



2012

2012

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

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BELFAST, 2012

MINUTES
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Held at Belfast, May, 2012

FIRST SESSION

Monday, 28th May, 2012

7.00 pm

Within Church House

The Right Rev Dr Ivan J Patterson, 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 608 ministers being ex officio members and 462 elders on whose behalf commissions had been received, had been entered on the Roll of the Assembly, together with 57 Assembly Elders, Conveners and nominees of the Business Board. In addition 222 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
Dr. J. Ross .....	.....	High Street, Holywood
Dr. R. Sterritt .....	.....	Greenwell St., N'ards
W.M. Gray .....	.....	Lisnabreen
D. Johnston .....	.....	First Newtownards
Dr. W.P. Addley .....	.....	Theological Professor
W.T. Corder	M. Eves	First Bangor
Dr. D.J. Watts	+W. Graham	Clerk
Dr. D.R. Purce	S. Holland	Groomsport
.....	N. Speers	Cloughey
Dr. R.A. Russell	D. Patton	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
.....	A. Vance	Ballygilbert
S.A. Little	J. Cole	Shore Street, Donaghadee
C.W. Megaw	Mrs. M. Conroy	Helen's Bay
J. Campbell	C. Graham	First Newtownards
.....	R. Duff	Greenwell St., Newtownards
Helen S. Boyd .....	.....	Millisle & Ballycopeland
.....	R. Mayes	Movilla
D.M. Spratt	+A. Gordon	First Bangor Assoc.
C.J.C. McMullen .....	.....	West Church, Bangor
W.G. Cameron	W. Taylor	Glastry
-do-	D. Mawhinney	Kirkcubbin
J.M. Wade .....	.....	Portavogie
.....	Mrs. E. Savage	Conlig
Dr. W.J.A. Sleith	J. Crawford	Regent St., Newtownards
P.C. Lyle	D. Lusk	Ballyholme
Dr. W.J.P. Bailie	+B.T. Knox	Mission Africa
A.M. Bates	J. Doherty	Scrabo
A.W. Carson .....	.....	Streat, Newtownards
G. Aitcheson .....	.....	Kilcooley, Bangor
R.J. Stevenson .....	.....	Carrowdore & Ballyfrenis
G.J. Kennedy	Ms. V. Scott	Ballygrainey
Dr. M.J. Welsh	G. Angus	Greyabbey
D.W. Leach	+A. Dalzell	Hamilton Road Assoc.
M. Catney	L. Willoughby	St. Andrew's, Bangor
C.G. Anderson	J. Gibson	First Donaghadee
G. McConville	+A. McCormick	Ballygilbert Assistant
.....	T. Jenkins	Millisle & Ballycopeland

2. ARMAGH PRESBYTERY

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

T.A. Moore .....	.....	Hill Street, Lurgan
J. Gordon	Mrs. H. McCullagh.....	Second Keady
-do-	H. Mitchell	Drumhillery
D.R. Byers.....	.....	Cladymore
-do-	Mrs. M. Kinkead	Tassagh
S. van Os .....	.....	Army Chaplain
C.G. Harris .....	.....	Ahorey
-do- .....	.....	Clare
Dr. J.S. Carson	J. McKittrick.....	First Portadown
A.D. Davidson	I. Kyle.....	First Armagh
Christina U.R. Bradley.....	I. Conner	Armagh Road, Portadown
R.I.A. Allely	A. Simms	Craigavon
-do-	J. Whittle	Vinecash
.....	T. Graham.....	Richhill
E.P. Gamble.....	T.I. Adair	The Mall, Armagh
D.J. Hutchinson.....	D. Riddell	Moy
-do- .....	.....	Benburb
N.J. McCullough	K. Belshaw	Hill Street, Lurgan
P.D. Thompson .....	.....	Waringstown
.....	J. McCall	Druminnis
D.S. Henry	N. McCleary	First Lurgan
P.L. McKelvey	J. MacQueen	Loughgall
-do-	J. Strain	Tartaraghan
A.J. Dunlop	+A.G. Sleator	First Portadown Assoc.
Dr. M. McClenahan.....	D. McCrea	Lislooney
-do-	G. Diffin	Knappagh

3. BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.J.A. Armstrong.....	.....	Second Broughshane
J.B. Mooney .....	.....	Grange
Dr. R.E.H. Uprichard .....	.....	Trinity, Ahoghill
Dr. J.M. Finlay .....	.....	Harryville, Ballymena
D. Knowles .....	.....	Grange with Craigmores
N.A. Brown	F. Mark	Wellington, Ballymena
Dr. T.C. Ballentine .....	.....	Grange
J.J. Andrews	J.R. Pope.....	Ballee
W.F. Dickey.....	.....	First Broughshane
.....	T. Connaughty	First Portglenone
B. McManus	W.R. McKeown.....	Cloughwater
A.L. Kirk	B. Gilmer	First Ahoghill
J.A. Beattie	C. Ross	Second Broughshane
.....	T. Bloomer	West Church, B'mena
W.B. Boyd.....	R. Carson	Kells
-do-	*D. McConnell	Eskylane
Dr. D.A. Murphy	D. Warwick	Cuninghame Memorial
.....	L. Cubitt	Clough
W. Sinclair.....	L. McQuitty	First Ballymena
A.W.T. Brown .....	.....	Churchtown
.....	C. Patton	High Kirk, Ballymena

S.W. Dickinson .....	.....	Glenarm
-do-	A. Davison	Cairnalbana
M.J.R. Neilly	J. Robinson	Buckna
R.M. Murray .....	.....	Connor
J.C. Simms	S. Kirkpatrick	Rasharkin
W.J.A. Moody .....	.....	Brookside, Ahoghill
C.K. McDowell.....	J. Ferguson	Killymurriss
.....	D. Fulton.....	Ballyloughan
M.D. McNeely	R. Gibson.....	Ballykeel
.....	J. Suitters	Harryville, Ballymena
D.C. Millar .....	.....	Grange with Craigmore
N.G. Mulholland .....	.....	Glenwherry
.....	J. Kerr	Third Portglenone

4. NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J.S. Dallas.....	.....	Whiteabbey
R. Allen .....	.....	Rathcoole
Dr. J. Dunlop .....	.....	Rosemary
Dr. R.J.T. McMullan .....	.....	Overseas Board Sec.
Dr. J.P. Taylor	+G. Crooks	Theological 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	D. Keaveney	Rathcoole
J.R. Dickinson	R. Manson	Carmoney
T.C. Morrison.....	D. Crowe	Eglinton
D.W. Brice	M. Whittle	Glengormley
Dr. T.N. Hamilton	H. Groves	Ballysillan
I.D. Neish	G. Weatherall.....	Abbot's Cross
W.A. Abernethy.....	.....	Sinclair Seamen's
I.K. McDonald .....	.....	New Mossley
S. Elizabeth Hughes	A. McBride.....	Whitehouse
J.S.B. Drennan .....	.....	Crumlin Road
Margaret L. Johnston .....	.....	Fortwilliam Park
P.G. McCrea	W. Bennett	Rosemary
Dr. Lesley E. Carroll	D. Kirkwood.....	Fortwilliam & Macrory
R.N. Agnew.....	.....	West Kirk
B. McMillen	W. McCreedy.....	Ballygomartin
D.H. Thompson.....	+J. Newell	BMI Mission Dev. Officer
E.J. Hyndman.....	A. Davidson.....	Seaview
C.J. Gamble.....	E. Beck	Immanuel
Cheryl A. Meban	+Mrs. M. Myers	Chaplain U.U. J'stown & Belfast
A.V. Stewart	E. Keers	Whiteabbey
.....	M. McCormick	Alexandra
N.S.R. Lockhart .....	.....	Ballyhenry
D.J. McIlwaine.....	T. Cadden	Newington
D.F. Leal.....	+Mrs. A. Fee.....	Cliftonville Rd (Church Plant)
D. Clawson.....	R.A. Thompson	West Kirk
.....	E. Crawford	Nelson Memorial

5. SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. D.W. Lapsley .....	.....	Fisherwick
Dr. J.C. McCullough .....	.....	Theological Professor
Dr. K.N.E. Newell .....	.....	Fitzroy Avenue
J.A. Braithwaite .....	.....	Dunmurry
Dr. D.J. McKelvey	Ms. S. Eakin	Fisherwick
Dr. G.A. Grindle .....	.....	Kinghan Church
W.P.H. Erskine .....	.....	Windsor
.....	N. McQuitty	Malone
W.J. Orr .....	.....	Newtownbreda
Dr. M. Ruth Patterson	+Miss J.P. Gamble	Restoration Ministries
Dr. I. Hart	W. Elliott	Gt. Victoria Street
Dr. W.I. Hull .....	.....	Ulsterville
M.S. Gault	J. Patterson	Cooke Centenary
A.R. Bill	J. Francey	Saintfield Road
J.T. Lamb	J. O'Neill	Townsend Street
B.R. Hughes	+M. Smyth	Chaplain City Hospital
Dr. W.G. Campbell	+B. Milligan	Theological Professor
.....	P. Mateer	Fitzroy Avenue
.....	V. Garland	Richview
T.J. Wilson .....	.....	Kilmakee
R.W. Love	+D. McCleery	Taughmonagh (Ch. Ext.)
J.R. Burnett .....	.....	Lowe Memorial (Finaghy)
A.T. Wimberly	G. Jones	McCracken Memorial
.....	S. Gilbert	Ballycairn
.....	+Mrs. R. Wilson	QUB Chaplain, Dean of Residence, Derryvolgie
G.R. Connor	A. Alexander	Dunmurry
.....	+O. McAuley	Kinghan Church
.....	A. Luke	Berry Street
.....	Ms. J. Hamill	Newtownbreda

6. EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
J.M. Maddock .....	.....	Carryduff
Dr. S.J. Campbell .....	.....	Cooke Centenary
Dr. J.R. Savage .....	.....	Stormont
W.H. Peden .....	.....	Megain Memorial
Dr. I.A. McKay .....	.....	Dundonald
Dr. H.A. Dunlop .....	.....	Knock
W. McKeown .....	.....	Ravenhill
.....	Ms. M. Kloss	Orangefield
G. Moffett .....	.....	Tullycarnet
Dr. A. Gibson	+A. Shott	Theological Professor
J.N.I. McNeely	Mrs. J. Jess	First Holywood
.....	Ms. V. Lapsley	Belmont
.....	B. Harrison	St. Andrew's
.....	J. McKibbin	Bloomfield
W.S. Marrs .....	.....	B.M.O. Secretary

J.H. McIntyre .....	.....	Cregagh
A.C. Rankin	Dr. R. Erskine	Stormont
M.R. Burnside	W. Moore	Castlereagh
.....	J.T. Black	High Street, Holywood
S.P. Moore	Ms. H. Gowdy	Gilnahirk
R.J. Beggs	W.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	J. Dempster	Westbourne
C. Burcombe	Miss I. Scott	Mersey Street
P.G. McDowell	Ms. M. Anderson	Garnerville
C. Ebbinghaus	M. Chapman	Kirkpatrick Mem.
R.S.J. McIlhatton .....	.....	Christ Church, Dundonald
B.J. Walker	+Dr. R. Dunlop	Knock Assoc.
G. Fowles	L. Scott	Ravenhill
.....	H. Mornin	Tullycarnet
.....	W. Hamilton	Knock
.....	T.D. Mahood	Cregagh

7. CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D. Armstrong .....	.....	Greenisland
W.J. Johnstone .....	.....	Craig Hill
R. Valley .....	.....	Ballylinney
T.J. Stothers	A. Bell	Greenisland
R.J.A. Bell	M. Fisher	Ballyclare
D. Chapman	P. Crawford	Second Islandmagee
T.D. Gribben	+N. Carmichael	Deputy Clerk
T.R. Graham	D. Blair	Joymount
Dr. C.D. McClure	Mrs. B. Moore	First Larne
Gabrielle A.J. Farquhar	Ms. J. McConnell	Ballycarry
R.J. Gilkinson	B. Clenaghan	Craig Hill
G.W.M. Glasgow	I. Thompson	Gardenmore
Anne E. Tolland .....	.....	Cairncastle
R.I. Carton	Mrs. G. McNeill	Whitehead
Dr. C.A. Grant	S. Preece	First Carrickfergus
J.W.D. Rogers	S. Campbell	Ballynure
J.E. McDowell .....	.....	Ballylinney
Heather M. Rendell .....	.....	Chaplain to Forces
T.N. Bingham	W.J. Workman	Magheramorne
-do- .....	.....	Raloo
.....	R. Downie	Downshire, Carrickfergus
.....	R. Nelson	First Islandmagee

8. COLERAINE & LIMAVADY PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. W.W. Porter	Moneydig

Dr. D.H. Allen .....	.....	New Row, Coleraine
V. Whyte .....	.....	Macosquin
J. Clarke .....	.....	Balteagh; Bovevagh
T.V. Mawhinney .....	.....	Second Limavady; Myroe
S.J. Millar .....	.....	Hazelbank
W.J. Waring .....	.....	Ballyrashane
Dr. D. Clarke .....	.....	Terrace Row, Coleraine
N. Ward .....	.....	Banagher
W.I. Hunter .....	.....	Ballywatt
T.S. Lindsay .....	.....	First Garvagh
T.J. McCormick	W. McCaw	First Kilrea
-do-	J. Gilmore	Boveedy
J.A. Kirkpatrick	A. Warke	Portrush
T.P. Fleming	J.A. Cassells	First Coleraine
R. Kelly	W. Campbell	Main St., Garvagh
-do-	I. McKane	Killaig
R.S. McMullan	A. Morrison	New Row, Coleraine
Dr. C. Glass	R. Haslett	Dungiven
-do- .....	.....	Largy
Dr. R.A. Kane .....	.....	Aghadowey
-do- .....	.....	Crossgar
J.A. Noble .....	.....	Balteagh
-do- .....	.....	Bovevagh
Dr. S.D.H. Williamson	A. Mark	Ballywillan
.....	N. Lyttle	Portstewart
C.J. Aitcheson	H. McIlroy	Castlerock
J.G. Jones	Mrs. M. Shiels	Second Limavady
-do-	W. Hughes	Myroe
R.D. Gregg .....	.....	Burnside
S.A. McCracken	B. Wallace	Drumachosey
-do-	S. Kelly	Derramore
.....	A. Crowe	Ringsend
M.E. Donald	D. Torrens	First Garvagh
A. McConnell	O. Murphy	First Limavady
-do- .....	.....	Magilligan
.....	I. Montgomery	Banagher
.....	D. Brownlee	Terrace Row, Coleraine
.....	J.I. Topping	Moneydig

9. DERRY & DONEGAL PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
S.J. Gray .....	.....	Faughanvale; Gortnessy
D. Hillen	K. McCrossan	Magheramason
G.P. Young .....	.....	Moville
-do- .....	.....	Greenbank
S.J. Hanna	W. McClay	Glendermott
R.L. Craig	Mrs. M. McCloskey	Kilfennan
Dr. D. Latimer .....	.....	First Derry & Claremont
-do- .....	.....	Monreagh
Dr. S.R. Jones	T. Allen	Donemana
D.A. Edgar .....	.....	Chaplain R.A.F.
Dr. B. Brown	S. Byers	Raphoe & Ballindrait

Dr. T.R. Buick	W. Boggs	Carlisle Road
-do- .....	.....	Crossroads
J.L. Blair.....	R. Ussher	Faughanvale
A.J.A. Rosborough.....	R. Mitchell.....	Ballyarnett
-do-	D. Smith	Knowhead
S.J. Richmond	M. McDonald	Donegal
W.H. Higgins.....	.....	Cumber
-do-	J. McFarland.....	Upper Cumber
.....	A. Wilson	Ebrington
K.A. Jones	J. Charlesson.....	Waterside
-do-	D. Lamberton	Fahan
Amanda Best	Mrs. P. Armour	Ramelton
-do- .....	.....	Kilmacrennan
D.M. Shaw	W. Watson.....	Strabane
R.A. Mulholland	E. Lynch	Donagheady
N.D. Craig .....	.....	Ray
-do-	Mrs. E. Smyth.....	Newtowncunningham
C.M. Wilson .....	.....	Ballylennon
-do-	I. McCracken	St. Johnston
M.F. Russell	Ms. E. Fulton	Leckpatrick
Janice M. Browne	E. Borland.....	Fannet
-do- .....	.....	Milford
-do- .....	.....	Rathmullan
T.J. Bruce	Mrs. M. McKeeman	Letterkenny
-do- .....	.....	Trenta
.....	R. Henderson	Stranorlar
.....	Ms. F. McNutt	Carrigart
.....	S. Sterritt	Dunfanaghy
.....	T. Campbell	Carndonagh
.....	Ms. B. Smyth.....	Malin

10. DOWN PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.N. Duncan .....	.....	Missionary
S.R. Conkey .....	.....	Raffrey
T.W. Gordon.....	P. Davidson	First Comber
.....	R. Copes	Second Saintfield
.....	A.B. Redhead	Downpatrick
R.McM. Mackay	R. Courtenay.....	Second Comber
A.S. Smyth.....	Dr. D. Guthrie.....	Carryduff
B.A. Small.....	W. Jackson	Raffrey
Dr. A.F. Nel	J. Tate.....	Killinchy
.....	+N. Jackson	Youth Link NI
Mairisine Stanfield	Ms. F. Davidson.....	First Ballynahinch
Dr. B.C.G. Black .....	.....	Ballygowan
R.I. Abraham .....	.....	Lissara
M.M. Stewart	W. McCall	Clough
-do- .....	.....	Seaforde
S.A. Woodburn.....	W. Shaw.....	Edengrove
.....	+J. Hanna.....	First Comber, Assoc.
.....	H. Marshall	Second Killyleagh
.....	Mrs. A. Gilmore	First Killyleagh

..... J. Nixon Kilmore

11. DROMORE PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
K. Smyth .....	.....	Drumbo
D. McConaghy .....	.....	Cargycreevy & Loughaghery
Dr. S. Hutchinson.....	.....	Clerk of Assembly
Dr. R.S. Tosh	+G. Lindsay	B.B.C.
Dr. W.T.J. Richardson .....	.....	Hillhall
D.C. Porter .....	.....	Second Dromara
J.I. Davey	Mrs. A. Truesdale	Hillsborough
D.B. Knox	J. Fulton	Harmony Hill, Lambeg
G.B.S. Gibson	Dr. C.H.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.....	R. McCleary	Moirá
A.K. Duddy	Prof. H. Gamble	First Dromore
R.A. McLernon	W. Gordon	Drumbo
W.J. Henry.....	.....	Maze
-do- .....	.....	Ballinderry
R.A. Liddle.....	S. Abraham	Legacurry
R.D. Cameron .....	.....	Prison Chaplain
A.J. Thompson	D. Ravey	Elmwood
K.W.J. Hanna	L. Carson	Second Dromara
P. Jamieson .....	.....	Hillhall
G. McFadden.....	.....	Drumlough
-do-	N. Graham	Anahilt
.....	D. Moore	Loughaghery
A. Faulkner	J. McDowell	Sloan Street, Lisburn

12. DUBLIN & MUNSTER PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
R. Cobain .....	.....	Galway & Ballinasloe
G.D. Campbell .....	.....	St. Andrew's, Blackrock
-do- .....	.....	Bray
Dr. T.W.J. Morrow .....	.....	Lucan
J.G. Faris	H. Moreland	Trinity, Cork
-do- .....	.....	Aghada
J.D. Woodside .....	.....	Drogheda
Katherine P. Meyer.....	S.C. Smyrl	Christ Church, Sandymount
.....	*J. Ellis	Carlow
Dr. D.K. McCrory .....	.....	Maynooth
D.T. Moore	T. Dowling	Kilkenny
Dr. S. Mawhinney	G. McCullagh	Adelaide Road
A.J. Boal .....	.....	Abbey, Dublin
D.J. Montgomery	A. Foster	Greystones
Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie .....	.....	Clontarf & Scots

.....	*Ms. J. Cowle.....	Corboy
W.J. Hayes.....	.....	Mountmellick
-do.....	.....	Tullamore
C.W.P. Kennedy.....	.....	Dun Laoghaire
A. Carroll.....	.....	Donabate (Church Plant)
.....	Mrs. M. McKenna.....	Howth & Malahide

13. IVEAGH PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
A. Clarke.....	.....	Glascar; Donaghmore
T.J. Hagan.....	.....	Donacloney
Dr. S.A. Matthews.....	.....	Bannside
W.H. Sanderson.....	.....	Ballydown; Katesbridge
Dr. I.J. Patterson.....	W.O. McCammon.....	Newcastle
W.L. Orr.....	.....	Glascar; Donaghmore
M.G. McClelland.....	J. Barton.....	Tandragee
R.A. Moffett.....	I. Williams.....	Donacloney
G.E. Best.....	B. Wilson.....	Newmills
Patricia A. McBride.....	.....	Loughbrickland
-do.....	Ms. E. Crothers.....	Scarva
D.S. Mackay.....	.....	Magherally
Dr. M.C.A. Gray.....	A. Dowd.....	Bannside
W.B. Martin.....	Mrs. E. Hanna.....	Garvagh
-do.....	Mrs. B. Andrews.....	Anaghlone
D.J.M. Boyle.....	.....	Clonduff
-do.....	.....	Hilltown
M.N. Davidson.....	G.R. Macauley.....	Drumgooland
-do.....	M. Cowan.....	Kilkinamurry
.....	D. Harte.....	Leitrim
T.P. McCullough.....	R. Ringland.....	Ballyroney
-do.....	G. Truesdale.....	Drumlee
R. McKibbin.....	.....	Glascar
-do.....	.....	Donaghmore
J.L. Rutherford.....	.....	Ballydown
.....	F. Whale.....	Tullylish
.....	R. McElroy.....	Gilford

14. MONAGHAN PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
D. Nesbitt.....	.....	First Ballybay; Second Ballybay; Rockcorry; Drumkeen
Dr. R.B. Savage.....	.....	Kells; Ervey
S.G. Anketell.....	.....	First Bailieborough
-do.....	Dr. A. Hunter.....	Corraneary
-do.....	A. McElwaine.....	Trinity, Bailieborough
N.S. Millen.....	.....	Dundalk & Castlebellingham

-do .....	.....	Carlingford
G. Jean Mackarel	K. Fleming	Drumkeeran
-do .....	.....	Killeshandra
-do	Ms. D. Allison	Cavan
-do .....	.....	Bellasis
.....	K. Walker	Glennan
T.D. Hagan	S. Cargill	Middletown
-do	R. Boyd	Clontibret
T. Morgan .....	.....	Clones
-do	E. Mackarel	Stonebridge
-do .....	.....	Ballyhobridge
-do	R.J. McConkey	Newbliss
.....	C. Mills	Second Ballybay
.....	L. Forster	Rockcorry
R.S. Agnew .....	.....	First Monaghan
-do .....	.....	Smithborough
.....	Mrs. D. Holmes-Greer	First Castleblayney
.....	T. McBirney	Frankford
.....	J. Stewart	Drum

