumstances, may retire from their duties in a congregation with the consent of the Presbytery, who may if it so wishes, in consultation with the Kirk Session, deem the elder to be an ‘elder-emeritus’ of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.” and re-number the subsequent sub-paragraphs. (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 48

Add the following sub-paragraph:

“(5) Remunerated employees of the congregation may be members of the Committee but shall not sit and deliberate with the Committee when matters affecting their employment, and that of other remunerated employees, are under discussion.” (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 57

Delete Par 57 and substitute the following:

“57(1) **Subject to sub-paragraph (3) below, it shall be the duty of congregational trustees** to carry out the lawful directions given to them on behalf of the congregation by the Congregational Committee and, in giving such directions and in administering the property of the congregation, the Committee shall be bound by the subsequent provisions of this paragraph.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3) below, transactions creating, transferring or affecting any estate or interest in congregational property shall not be entered into without the authorisation of the congregation and the sanction of the Presbytery being first obtained; save that the Kirk Session may, subject to this Code and to rules, authorise what meetings shall be held in or on congregational property.

(3) When deciding upon the terms of any amalgamation or dissolution the Union Commission shall have power to determine the future ownership or dispersal of property and assets belonging to both or either congregation and

congregational trustees shall carry out such directions given to them on behalf of the Commission.

(4) All leases, declarations of trust or other assurances relating to the acquisition, disposal or use of congregational property shall before being executed be submitted to the Presbytery and shall not be executed without the prior approval of the Presbytery. It shall be the responsibility of the minister and the representative elder to ensure that this submission is made.

(5) The site and plans of all new buildings proposed to be erected on congregational property and of all proposed demolition, structural alterations of or structural additions to existing buildings thereon (including all proposals and designs for memorials, windows, artificial lighting and for seating and furnishings requisite for public worship) shall be submitted for the approval of the Committee on Church Architecture and of the Presbytery and, without such approval, and without the approval of the congregation, no such erection or alteration shall be undertaken or made.

(6) In all situations where augmentation or incremental grant is being paid to the minister of a congregation the Presbytery shall consult with the Union Commission and obtain the Commission's consent before authorising any project under section (5) above.

(7) Notice of the convening of a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of giving an approval required under sub-paragraphs (2) or (5) or paragraph 46(f) shall be given from the pulpit on the two Sundays immediately preceding the date of the meeting." (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 81

Add the following sub-paragraph::

“(6) The minister emeritus of a congregation shall not exercise any pastoral role or conduct any services in connection with the congregation without the specific prior permission of the minister of the congregation, or in a vacancy, the convener of the Vacancy Commission.” (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 106(g)

In Par 106(g) delete the word “unite” and substitute the word “link”, and delete the word “unions” and substitute the word “linkages”. (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Pars 128(3), 128(5)(d)

In Pars 128(3), 128(5)(d) delete the word “united” and substitute the word “linked”. (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 128(5)(a)

In Par 128(5)(a) delete the word “union” and substitute the word “linkage”, and delete the word “unions” and substitute the word “linkages”. (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 128(6)(b)

In Par 128(6)(b) delete the word “union” and substitute the word “linkage”. (IA 2010, confirmed 2011)

Par 190(2)(a)

In Par 190(2)(a) add the words “; accredited preachers” after the words “students for the ministry”. (2011)

Par 205(2)

In Par 205(2) delete the words:

“(a) The Presbytery shall then be constituted publicly by prayer.

(b) The Moderator shall then make a Declaration on the following lines –” and substitute the words:

“The Presbytery, having been constituted by prayer, the Moderator shall then make a Declaration on the following lines –” (2011)

Par 212(2)

In Par 212(2) delete the words “shall then be constituted publicly by prayer; and the Clerk” and substitute the words “having been constituted by prayer, the Clerk or Convener”. (2011)

Par 318(2)

Delete sub-paragraph 318(2) and substitute the following:

“(2) If there is any failure to make the foregoing returns or notifications or any failure to transmit any portion of the quarterly moneys which may be due, either from a congregation or a minister:

(a) the Financial Secretary shall immediately refer the case to Presbytery, which shall be under obligation to take such action as it may deem necessary to ensure that the information is supplied or moneys paid up without delay;

(b) if the Presbytery fails to ensure that the information is supplied or moneys paid without delay, the Presbytery and/or the Board of Finance and Personnel shall refer the matter to the Union Commission which shall investigate and take whatever action it may deem necessary. This referral shall take place no later than following the third failure within any three year period to transmit any portion of the quarterly moneys which may be due.

(3) The Union Commission shall have the power, in the foregoing circumstances:

(a) to instruct the Pensions and Assessments Committee to reduce the assessments payable by the congregation in the current financial year;

(b) to make any appropriate arrangement for future ministry in the congregation;

(c) to instruct the Presbytery, under Union Commission guidelines, to loose the minister from the charge and declare the congregation vacant, prior to a reconfiguration of ministry;

(d) to make appropriate arrangements for the minister. In so acting, the Union Commission shall have power to fix a retiring allowance, according to the rules for the time being of the General Assembly, or to fix an allowance for a temporary period.

(4) The Union Commission shall not give leave to call to any vacant congregation, or linkage, which remains in default to the Central Ministry Fund or other funds of the Church.” (2011)