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
D.J. Temple .....	.....	Warrenpoint
-do .....	.....	Rostrevor
S.A. Finlay .....	.....	Annalong
Dr. M.A. Barry	S. Bond	First Newry
F.J. Gibson .....	.....	First Drumbanagher; J'pass
-do	R. Harpur	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	R. Dundas	Clarksbridge & First
-do .....	.....	Newtownhamilton
-do	A. McNiece	Garmany's Grove
J.K.A. McIntyre	S. Paul	McKelvey's Grove
-do .....	.....	Bessbrook
B.D. Colvin	Dr. H. McDowell	Tyrone's Ditches
D.J. Irvine	Dr. P. Marshall	Downshire Rd., Newry
N.J.E. Reid	R.C. Hendren	First, Second Markethill
-do	J. Kernaghan	Tullyallen
.....	+R. Bennett	Mountnorris
M.B. Wilson .....	.....	Mourne Assoc.
-do	B. Reaney	Cremore
-do	N. Martin	Poyntzpass
.....	.....	Fourtowns

16. OMAGH PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
R.S.K. Neill.....	.....	First Castlederg; 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
I.T. McKee	Dr. C. Givan	Aughnacloy
-do-.....	D. Allen	Ballymagrane
R. Herron.....	.....	Trinity, Omagh
-do-.....	.....	Gillygooley
W.D. Cupples .....	.....	Enniskillen
R.B. Thompson	E. Allison	Badoney; Corrick
-do-.....	.....	Glenelly
.....	K. Hunter	Irvinestown
.....	N. Baxter	Pettigo
I. McClean.....	.....	Ballygawley; Ballyreagh
J.H. Hanson.....	.....	Dromore
-do-.....	.....	Drumquin
H.J. Honeyford.....	.....	Second Castlederg
-do-.....	.....	Alt
J.A. Gordon.....	.....	Fintona
-do-.....	.....	Ballynahatty & Creevan
D.W. Reid.....	J. Smyth.....	Ardstraw
-do-.....	R. McElrea	Douglas
R.A. Campbell	J. Smith.....	Clogher
-do-.....	R. Mulligan.....	Glenhoy
C.I. Dickson	Dr. C. McKibbin.....	Cavanaleck
-do-.....	J. Hogg	Aughtentaine
R.G. McElnea.....	J. Baxter.....	Newtownstewart
-do-.....	A. Adams	Gortin
R.N. Orr	J. Young	First Castlederg
-do-.....	I. Crilly	Killeter
N.R.A. Cooper .....	.....	Ballygawley
-do-.....	T. McDaniel.....	Ballyreagh
.....	R. McFarland.....	Lisbellaw
.....	Miss I. Anderson	N't nbutler
.....	N. Gailey	Sion
.....	D. Bowman.....	First Omagh
.....	J. Colhoun.....	Mountjoy
.....	Miss J. Patterson.....	Seskinore

17. ROUTE PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
Dr. A.W.G. Brown.....	Ballycastle
J.T. Magowan.....	St. James's, Ballymoney
Dr. J.A. Thompson	Dervock

D.I.J. McNie.....	B. Quinn	Trinity, Ballymoney
M. Barr .....	.....	Ballyweaney
N. McClean.....	M. Christie.....	First Kilraughts
D. Bannerman .....	.....	Toberkeigh
H.W. Mullan.....	.....	Drumreagh
-do-.....	.....	Dromore
S.T. Carson.....	.....	Dunluce
K.D.W. Crowe.....	Mrs. M. Knox	Bushvale
H.S.W. Cubitt.....	.....	St. James's, Ballymoney
R.W. Gaston.....	.....	Finvoy
K. Henderson	A. Brown	Ballyweaney
Dr. M. Jones.....	H. Patton.....	Roseyards
Dr. P.B. Wilson.....	R. Gordon.....	Bushmills
P. Turton.....	.....	Armoy
-do-.....	.....	Ramoan
Wm. Harkness.....	.....	Mosside
-do-.....	.....	Toberdoney
J.P. Stanbridge.....	D. Finlay.....	Ballycastle
-do-.....	.....	Croaghmore
R.M. Moody.....	.....	Garryduff
-do-.....	.....	Dunloy
.....	Miss J. Sharpe	Dunluce

18. TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY

<i>Ministers</i>	<i>Ruling Elders</i>	<i>Congregations</i>
W.D. Weir.....	.....	Killead; Loanends
Dr. S.J. Dixon.....	.....	First Antrim
Dr. W.D. Patton.....	P. Scott.....	Randalstown O.C.
G. Moore.....	.....	Kilbride
.....	+J.H. McClurg.....	Theological Professor
J.L. Tosh.....	S. Murdoch	Second Donegore
P.T. Dalzell.....	D. Robinson.....	Hydepark
-do-.....	J. Smyth.....	Lylehill
J. Holmes.....	T. McFadden.....	First Randalstown
-do-.....	R. Arrell.....	Duneane
W.J. Murdock.....	W. Hyde.....	Killead
-do-.....	W. Coulter.....	Loanends
P.E. Dickinson.....	N. McQuillan.....	Muckamore
.....	Mrs. G. McCullagh.....	First Donegore
J.P. Moxen.....	.....	Greystone Road, Antrim
E.S. McDowell.....	T. McKnight.....	First Ballyeaston
W.J.M. Parker.....	M. Ball.....	First Antrim
R.C. Kerr.....	D. Martin.....	Templepatrick
.....	Mrs. J. Robinson.....	Second Ballyeaston
D.J. Steele.....	.....	Dundrod
Karen Campbell.....	Ms. A. Bowden.....	Kilbride
.....	P. Melville.....	Crumlin

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
J.W. Fleck .....	.....	Upper; Lower Clonaneese
A.S. Thompson .....	.....	Dungannon
T.J. Conway.....	M. McNicholl	Culnady
-do	C. Bolton	Swatragh
J.H. Flaherty .....	.....	Tobermore
-do .....	.....	Draperstown
T.W.A. Greer	T. Espie	Molesworth, Cookstown
Dr. K.O. Patterson	N. Savage	Castledawson
-do	E. Waterson	Curran
J.J. Currie	R. Stewart	Union Road, M'felt
-do	W. Badger	Lecumpher
J.A. Curry	Dr. E. Hunter	First Magherafelt
S.J.M. Lindsay	R. Irwin.....	Pomeroy
-do	K. Henry	Sandholes
.....	D. Wells	Castlecaulfield
.....	J. Long	Eglish
W.G. Hamilton	S. Black	Orritor
-do	S. Crooks	Claggan
J.E. Sloan	N. Bruce	Bellaghy
-do	W. Bownes.....	Knockloughrim
G.W.D. Stewart .....	.....	Maghera
D.S. Brownlow.....	H. Russell	Newmills
-do .....	.....	Carland
.....	Ms. M. Quinn	First Moneymore
.....	Ms. S. McMenemy	Second Moneymore
J.M. Gracey .....	.....	Coagh
-do	Mrs. E. Hessin	Ballygoney
-do	W. McLernon.....	Saltersland
W.I. Ferris .....	.....	First Stewartstown
-do .....	.....	Brigh
-do .....	.....	Albany
J.A. Spence.....	.....	Upper Clonaneese
-do .....	.....	Lower Clonaneese

ELDERS IN SPECIAL WORK - CODE PAR. 97(g)

J.R.W. Luke

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

A.T. Ross

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

D. Cowan

C.W.L. Graham

S. Ferguson

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

Mrs. C. Barkley

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

Mrs. B. McLeod

M.A. Morrow, Q.C.

D. Poynton

A. Spence

R. Tweed

Mrs. E. Warden

Mrs. I. Younge

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

S. Lynas

L. Conway

J. Hunter

A.J. Rankin

Miss R. Stirling

T. Finnegan

T.R. Reid

R. McCullagh

N. Eves

BUSINESS BOARD NOMINATIONS CODE PAR. 97(j)

J. Gregg

R. Tinney

Miss D. Draffin

C. Beck

Mrs. J. Gwyn Patton

Mrs. S. McCullough

Miss E. Whyte

J.B. McClean

W.H. Scott

G. McConkey

W. Marshall

Sir Bruce Robinson

T.J. Livingstone

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

Miss L. Wasson

The following sat and deliberated with the Assembly:**CONVENERS AND SECRETARIES WHO ARE NOT ELDERS**

C. Knox

J. Kelly

Mrs. C. Hawthorne

Mrs. P. McCullagh

Miss L. Beatty

DEACONESSES WHO ARE NOT ELDERS

Miss J. Clegg
Mrs. L. McFaul
Miss R. Spiers

Miss M. McCauley
Mrs. E. Matthews

Mrs. H. McCracken
Miss K. Spence

RETIRED DEACONESSES AND WOMEN WORKERS

Miss S. Swindle

IRISH MISSION WORKERS

K. Hargaden

LICENTIATES

P.A. Bovill
E. McKenzie
S. McNie
J. Cowan
D.T.R. Edwards
Mrs. H.M. Freeburn
T.A.S. Graham
Mrs. K. Viner

W.D.S. McCullagh
M.W.J. McKeown
S.W. Moore
A. Ditty
M. Proctor
N.L. Smyth
N.D.H. Stewart
L.W. Webster

T.T. Boyd
S. Burke
S.A. Morrow
P. Douglas
B.A. Smyth
A.J. Galbraith
K.H. Hibbert

MINISTERS UNDER CARE OF PRESBYTERY

L.H. Eagleson

C.I. McKnight

W.M. Smyth

MINSTERS TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER CHURCH

B. Reid

SPUD DELEGATES

A. Downey
J. Currie

M. McCracken

J. O'Neill

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**ARDS PRESBYTERY**

Mrs. E. Cobain

Miss V. Steele

ARMAGH PRESBYTERY

Ms. L. McMullan

Ms. J. Hawthorne

BALLYMENA PRESBYTERY

Mrs. L. Murray

NORTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

Mrs. M. Manson

Mrs. A. Henderson

SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

Mrs. M. Jackson

Miss M. Angus

EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY

Ms. V. Tweedie

CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

Mrs. K. Fisher

Mrs. L. Stothers

COLERAINE AND LIMAVADY PRESBYTERY

Mrs. M. Conn

Mrs. V. Millar

Mrs. N. Nixon

DERRY AND DONEGAL PRESBYTERY

Mrs. G. Hunter

DOWN PRESBYTERY

Miss Z. McAllister

DROMORE PRESBYTERY

Mrs. E. Lindsay

DUBLIN & MUNSTER PRESBYTERY

Mrs. C. Poynton

Ms. M. White

IVEAGH PRESBYTERY

Mrs. R. McAuley

NEWRY PRESBYTERY

Mrs. E. Chambers

Mrs. M. Graham

OMAGH PRESBYTERY

Mrs. Y. Mulligan

ROUTE PRESBYTERY

Mrs. M. McClean

TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY

Mrs. E. Nesbitt

Mrs. M. Weir

Mrs. J. Robinson

TYRONE PRESBYTERY

Ms. E. Hamilton

Mrs. B. Kennedy

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH

ARDS PRESBYTERY

Miss R. Spratt

SOUTH BELFAST PRESBYTERY

P. Graham

CARRICKFERGUS PRESBYTERY

D. Penney

DUBLIN & MUNSTER PRESBYTERY

E. Hughes

Ms. L. Wylie

IVEAGH PRESBYTERY

M. Rutledge

Mrs. R. Elkin

NEWRY PRESBYTERY

D. Gordon

TEMPLEPATRICK PRESBYTERY

I. Moxen

Ms. K. Craig

TYRONE PRESBYTERY

P. Leonard

N. Kane

The Moderator welcomed, on behalf of the Assembly, the Lord 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 Robert Alexander Patton	8 nominations
The Rev John Robert Dickinson	4 nominations
The Rev Joseph John Andrews	3 nominations
The Rev Robert Lyle Craig	2 nominations
The Rev Dr Donald James Watts	2 nominations

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

The Right Rev Dr RA Patton addressed the House.

The sederunt came to a close at 8.35 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 22nd May, 2012

9.45am

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BUSINESS BOARD** (Reports pp 1-6) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, together with the following Supplementary Report:

**BUSINESS
BOARD**

Membership of Church Courts

1. Code Par 226(a) allows the General Assembly, on the proposal of the relevant Presbytery, to decide to allow a minister who has voluntarily resigned the pastoral charge of a congregation to have his name enrolled as Minister-Emeritus of the congregation and as such be a member of the superior courts of the Church. The Rev JRI Harbinson resigned the charge of Moneydig on 31 December 2011, and the Coleraine and Limavady Presbytery now asks that his name be enrolled as Minister-Emeritus of Moneydig. An appropriate resolution is appended.

Business Board Membership

2. The full Business Board for the year 2012-13, together with the associated Arrangements Committee is as follows:-

The Clerk, Convener

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Moderator-Designate, former Clerks, preceding three Moderators, Conveners and Secretaries of Commissions and Boards.
- (b) Rev WT Cordner; Mrs EJ Mann – Rev CUR Bradley; WK Belshaw – Rev Desmond Knowles; John Suinters – Rev GF McKeown; George Crooks – Rev MS Gault; David McCleery – Rev PP Campbell; DC Cowan – Rev AE Tolland; Roy Kennedy – Rev JA McCaughan; Joseph Cassells – Rev Dr RL Craig; William Watson – Rev SA Woodburn; William Reid – Rev DB Knox; Gordon Lindsay – Rev Stephen Lockington; Stuart Ferguson – Rev MG McClelland; J Barton – Rev GJ Mackarel; Ronnie Gillanders – Rev DB Murpy; J Copeland – Rev RN Orr; Isaac Crilly – Rev RW Gaston; Bryce Gilmore – Rev WJ Murdock; JH McClurg – Rev Dr AR Rodgers; EM Carroll.

A. ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Rev GE Best, Convener

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

The Church of Ireland General Synod (2012)

The Very Rev Dr T Norman Hamilton reports:

1. It was a great delight for both Mrs Cherry Poynton and myself to represent our Church at the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in Dublin from 10-12 May 2012. Both of us had been active in the Christian Union in Trinity College Dublin (more years ago than we care to remember!) together with four of the current Bishops of the Church of Ireland and a number of other reps to the Synod, one of whom I had never met again since those days in TCD!

2. The Synod opened with a lengthy and very thoughtful address by its President, the Most Rev Alan Harper, Archbishop of Armagh. In it he explored how the Church discerns the voice of God especially in matters that are contentious. He was quite clear that the Church would not subscribe to *'the ancient Latin tag, 'Vox populi, vox dei' – 'the voice of the people is the voice of God.'* *The Church is not a democracy in that sense... We recall the formula employed by the Church of the Book of the Acts which declared at a momentous time of division and decision, 'It has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us.'* [Acts 15.28]

The Archbishop ended his address with these words: *'Calvin advocated for*

every Christian 'the exercise of charity'. The exercise of charity is appropriate to all situations of debate and in all circumstances of deeply held but disputed conviction within the body of Christ. I commend to this Synod 'the exercise of charity'.

3. The exercise of charity soon became a major issue as the Synod sought to handle on its opening day a series of three motions on human sexuality brought by the Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Jackson, and the Bishop of Down and Dromore, Harold Miller. The motions had received wide media coverage beforehand, and followed on from a special two-day General Synod Conference on human sexuality held in mid March. Following some debate on the matter, the Archbishop expressed his concern with "*the avoidance of doubt*", and ruled that the first of the three motions could not be taken. The other two were then withdrawn. There was further behind the scenes discussion which eventually led to a single motion being tabled later in the Synod, and which was passed on the final day. It affirmed the Church's traditional teaching on marriage and repeated its welcome to all people as members of the Church by a two to one majority.

The Synod also asked its Standing Committee to progress work on the issue of human sexuality in the context of Christian belief, and to bring proposals to next year's General Synod for the formation of a select committee with terms of reference and to include reporting procedures.

4. Whilst the discussion on sexuality received the greatest coverage, I found the most fascinating discussion to be one on the importance of the Single Farm Payment in sustaining the rural economy and rural farming. It seemed to me that there is much to be learned from the Synod in its attention to rural matters, and the level of both expertise and concern brought into the public domain.

5. This was the first Synod in which visiting delegates were enabled and encouraged to take part in debates, and I was privileged to be able to do so. Whatever the differences of structure and governance, there is no doubt that the Churches in Ireland face very similar issues and have very similar concerns, and that we would do well to listen to what is happening in other Christian assemblies and learn from them. In particular, the report on the Church 21 parish development programme presented by the Bishop of Kilmore, the Rt Rev Ken 'Fanta' Clarke was an especially heart warming contribution. This is, and I quote, a '*journey of change, a process of transformation. It is more about: process than package; people than programme; values than inventiveness; planning than patch up; God's ideas than good ideas.*' I suggest that we as an Assembly might gain much from a structured conversation with our Anglican colleagues on how the Lord has led them to the place where Church 21 '*offers a clear framework for growth, but also allows flexibility. It is not a one-size fits-all venture.*'

6. As Presbyterians we value light from any quarter, and there was plenty of it at this year's General Synod!

The Church of Scotland General Assembly (2012)

The Right Rev Dr Ivan J Patterson reports:

The Church of Scotland General Assembly met from Saturday May 19th to

Friday May 25th and was attended by some 800 Commissioners and around 100 delegates and visitors. I was accompanied by one of my chaplains the Rev Neil Bingham, Mr Brownlow McClean an elder in Newcastle Congregation along with our respective wives.

At the opening session on Saturday morning the Rt Rev Albert Bogle was installed as the new Moderator. A letter of greeting was read from Her Majesty the Queen and her representative, His Grace, The Lord High Commissioner, Baron Selkirk of Douglas, addressed the Assembly.

On Saturday evening the Assembly again met in session and the outgoing Moderator, the Very Rev David Arnott gave an account of his year of office. His address included experiences he and his wife Rosemary had on home and overseas visits. He gave a moving report of his visit to Afghanistan.

The Assembly service in St Giles on Sunday morning was one of real pomp with representatives from various aspects of civic life being present in their colourful regalia. The Moderator gave an inspiring address, on what was Ascension Sunday, on the sacrifice and joy of the ascended Christ.

In the afternoon Princess Street Gardens were packed to capacity for "Heart and Soul", a celebration of the life of the Church of Scotland. Individual Congregations and organisations occupied the tents that lined the gardens and the whole event concluded with a Songs of Praise service. Robin Mark and band led the worship. This was a marvellous opportunity for the Church to meet the community and something PCI could consider emulating.

Inter-faith matters reoccurred in various forms during the Assembly, including the place of non-Christian faiths using sanctuaries for worship; the question of how the Church of Scotland should relate to other faith groups and the place of Christian mission in a multi-faith society.

The Church and Society Report was wide ranging and took into account issues on poverty, domestic abuse, human trafficking, Scottish independence, literacy and neuroethics. The Report on neuroethics noted that the recent understanding in neuroscience appears to challenge the Christian understanding of free-will and moral responsibility.

During the Mission and Discipleship Council Report it was pointed out that up to 90% of the Scottish population were untouched by the Church. Presbyteries, with the Council's support, were encouraged to engage with the challenges of mission and ministry which the 21st century presents.

The Report of the World Mission Council focused on Asia with a specific emphasis on China. This is "the year of China" for the Council and had already been highlighted by visits from the Council Convenor and Secretary and the first extensive Moderatorial visit to the country in two decades. The Report noted the great historic links between the Church of Scotland and China, through missionaries such as Eric Liddell.

The General Assembly congratulated the Guild on its 125th anniversary and commended its work. The development of the Guild's "Golden Age Project" was welcomed and its findings commended to the whole Church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was welcomed and asked to address the Assembly. He spoke of what the Church is called to be in the here and now and

reflected on the words from Revelations “I have set before you an open door that no one can shut”.

On Thursday morning Chaplains to the Forces were welcomed and several commissioners and the Moderator spoke appreciatively about their sacrificial service and commended them in prayer.

A new electronic voting system was introduced this year to the Assembly. This enabled an almost immediate result of voting to be given. It also recorded individual attendance at each session of the Assembly and commissioners had to attend at least ten sessions to qualify for payment of expenses. Another interesting innovation we might want to try in PCI!

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

1. That the Report be received. **Resolutions**
2. That the recommended Order of Business be adopted.
3. That the Rev JRI Harbinson be enrolled as Minister-Emeritus of Moneydig with immediate effect. **Minister Emeritus**
4. That a grant of £17,000 be made from the Incidental Fund to the Arrangements Committee.
5. 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, 2013.

The Report of the **Presbyteries** (Reports pp 7-13) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, together with the following Supplementary Report:

1. The Dublin and Munster Presbytery reports that the voting on the Overtures anent Code Par 204 and 210(1) was 28 for, 0 against. **Presbyteries**
2. The Templepatrick Presbytery reports that the voting on the Overtures anent Code Par 204 and 210(1) was 17 for, 0 against.
3. In the report of the Armagh Presbytery, the name of ‘Mr Philip McClelland’ should be ‘Mr Philip Clelland’.
4. In the report of the North Belfast Presbytery, the name of ‘Mr Michael Wylie’ should be ‘Mr Michael Fryer’.

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

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

The **Corresponding Members** were received from the Church of Scotland. These were the Right Rev Albert Bogle, the Rev Ian Cunningham and Mrs Ann Mitchell. **Corresponding Members**

The Moderator welcomed the Corresponding Members. The Right Rev Albert Bogle replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Rev Kirsty Thorpe and the Rev Martin Smith of the United Reformed Church of the United Kingdom; and the Rev Robert

Owen Roberts of the Presbyterian Church of Wales. The Rev Kirsty Thorpe replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed the Rt Rev Patrick Rooke and the Rev Canon David Crooks, delegates from the Church of Ireland; the Rev Paul Kingston and Miss Rosemary Rainey, OBE, delegates from the Methodist Church in Ireland; and the Rev Fr Godfrey O'Donnell from the Irish Council of Churches. The Rev Paul Kingston replied and conveyed greetings.

The Moderator welcomed other delegates from: the Presbyterian Church USA: Rev Doug Baker; the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan: Rev Maqsood Kamil; the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Livingstonia: Rev Levi Nyondo, General Secretary; the Evangelical Reformed Church of Latvia: Rev. Alvis Sauka and Rev Ungars Gulbis; the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon: Rev Mikhael Sbait; the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands: Rev Norbert Stephens, General Secretary. The Rev Norbert Stephens replied and conveyed greetings.

**UNITED
APPEAL
BOARD**

The Report of the **UNITED APPEAL BOARD** (Reports pp 252-257) was submitted by the Rev RIA Allely.

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

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the United Appeal for 2013 be as set out in the Schedules (III) and (IV).
3. That the General Assembly encourage all Congregations to make use of the available promotional materials.
4. That the United Appeal Board for the ensuing year be appointed in accordance with Par 287 of the Code as follows:

UNITED APPEAL BOARD

Rev RIA Allely, Convener
The Clerk, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener.
- (b) Alexander Dalzell — JN Greenlee — Rev NAL Cameron — Mrs Sadie McCullough — Rev AR Bill — Martin Hampton — R Nelson — Rev TJ Laverty — Rev AC Wilson — William Keown — James McDowell — Rev Mary Hunter — Richard Fleming — J Bole — Rev DJ Temple — N Morrison — Rev KDW Crowe — Mrs Laura Martin — Rev WG Hamilton.
- (g) Revs Dr John Dunlop, DJ Irvine; Miss DE McCaughan, Douglas Crowe, Raymond Adams, WK Belshaw, Peter McGimpsey, David McCleery.

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, 29th May, 2012

2.00pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

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

The Report of the **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING** (Reports pp 185-196) was submitted by the Rev JNI McNeely, together with the following supplementary report:

**BOARD OF
CHRISTIAN
TRAINING**

Length of Assistantships

1. As indicated in the Board's main report, consideration has been on-going regarding the appropriate length for Licentiate Assistantships (2012 Reports, p 187, par 13).

2. At a meeting on Friday, 11 May 2012, the Board of Christian Training received a report from the sub-committee which had been set up to look at the matter and unanimously agreed to accept and implement the following recommendations:

- (a) That the length of the Licentiate Assistantship should be standardized irrespective of age.
- (b) That Licentiate Assistantships should be deemed to run from 1 July and last for two years and two months, giving a date of eligibility 1 September. (This to take effect from the next assignment round i.e. for those beginning their Student Assistantship in October 2013 and therefore their Licentiate Assistantship in July 2014.)
- (c) That Ministers and Kirk Sessions, especially of larger Congregations, should be encouraged to consider seriously the significant contribution they could make to the training of potential Ministers by offering the opportunity for an assistant to be assigned to their Congregation.
- (d) That the existing formula should be retained for arriving at the level of the Students' Bursary Fund grant and the amounts paid to Licentiate Assistants.

Resolutions Moved by the Rev JNI McNeely, seconded by the Very Rev Dr HA Dunlop, and agreed:

Candidates

1. That the Report be received
2. That the following candidates, their nomination having been sustained by the Board of Christian Training, be accepted as students for the Ordained Ministry, and placed under the care of their Presbyteries:

Name	Congregation	Presbytery
Matthew Boyd	High Kirk	Ballymena
Alan Burke	First Dunboe	Coleraine & Limavady
David Clarke	Culnady	Tyrone
Gerard Clinton	Drogheda	Dublin & Munster
Richard Cronin	Dun Laoghaire	Dublin & Munster
Alan Dickey	Bloomfield	East Belfast
David Gray	Kirkpatrick Memorial	East Belfast
Martin Gray	Howth & Malahide	Dublin & Munster
Bryan Kee	Albany	Tyrone
David Kelly	Stormont	East Belfast
Stephen Kennedy	Bessbrook	Newry
Stephen Lowry	Hamilton Road	Ards
Robert McClure	Ballywatt	Coleraine & Limavady
Alistair McCracken	Stormont	East Belfast
Susan Moore	McCracken Memorial	South Belfast
Bobby Orr	Ballynure	Carrickfergus
Jonathan Porter	Clontibret	Monaghan
Michael Rutledge	Newcastle	Iveagh
John Torrens	First Garvagh	Coleraine & Limavady
Brent van der Linde	Fitzroy	South Belfast

3. That the General Assembly request the Board of Christian Training to finalise a job description for the previously agreed position of Principal of Union Theological College with executive responsibility, and agree that the post be advertised and a nomination brought to the 2013 General Assembly for appointment.

4. That the General Assembly request the Board of Christian Training to carry out a review of the application process for the ordained ministry and of the on-going effective assessment of ministry candidates prior to ordination.

5. That the General Assembly encourage Ministers and Kirk Sessions to seriously consider the significant contribution they could make to the training of potential Ministers by offering the opportunity for an assistant to be assigned to their Congregation.

6. That the General Assembly approve the recommendations in the Supplementary Report of the Board of Christian Training.

7. That the General Assembly commend to Ministers and Kirk Sessions the resources and training opportunities on leadership development and pastoral care offered through the Board of Christian Training.

**Leadership
Development &
Pastoral Care**

8. That the General Assembly welcome the accreditation of the first group of Accredited Preachers and commend both the course and the new Accredited Preachers to the Church.

**Accredited
Preacher**

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

10. That the assessment for the Students' Bursary Fund be 5.25p per £ of stipend.

11. 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:

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN TRAINING

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 — Revs NSR Lockhart, SE Hughes — Revs Dr DJ McKelvey, TJ Wilson — Revs RD Maxwell, Colin Burcombe — Revs LJ Addis, RJ McCullough — Revs RS McMullan, JA Noble — Revs Mark Russell, Dr RL Craig — Revs Dr Annes Nel, BA Small — Rev JG Trueman; W Gordon — Revs DK McCrory, DJ Montgomery — Revs Dr IJ Patterson, WA Watson — Rev D Reyes Martin; Eric Latimer — Revs RK Graham, BAH Wilson — Revs WD Cupples, DW Reid — Revs William Harkness, Hugh Cubitt — Rev Dr WD Patton; Joseph Smyth — Revs TWA Greer, JE Sloan.
- (g) Revs Karen Campbell, Janice Browne, Mairisine Stanfield, Amanda Best, DJ Montgomery, DH Thompson, Stephen McCracken; Mrs M Myers, Mrs Isabel McAuley; Joe Campbell.

A. COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Rev Dr WJM Parker, Convener

Director of Ministerial Studies, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Principal UTC, Students' Bursary Fund Convener, Director of Ministerial Studies, Professor of Practical Theology, Christian Training Development Officer.
- (x) Revs William Sinclair, AV Stewart, RL Brown; Andrew Faulkner, Miss Anne Taylor, Mrs Rosemary Dunlop.

- (y) Revs Dr IJ Patterson, Dr WJP Bailie, Colin Burcombe, WD Cupples, NJ McCullough, DJ Montgomery.

B. COMMITTEE FOR TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Rev NJ McCullough, Convener

Christian Training Development Officer, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Convener of Ministerial Studies and Development Committee, Professor of Practical Theology, Christian Training and Development Officer; Director of Ministerial Studies.
- (x) Revs AV Stewart, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, David Johnston; Roy Thompson, Ossie McAuley, Mrs J Gibson.
- (y) Revs WD Cupples, TWA Greer, Dr Annes Nel, BAH Wilson, Dr RL Craig, Daniel Reyes Martin.

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.

Overture The **Overture anent Par 209 of the Code** (Reports p 197) was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev JNI McNeely and agreed: That the overture anent Par 209 of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN The Report of **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** (Reports pp 149-153) was submitted by Mrs Valerie Tweedie and Mrs Caroline Hawthorne.

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

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

UNION COMMISSION The Report of the **UNION COMMISSION** (Reports pp 79-100) was submitted by the Rev Dr SA Matthews.

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

1. That the Report be received. **Resolutions**
 2. That CMF be authorized to pay inadequate expenses grants towards expenses incurred by Ministers, up to a limit of NI £6,300 or RI €9,500, within the terms of res 3, p 70, General Assembly Minutes, 1988. **CMF**
 3. That the Protracted Illness Guidelines be noted.
 4. That the General Assembly agree that the annual holiday entitlement for Ministers in Pastoral Charges be set at six weeks annually, including a maximum of six Sundays and inclusive of all statutory holiday entitlement.
 5. That the Congregation of Nelson Memorial be amalgamated with the Congregation of Immanuel, the date of amalgamation to be no later than 31 May 2014 (as agreed by the Presbytery of North Belfast in consultation with the Union Commission), on terms set by the Union Commission. **Amalgamations**
- Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben and agreed:
6. That the resignation of the Rev Dr SA Matthews as Convener of the Union Commission be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev WJ Henry be appointed in his place for a period of five years.
- Moved by the Rev Dr SA Matthews, seconded by the Rev TD Gribben and agreed:
7. That the Union Commission be appointed for the ensuing year in accordance with Par 128 of the Code as follows:

COMMISSION ON UNION OF CONGREGATIONS

Rev WJ Henry, Convener

Rev EP Gamble, 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, Rev Dr SA Matthews.
- (b) Rev Dr DR Purce; Miss Pearl Hassard — Rev EP Gamble; James Whittle — Rev Desmond Knowles; James Gregg — Rev CJ Gamble; Roy Thompson — Rev RJ Greer; Brian Milligan — Rev William McKeown; Robert Tinney — Rev Dr Cecil Grant; Norman Carmichael — Rev JG Jones; Colin Beck — Rev Dr Brian Brown; Eric Christie — Rev RI Abraham; Norman Jackson — Rev Dr WTJ Richardson; WEC Ford — Rev JG Faris; Stuart Ferguson — Rev TJ Hagan; JB McClean — Rev David Hagan; George McConkey — Rev Dr MA Barry; WJ McKee — Rev CFD Clements; JB Wilson — Rev Denis Bannerman; David Smyth — 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, PG McCrea; AJ Giffen, John Stanage.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 35)

Intermission

**BOARD OF
MISSION IN
IRELAND**

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp 122-152) was submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

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

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.

**Strategy for
Mission**

2. That the General Assembly commend the Rural, Urban and Transformation networks, and encourage Ministers, Elders and members to be part of the on-going conversation.

3. That the General Assembly, giving thanks to God for the successful completion of the *Course for the Training of Evangelists*, pray for the course participants as they seek to put what they have learned and experienced into practice, and encourage Congregations to identify evangelists or potential evangelists by assisting them to participate in future courses.

4. That the BMI maintains annual contact with Presbytery Clerks and Mission Development Co-ordinators to offer support in mission development in whatever manner is deemed appropriate.

5. That the General Assembly encourage Congregations to consider carefully the outworking of their mission plans, and to make full use of the resources of materials and personnel made available through the BMI for their further reflection and action.

**Research and
Resources**

6. That the General Assembly welcome the Awake 2012 project, God Speaks: Good News for a Church in Exile, and encourage Congregations to use the material in considering the 'Fit for Purpose' theme of 'A Prophetic Voice.'

7. That the General Assembly welcome the SPUD contribution to the Awake 2012 material and encourage congregations to make use of it, so that all generations may be intentional in moving forward together while confronting the challenges of change.

8. That the General Assembly welcome the 'Tapestry: a mission woven life' material and encourage its wide use especially among Congregations with significant numbers of commuters within the Church.

9. That the General Assembly welcome the initiative of the BMI in organising a Missional Church Course in 2013, and commend it to the Church.

10. That the General Assembly welcome the completed work of the Panel on the Revision of the Book of Public Worship, and the publication online by the BMI of the revised materials, and encourage Ministers to make use of this resource and to offer comment on it to the editors.

11. That the General Assembly commend the Panel on Divine Healing initiative to organise a seminar on Wednesday 17 October 2012 with Dr Keith Warrington entitled "The mystery of suffering and the practice of prayer", and encourage Ministers, Elders and those with pastoral care responsibilities to attend.

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

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

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

14. That the resignation of the Rt Rev Dr RA Patton as Convener of the Board of Mission in Ireland be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and the Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus be appointed in his place.

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

15. 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:

BOARD OF MISSION IN IRELAND (BMI)

Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus, Convener

Rev DJ Bruce, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Representatives of Social Witness, Education, Christian Training, Youth and Children's Ministry and Mission Overseas Boards and Union Commission; two Deaconess representatives, CMF Representative, Rev Dr RA Patton.
- (b) Revs SA Little, Douglas Bradley; Mrs Debra Anderson — Revs DS Henry, AD Davidson; Miss Janice Allen — Revs MD McNeely, JG Johnston; Mrs Joy Carson — Revs ID Neish, D Clawson; Mrs Margaret Myers — Revs Dr RM Crooks, CH Deering; Mrs Jean Gwyn Patton — Revs Mervyn Gibson, Danny Rankin; Mrs Lorraine Rankin — Rev RI Carton; Alan Doole, Mrs Jane McClure — Revs TJ McCormick, Raymond Kelly; Mrs Nan Nixon — Revs Stephen Richmond, WH Higgins; Mrs Olive Boreland — Revs DJ Hyndman, Brian Small; Ms Jean Shields — Rev WJ Todd; James McDowell, Mrs Vera Mawhinney — Revs SJ Lockington, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, William Montgomery — Rev DJM Boyle, MD Davidson; Mrs S Shilliday — Revs NS Millen, Molly Deatherage; Uel Gamble — Revs WT Bingham, AD Mullan; Mrs Ruth Johnston — Rev CI Dickson; TR Reid, Mrs Y Mulligan — Revs HW Mullan, Denis Bannerman; Mrs Jacqui Turton — 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 Elma Leeburn, Mrs Elaine Crockett, Mrs Pauline Irvine, Mrs Margaret Grayson.

A. STRATEGY FOR MISSION COMMITTEE

Rev BD Colvin, Convener

Rev DJ Bruce, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary,

Committee Convener, PW Central President, PW Home Vice-President, Convener and Secretary of BMI Communications Committee, Mission Development Officer (Ireland), BMI Support Officer, Nightlight Panel Convener, Convener BMI Personnel Committee.

- (x) Revs RSJ McIlhatton, JR Lambe, Dr TN Hamilton, JE McDowell; Seamus Burke, Mark McKeown.
- (y) Revs SJ Lockington, Stephen Simpson, AD Davidson, Molly Deatherage, MD McNeely, 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, JSB Drennan, Ben Walker.
- (y) Revs David Clawson, 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, Conveners of BMI Property Committee, Finance Committee, Committee Convener and Secretary.
- (x) Brian Knox, Kenneth Fleming, William Watt.
- (y) Revs Brian Small, George Moore, CH Deering.

Overtures The **Overtures anent Par 204 and 210(1) of the Code** (Reports p 147-148) were submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

Moved by the Rev DJ Bruce, seconded by the Rev Prof A Gibson, and agreed: That the overture anent Par 204 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year be made the rule of the Church.

Moved by the Rev DJ Bruce, seconded by the Rev Prof A Gibson, and agreed: That the overture anent Par 210(1) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year be made the rule of the Church.

The **Overture anent Par 212(1) of the Code** (Reports p 148) was submitted by the Rev DJ Bruce.

Moved by the Rev DJ Bruce, seconded by the Rev Prof A Gibson, and agreed: That the overture anent Par 212(1) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year be made the rule of the Church.

The Report of the **TRUSTEES** (Reports pp 259-263) was submitted by Mr AT Ross, together with the following supplementary report:

TRUSTEES

It is with great regret that the Trustees record the sudden death of one of their esteemed members, Mr David Bell CB, on 22 May 2012. Mr Bell was appointed a Trustee in 1993 and was immediately invited to serve on the Executive Committee. He willingly offered his wisdom and years of experience in property valuation to serve the needs of the whole Church.

Death of a Trustee

Moved by Mr AT Ross, seconded by the Rev WJ Orr, OBE, and agreed:

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 the General Assembly agrees in principle to a single governing Trustees body and instructs the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of Trustees, in consultation with the General Assembly Solicitor, to bring detailed proposals to the 2013 General Assembly, with necessary Bye Law and Code changes.
8. 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:

Resolutions

Very Revs Dr S Hutchinson, Dr David Clarke, Revs Dr DJ Watts, WJ Orr, OBE; Mr AT Ross, Mr John Millar, OBE, Mr George McCullagh, Mr Douglas Crowe.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW TRUSTEES

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

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

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

ROBERT A PATTON

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

29 May, 2012

2. That Mr Douglas Crowe be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr Wilson Ervin, CBE, resigned, and of the due appointment of Mr Douglas Crowe as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

ROBERT A PATTON

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

29 May, 2012

3. That Mrs Marjorie Guiler be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr Walter Cosgrove, resigned, and of the due appointment of Mrs Marjorie Guiler as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

ROBERT A PATTON

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

29 May, 2012

4. That Sir Bruce Robinson be, and is hereby nominated and appointed by the General Assembly as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in room of Mr AD McClay, resigned, and of the due appointment of Sir Bruce Robinson as a said Trustee attestation is made by the signature of the Moderator of the General Assembly and of the Clerk of the General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Irish Presbyterian Church Act, 1871.

ROBERT A PATTON

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

DONALD J WATTS

Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

29 May, 2012

**COMMISSION
ON TRUSTS**

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

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

Resolutions

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:-

COMMISSION ON TRUSTS

AJ Rankin, Convener

Moderator, Clerk, Convener; Revs Dr David Clarke, Dr Samuel Hutchinson,

WJ Orr; George McCullagh, John Millar, AT Ross, Sir Bruce Robinson, Douglas Crowe, Norman Bennett.

Overtures, Reports p 107-108 – debate resumed (see p29)

Overtures

The **Overture anent Par 128(1) of the Code** (Reports p 107) was submitted by the Rev Dr SA Matthews.

Moved by the Rev Dr S A Matthews seconded by Rev TD Gribben and agreed :

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

The **Overture anent Par 193(1)(c) of the Code** (Reports p 107) was submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Dr SA Matthews and agreed: That the overture anent Par 193(1)(c) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The **Overtures anent Par 195(11)(d), Appendix 5A and Appendix 5D of the Code** (Reports p 107-108) were submitted by the Rev TD Gribben.

Moved by the Rev TD Gribben, seconded by the Rev Dr SA Matthews and agreed: That the overtures anent Par 195(11)(d), Appendix 5A and Appendix 5D of the Code, be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, be made the rule of the Church.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.47pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 30th May 2012

9.30am

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS** (Reports pp 109-129) was submitted by the Rev CA Meban.

**BOARD OF
MISSION
OVERSEAS**

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

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly commit to listening for the prophetic voice

Resolutions

of God, particularly in attending to the voice of poor and oppressed people, those marginalised in Church or community, and the persecuted Church, in order that PCI's strategic priorities would fully reflect the mission priorities of God's coming Kingdom.

Personnel 3. That the General Assembly give thanks for the faithful service and dedicated witness of PCI's missionary personnel and their families serving overseas, and affirm the sending out of missionary personnel in response to the Call of God and at the invitation of partner Churches, as a strategic mission priority of PCI, whatever the challenges of the on-going global financial crisis.

4. That the General Assembly encourage the Outreach Ministries Committee to pursue its focus on mission through education in 2012/13 and further explore mission through peace-building in the global context.

Partners 5. That the General Assembly acknowledge the wide-ranging support which leadership development work offers partner Churches, endorse the Leadership Development Committee's adoption of a 'featured partner' approach to be introduced in 2012-13 and encourage Congregations to seize the opportunity for learning about PCI's leadership development initiatives and praying for leaders-in-training.

World Development 6. That the General Assembly give thanks in these difficult times for the continuing and generous support of individuals and Congregations for the annual World Development Appeal, for the recent Moderator-supported East Africa Appeal; and, despite the challenges of the on-going global financial crisis, encourage continued financial generosity to others around the world.

7. That the General Assembly recognise the importance of taxation in developing countries for enabling development and building accountability between state and citizens; and request that both the Irish and UK governments support the call for a new international accounting standard requiring companies to report on profits made and taxes paid in every country in which they operate – so called country-by-country reporting.

8. That the General Assembly ask congregational leaders to prayerfully seek and discern how their Congregation might be better informed and envisioned regarding what God is doing in his world today and the steps they need to take to be increasingly equipped for and engaged in the work of global mission.

9. 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:

BOARD OF MISSION OVERSEAS

Rev Cheryl Meban, Convener

Rev WS Marrs, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Convener and Secretary of the Board; Representative of Church Relations, Board of Mission in Ireland, Board of Youth and Children's Ministry, Personnel Officer (Overseas), Finance Officer (Overseas).
- (b) Revs NW McAuley, Dr WJP Bailie; Mrs OE Byers — Revs DR Byers, Philip McKelvey; Mrs Joan Thompson — Rev DB McCorrison;

J Petrie, Mrs Joan Hamill — Revs JR Dickinson, DJ McIlwaine; Mrs Renee Gifford — Revs Robert Love, Prof WG Campbell; Mrs Margaret Jackson — Rev Joan Scott; Mrs Ruth Campbell, Miss Leonora Wasson — John McKay, Miss R Kelso, Miss Marie Kane — Revs Dr Clive Glass, Peter Fleming; Mrs Margaret Conn — Revs Colin McKibbin, Stanley Stewart; Mrs Ruth Dale — Revs Dr AF Nel, Lesley-Ann Wilson — Rev RA McLernon; I Murdock, Mrs Elma Leeburn — Revs Dr KP Meyer, JG Faris; Heather Moore — Rev Dr MCA Gray; Mrs Helen Mateer — Rev Daniel Reyes-Martin; Eric Latimer, Mrs Isobel Davidson — 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 Jean Farlow, Mrs Edith Holmes, Mrs Edna McIlwaine.

A. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rev Dr WG Campbell, Convener

Mrs Pamela McCullagh, 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) Revs BAH Wilson, NSR Lockhart, Stephen McCracken, David Stanfield; Mrs Isobel McAuley, Tony McGall.
- (y) Revs Dr Clive Glass, JH Hanson, Daniel Reyes-Martin; Mrs Margaret Jackson, Miss Marie Kane, Mrs Ruth Campbell.

B. MISSION INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

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, Mrs Brenda Kerr, John Doherty, Stephen Lynas, Maurice McNicholl.
- (y) Revs Philip McKelvey, Dr WJP Bailie; Hugh Meekin, Mrs Olive Byers, Mrs Edith Holmes, Mrs Elizabeth Moffett.

C. OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

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 NE Dorrans, David Steele, Stanley Stewart; Mrs Valerie Tweedie, Joe Campbell, Ivan Murdock.
- (y) Revs CI Dickson, TP Fleming, RA McLernon; Mrs Lynn Murray, Mrs Edna McIlwaine, Dr Maureen Stevenson.

D. WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Rev Dr KP Meyer, Convener

Rev WS Marrs, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Committee Convener, Mission Development Officer (Overseas), Church Relations representative, Convener of Outreach Ministries Committee.
- (x) Rev Dr Samuel Hutchinson; Mrs Shiela Phillips, Mrs Fiona Watts, Mrs Moyra Stirling, Alf McCreary, Ralph Sheppard.
- (y) Revs Joan Scott, Dr AF Nel, Robert Love, Lesley-Ann Wilson; Miss Leonora Wasson, Miss DE McCaughan.

BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS The Report of the **BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS** (Reports pp 154-171) was submitted by the Rev RA Liddle.
Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 55)

Intermission

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:

Memorial Record

The Very Rev Dr W Donald Patton reports:

The Rev Richard Samuel Ross MA, Minister Emeritus of Carnlough and Cushendall Congregations in the Presbytery of Ballymena, Co Antrim, died on 11 April 2012 in the 90th year of his age and the 58th year of his ministry. He was born on 16 February 1923 at Annalong, County Down, to William Ross, an Officer in the newly formed Royal Ulster Constabulary, and his wife Annie May, née Hazlett. In 1925 his father was transferred to Belfast with the RUC. Mr Ross attended Stranmillis and Fane Street Primary Schools, then Ardmore College. On leaving school he worked in a series of employments including Short and Harland and the RUC for four years. Raised in a loving Christian family he was brought up in association with Windsor Congregation and attended both Windsor and Fisherwick Sunday Schools. As a boy of ten years he committed his life to Christ during a Church mission and in his early twenties felt called to

the ordained ministry while attending meetings of the Portstewart Convention. He proceeded to Magee College, Londonderry, in 1946, and then Trinity College, Dublin, graduating MA in 1950, and received his theological training in the Assembly's College, Belfast. Licensed by the Presbytery of Belfast 22 June 1952, he served as Assistant to the Very Rev Dr Gordon Erskine in the Congregation of Rosemary 1950 to 1955. There he met his future wife, Eileen Margaret Wadmore. They were married on 11 May 1955, and in the ensuing years they had three children, Richard, Jennifer and Andrew. On receiving a call from the Congregation of Harryville he was ordained and installed there by the Presbytery of Ballymena 14 February 1955. In these early years the economy of the parish was dominated by the Braid Water Spinning Co. and the Phoenix Weaving Co. Many of the local people lived in the streets of mill houses near the Church. The following years saw growth in population and housing, increasing the numerical strength of the Congregation to over 700 families, though with the founding of the Congregations of Ballykeel and Ballee, in subsequent years, the numbers fell back. New halls were built to accommodate the thriving youth work and were opened in 1975. Mr Ross was a diligent pastor and conscientious preacher who was also involved in the life of the local community through school boards and community organisations such as the NSPCC and as an army chaplain to junior soldiers at St Patrick's barracks and a deputy hospital chaplain at the Waveney and Braid Valley hospitals. Sadly, Mrs Ross died 4 April 1979 and Mr Ross resigned from Harryville in 1981. Resuming ministry in 1985 Mr Ross served as stated supply in the Congregations of Carnlough and Cushendall and was installed there in 1989 continuing until his retirement 31 March 1994. He served the wider Church as Convener of the Christian Healing Committee 1978-1980 using his pastoral gifts to lead this caring ministry. He was Moderator of the Synod of Ballymena and Coleraine 1977-1978. Mr Ross married Maureen Bingham on 28 August 1986 who predeceased him 19 May 2009. His love of English language and literature bore fruit in his published book of poems entitled *Life with a Capital L* the proceeds of which were donated to Cancer Research, and he contributed to the Park Author Symposium Faith for today. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his family circle and with them give thanks to God for his witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour during a long lifetime.

The Rev Robert Raymond (Ray) Davey, OBE, BA, DLitt, LL.D, DPhil, DD, died on 16 April 2012 in the 98th year of his age and the 67th year of his ministry. The third son and fourth child of the Rev Robert Davey and his wife Charlotte Davey, nee Higginson, he was born on 10 January 1915. He was brought up in connection with the Congregation of Dunmurry, where his father was Minister for over forty years, and attended Miss Gamble's School (in the local Orange Hall), Dunmurry Public Elementary School (in the Church Hall) and the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, 1926-33. A keen rugby player, he was a member of the Inst Schools Cup winning team in 1933 and later played for Ulster. He proceeded to Queen's University, Belfast, 1933-36, graduating BA, and received his theological education at the Assembly's College, Belfast, 1936-37 and 1938-39, and New College, Edinburgh, 1937-38. He was licensed by the Belfast Presbytery on 24 May 1939 and served as Assistant Minister in First Bangor, 1939-40, preaching his first sermon in that role on 3 September 1939, having listened to the declaration of war by the then Prime Minister Neville

Chamberlain. In 1940 he volunteered as a YMCA Field Secretary with the forces and was posted to Tobruk in North Africa. When Tobruk fell in 1942 he was taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war in various camps run first by the Italians who later handed him over to the Germans. He was eventually transferred to a camp near Dresden in January 1944, where he was able to exercise a wide ranging ministry and met many ordinary Germans. The destruction of that city in the raids of February 1945 deeply affected him and remained with him for the rest of his life. He wrote, "I walked for a long time without seeing a house fit for habitation. I had never seen such absolute devastation on so wide a scale." He later wrote several books in which he described his experiences. On returning to Belfast after the end of the war he was ordained by the Presbytery of Belfast for overseas service with the YMCA on 16 September 1945, was awarded the MBE for his wartime service with the YMCA, and married Kathleen Burrows, daughter of the Rev Edwin Burrows, Minister of Knock Presbyterian Church, on 2 January 1946. Interestingly, he told his family many years later that when he was in North Africa arrangements were being made for his ordination in Jerusalem, but his capture at Tobruk intervened. He served as Assistant Minister in McCracken Memorial for part of 1946 before taking up his appointment as the first full-time chaplain to Queen's University later that year on 1 October. He had learned the value of community in his childhood and during the war, so he set about creating a strong community for the students based at 7 College Park Avenue, and later at the 'Centre' built on the same site. In this he was very successful and the pursuit of community at a wider level led to the formation of the Corrymeela Community, a community promoting reconciliation and peace-building, outside Ballycastle in 1965. Ray Davey is widely acknowledged as its founder. Though Corrymeela began its work before the start of the 'troubles', by the time he was inducted as its first Director on 31 October 1971, those 'troubles' were raging in an increasingly frightening manner. The leadership given during the seventies by him and his wife was both hands-on and courageous. He retired on 31 December 1979 and was awarded the OBE for his work in 1980. The high regard in which he and his work were held can also be seen in the four diverse honorary doctorates which were awarded to him from the University of Ulster; Queen's University, Belfast; the National University of Ireland, Maynooth; and the Presbyterian Theological Faculty of Ireland. Warm and fulsome tributes were paid to him and his work at the time of his death including from the Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr Ivan Patterson, who said, "Ray Davey was a man of total commitment whether to his faith, his family, his sport and, what he will be best remembered for, to the building of peace and reconciliation in communities engaged in conflict." He was predeceased by his wife Kathleen in 2008 and is survived by his daughter, Alison, sons Rob and Ian, and nine grandchildren, to whom we extend our sympathy and prayers as we give thanks for the life and service of our esteemed colleague.

Priorities Committee

At the request of the General Board, the Priorities Committee considered "holding a PCI Residential Conference in 2015" (G.A. Minutes 2011, p 25, res 2). It is recognised that as the five Assembly themes are developed various initiatives may be used to explore them as a Church, but the most obvious theme for a

Residential Conference similar to previous events is “A community of global concern”. Various ideas were discussed but the recommendation is to consider a Conference to develop that theme during 2016-2017. This would also be towards the end of the five-year cycle. If this report is accepted the Committee will bring a more definite proposal for the shape and timing of such a Conference to the next Assembly, with the possible membership of a Steering Committee.

The Priorities Committee were encouraged by the response to the call to prayer on 17 April 2012 and are following this up in a number of ways, including the opportunity for prayer in the Chapel of Assembly Buildings each Friday at 1.15 p.m.

Doctrine Committee

The Doctrine Committee met no less than ten times during the year since the last General Assembly. Its work was mainly to produce what it hopes will be a final report on the particular aspect of marriage first referred to it by the General Assembly in 2009 (Reports pp.38-49).

In addition to their major work of the year, the Doctrine Committee was asked to address two other issues. First, was a letter from the Presbytery of Route concerning the appropriateness of having a facility in a church building for full immersion baptism. The Committee responded by saying that it saw no absolute theological impediment to having such a facility and, indeed, it might have some missional benefits. However, the Committee also stressed that it is important that our architecture expresses our theology accurately. Care must be taken that a missionally well intentioned facility should not tacitly diminish the covenantal understanding of baptism that is central to PCI’s understanding of the sacrament and that baptism as a public proclamation should not displace baptism as a sign of admission to the Christian Church.

The second issue was a request from the General Board to comment on the report of the Tyrone Memorial Review Panel (2011). The response was as follows: *The Doctrine Committee was asked to report on the Tyrone Memorial Review Panel’s report (2011), ‘on Biblical grounds’. Having considered the report of the Tyrone Memorial Review Panel, the Committee has not identified any obvious Biblical or theological difficulties, within the terms set out for the Committee.*

Church and Society Committee

Panel on Social Issues

1. The Social Issues Panel exists to be a link body between the Church and Society Committee and the Board of Social Witness on issues of common interest. It is the task of the Panel to enhance communication between the two groupings and to assign a lead role and avoid unnecessary duplication of work. It is hoped that the Panel will become redundant when the new structures are in place.

2. The Panel is headed by the Director for Social Witness and Northern Convener of Church and Society and brings together people relevant to the task.

On the matter of prisons Lindsay Conway and Lesley Carroll are joined by Ronnie Orr and Valerie Newell.

3. The Panel has met to consider the report of the team reviewing the Northern Ireland Prison Service published in October 2011 (Ann Owers Report). A process of consultation has been planned so that the group can take account of the views of chaplains, the oversight group etc. Following this process the Panel will bring some recommendations about how to proceed.

4. The Review brings other issues to light which need to be addressed by those in power and also across society. At this post-conflict stage in our history changes are likely to be needed in how society cares for and resettles offenders; in how offenders are dealt with while they are in prison, particularly in terms of offering opportunities for transformation; and in how society manages some of the most challenging offenders who are largely rejected by local communities. So it is likely that some new thinking needs to come from the Church on the broader aspects of prisons, prisoners and resettling prisoners in society. The Chaplains too are being reviewed and so across the board there is change and challenge.

5. The Panel is mindful of the uncertainty that can abound in a time of change. No matter where change is happening there are common reactions – some embrace change warmly; some feel that change is a commentary, and not a good commentary, on the work they have done in the past; some believe change is not needed. The Panel is mindful too of the service that many have given as prison officers, chaplains, visitors, hostel managers and workers, and in so many other aspects of the care and resettlement of prisoners. Change, in the Panel's view, is not a commentary on what they have failed to do but it is commentary on the fact that our society has moved to a new place and that there is new skill and learning to be applied to enhance good practice.

6. As the Welfare Reform debate continues there is a rising consciousness of the impact proposed changes may have on people. While it remains unclear precisely what changes are proposed it is clear that there will be a shift in how benefits are decided. A close eye must be kept to the debate so that the vulnerable are not penalised while those who have enough do not bear any of the burden. A watching brief will be kept through the Panel on Social Issues and appropriate response made. A brief overview of the implications of welfare reform is attached at Appendix 1.

7. A further challenge on the matter of Welfare Reform comes in the shape of how the people of Northern Ireland view themselves in relation to Great Britain and how legislation written at Westminster should or should not be rewritten for the Northern Irish context. This is a matter which the Executive has yet to resolve but clearly there are post-conflict issues to be considered in any legislation from Stormont.

8. It is not helpful for decisions about Northern Ireland to be driven by a 'special status' mentality but rather by a sense of being a 'normal' society. Equally society has to take care to attend to the legacy of the past, particularly in the areas of health and well-being, ability to work, skills for work and the care of children and young people.

9. It is the view of both the Panel and the Church and Society Committee that the implementation of reform in the Health Service will be as thorny and perhaps even more emotive than the implementation of Welfare Reform. It will take some considerable effort on the part of PCI to engage in the debate in a manner that is informed, strategic and effective.

10. The report of the review *Transforming your care: A Review of Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland December, 2011* can be found at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/transforming-your-care-review-of-hsc-ni-final-report.pdf>. As implementation progresses decisions will have to be made as to who will take the lead for PCI. In the first instance the Panel on Social Issues will consider what needs to be done.

Consultations

11. A consultation on EU funding was responded to and that response is attached at Appendix 2.

The Possibility of Reconciliation

12. Since Easter Sunday there has been a notable shift in tone to the public statements from Sinn Fein regarding the possibilities of reconciliation. A number of senior Republicans made significant speeches pointing towards a new time and a new opportunity for reconciliation. While the term 'reconciliation' is clearly not being used in a theological sense it is a matter of interest to the Church when such terms are used in the political domain. This is also an opportunity for the Church to interface with public debate and to open up new content and meaning to the terminology that is being used and therefore to the relationships that might possibly be formed. What Republicans actually mean is still a matter for debate but it is the view of the Committee that an opportunity exists for new interaction, for straight talking and for hope building through conversations with old enemies with whom we have settled ourselves into co-existence which is, at times, far from comfortable. The question is whether or not it is possible for society to move on from such co-existence to more reconciled relationships.

13. Across society there is a general complaint that there is not enough being achieved by the Executive. It is worth noting, therefore, that public overtures have been made by Republicans with regard to reconciliation and worth exploring what possibilities this might hold for community relationships and for how politics is done.

Citizenship, Covenant and Christ Conference

14. The Conference *Citizenship, Covenant and Christ* was held at Belfast City Hall on 19 April, 2012. About one hundred and twenty delegates gathered over the day to listen to the speakers and to question and debate with one another. The Committee wishes to publicly record its thanks to Belfast City Hall for the facility that was provided to us and for the helpful way in which staff assisted us in preparation for the event and on the day. The Committee also wishes to record thanks to the speakers – The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York; Deputy Jimmy Deenihan TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Professor Laurence Kirkpatrick; Deputy

Dara Calleary TD; Tom Hartley, Belfast City Councillor; Philip Orr; Nelson McCausland, Minister for the Department of Social Development; and Hugo Swire MP, Minister of State.

15. The Committee appreciated the participation of representatives from across the political spectrum and representing a wide range of groups for civil society. Relationships begun on the day have the potential to bear fruit and are warmly welcomed, especially in the Republic. The model used for the day is one that the Committee believes could be used to address other significant subjects, among them some of the other significant anniversaries that will be faced during the decade which has just begun.

16. Thanks are also due to staff in Assembly Buildings who facilitated booking, payment and the distribution of information for the Conference.

17. Material from the conference will be made available electronically through the PCI website and Mr Stephen Lynas is to be thanked for his hard work on this and indeed for the considerable effort he put in assisting the Committee in preparation for the conference and also on the day.

Appendix 1

Overview of the Impact of Welfare Reform

The on-going process of Welfare Reform is the biggest change in the Welfare System in sixty years, a process that will impact on the majority of households in Northern Ireland. Few would argue that a reform of our benefits system was not long overdue, that the existing system is no longer fit for purpose and is open to abuse. In launching the Review Government has returned to a previous age and language in calling the process, “Welfare Reform”. Beveridge, the architect of the Welfare State in 1947, had set out a plan to put an end to the “five giants” of “Poverty, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness.”

As a Church we had connected with the whole process of Poor Law Reform. The General Assembly of 1921 received a report “A Programme for Social Reform”, which advocated raising the school leaving age, facilities for juvenile recreation, maternity benefits, sponsored employment schemes, child welfare centres and a drastic change in the Poor Law – concepts and principles that were ahead of their time and progressive. At the General Assembly of 2011 the Board of Social Witness advised that – “The voluntary/community/faith sector continues to supplement the statutory sector and government knows that the Board will reluctantly close its doors or refuse admission to anyone. Challenges and opportunities will arise during this period of recession both at Board and local levels. Ministers and Elders will experience a higher demand on their time as they respond to more and more pastoral needs as a result of local services being cut”.

The Moderator, Dr Patterson, together with the other Church Leaders have connected with the process and have continually challenged the impact of the review and the speed of its implementation. The Church Leaders have met with

Lord Freud (Welfare Reform Minister), the Secretary of State Owen Patterson and Social Security Minister Nelson McCausland. They also hosted an event in the Assembly Buildings which was addressed by both the Secretary of State and Minister McCausland. The Secretary of State opened the event by stating – “In Northern Ireland I want to create the conditions for a dynamic, private sector led, economy. To achieve that we must promote enterprise and reform our broken welfare system so that work pays.” The Welfare Reform Act has now achieved Royal Assent. There is total parity within the benefits system in the United Kingdom, not permitting any changes within the main principles of the benefits system although there can be flexibility within the locally administered allowances. The biggest change will be the introduction of the “Universal Credit” – an attempt to make one payment and to cap the maximum that individual claimants can be paid. It is essential that we as a Church remain connected to this process as it rolls out over the next few years.

The aim of the Act

- creating the right incentives to get more people into work by ensuring work always pays;
- protecting the most vulnerable in our society;
- delivering fairness to those claiming benefit and to the taxpayer.

The main elements of the Act

The main elements of the Act are:

- the introduction of Universal Credit to provide a single streamlined benefit that will ensure work always pays;
- a stronger approach to reducing fraud and error with tougher penalties for the most serious offences;
- a new claimant commitment showing clearly what is expected of claimants while giving protection to those with the greatest needs;
- reforms to Disability Living Allowance, through the introduction of the Personal Independence Payment to meet the needs of disabled people today;
- creating a fairer approach to Housing Benefit to bring stability to the market and improve incentives to work;
- driving out abuse of the Social Fund system by giving greater power to local authorities;
- reforming Employment and Support Allowance to make the benefit fairer and to ensure that help goes to those with the greatest need;
- a new system of child support which puts the interest of the child first.

Which benefits will go?

The following benefits will be abolished:

- income support;
- income-based jobseeker’s allowance;

- income-related employment and support allowance;
- housing benefit;
- child tax credit and working tax credit;
- crisis loans and community care grants – responsibility for an equivalent will be passed to DSD probably in a new scheme;
- budgeting loans – to be replaced by payments on account (an advance of universal credit) in cases of need.

Which benefits will stay?

- Contribution based jobseeker's allowance. The earnings rules will be aligned with universal credit;
- Contributory employment and support allowance. The earnings rules will be aligned with universal credit;
- Child benefit;
- Carer's allowance;
- Bereavement allowance, bereavement payment and widowed parent's allowance;
- Maternity allowance;
- Industrial injuries disablement benefit;
- Statutory sick pay;
- Maternity grants and cold weather payments – to be paid automatically when the qualifying criteria are met. Funeral payments will remain, according to the information available.

Who will be able to claim universal credit?

Universal credit will replace means-tested benefits and tax credits for working-age people up to pension credit age. It will be paid to people in or out of work.

Appendix 2

Summary of response to the consultation on EU funding

Capital projects should require a substantial capital input from the sponsors of any project themselves. The emphasis must lead to on-the-ground support for BOTH the individuals and groups delivering social inclusion programmes and dealing with hardship. Any expectation that volunteering can be enhanced without resource input is seriously misplaced. This is of special importance to the faith sector whose volunteering capacity is very significant, but which cannot simply be widened and/or embedded more deeply in community life without suitable infra-structural support being made available within the faith sector itself.

There is a strong link between promoting employment and supporting labour mobility and promoting social inclusion and combating poverty. They are crucial to the ending of paramilitarism and the rise of criminality in many of our most vulnerable communities.

Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. This is often overlooked because of the very nature of rural life, where family life is central to the continued existence of farming itself. Single Farm Payments have been very significant over the years and any changes to the scheme in favour of more 'efficient' farming is not self evidently beneficial if it contributes to the dismantling of the very fabric of rural life.

If greater participation is sought from the faith communities, then there needs to be an *explicit* opening of the door for those communities to funding. The current arrangements often effectively preclude contributions from the faith community in those areas where they seek to focus on community benefit and welfare.

Neighbourhood Renewal programmes have been seriously hampered by lack of dedicated funds – and will fail unless dedicated funds are made available. This has already led to a sense of disillusionment in many NR communities, and by extension this makes them vulnerable to continued paramilitarism and deepening criminality – especially in drugs.

The paperwork associated with SEUPB is often a complete nightmare. There is little incentive to show interest in any Peace IV programme if its bureaucracy is comparable to that of Peace III.

Unless this issue is resolved the question is rather academic. If it were solved, the emphasis should be on localised programmes perhaps delivered through local councils under RPA.

Ad hoc Committee on Eldership

The Committee met on two occasions to discuss the remit of the General Assembly :

'to consider the possibility of Ruling Elders serving on a Kirk Session for a set period of time.' (Minutes 2010, p.44, resolution 8)

1. Arising out of its deliberations several issues became clear.
 - a. Any consideration of election to Kirk Session being for a fixed term needs to be viewed within the wider context of the Session's essential role within a Congregation and an understanding of what a Ruling Elder's main function ought to be.
 - b. Much of the ground work relating to this issue has already been done by the Panel on Leadership of the Board of Christian Training and is contained in its Report to the General Assembly in 2010. Anything this present Committee might consider would be complementary to and a continuation of that report.
 - c. The Committee would only be able to bring an interim report to this Assembly with a view to there being a full Report in 2013.
2. The Committee strongly believes that Kirk Session ideally ought to be a manageable unit who, in conjunction with the Minister, would be able to think strategically, determine spiritual direction and make leadership decisions on

behalf of the Congregation. In order to fulfil this requirement a greater emphasis needs to be placed on the Kirk Session being responsible for the oversight of the Congregation and not simply a body whose main function is pastoral. The Committee fears that Kirk Sessions often hesitate to be proactive in their leadership and the reason for electing new Elders usually arises out of a need to service Elders' districts.

3. The Committee considers it important to emphasize that any discussion on these matters would only concern the role of the Kirk Session and that of a Ruling Elder. The office of the Eldership and the Elder's pastoral responsibilities should remain as presently constituted.

4. In the pursuit of this ideal fixed term membership of Kirk Session might be considered. There are advantages and disadvantages in any such change and implementation would be more beneficial in some Congregations than others.

5. The perceived advantages would be:

a. It might be more likely to create leadership which would be visionary and dynamic.

b. Opportunity in leadership might be given to those whose gifting is more in the sphere of strategic thinking and implementation than in pastoral visitation.

c. There are those who might be willing to accept responsibility were that to be for a set time rather than as a long term commitment as at present.

6. The most obvious disadvantage of any such scheme would be that while it would be practical, and even necessary, in larger Congregations it would be particularly difficult to service and sustain in smaller ones.

7. Were fixed term membership of Kirk Session to be considered in any form training in the management of change would be a key component and this is again where reference needs to be made to the 2010 report by the Panel on Leadership.

8. The Committee's work in this first year has been preparatory but in order to continue its work the Committee believes that the addition of other members, particularly Elders, will be helpful.

Ad hoc Committee on Judicial Appeals

Having consulted with the Judicial Commission, the Judicial Appeals Committee has agreed the following guidelines to assist in the relationship between a superior and inferior court:

In any cases of appeal or reference or any other matters which may be referred to it under or by virtue of The Code a superior court should be guided by the following principles.

1. *A superior court, when reviewing the actions and decisions of an inferior court, should limit itself to the issues raised by the parties to the case in the original (inferior) court.*

2. *A superior court should have due regard for the finding of an inferior court regarding those factual matters which the inferior court is more competent to determine, because of its proximity to the events in question and because of*

its personal knowledge and observations of the parties and witnesses involved. However, a superior court should reverse a factual finding of an inferior court if there is clear error on the part of the inferior court.

3. *A superior court should have due regard for the finding of an inferior court regarding those matters of discretion and judgment which can best be addressed by a court with familiar acquaintance of the events and parties. However, a superior court should reverse such a judgment by an inferior court if there is clear error on the part of the lower court.*

4. *However, any superior court does still retain the power and responsibility for the hearing of appeals, references and other matters, and that important responsibility cannot always be satisfied by deferring to the findings of an inferior court.*

The Committee also recommends that leaflets be prepared:

- (a) to guide a Presbytery in carrying out a judicial process;
- (b) to guide an individual who is considering an appeal against a decision of a Church Court.

With the permission of the Moderator, the Convener of the Forces Committee, the Rev Dr Victor Dobbin, introduced serving Chaplains to the Moderator, who led in prayer.

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

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

FIFTH SESSION

Wednesday, 30th May 2012

2.00pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 14-73) – debate continued.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts and seconded by the Rev Prof A Gibson:

1. That the Report be received.

Resolutions

The Assembly agreed that if the amendment in the name of the Revs TWD Johnston and JR Burnett was passed, then resolution 10 of the Board of Finance and Personnel (Reports p 251) shall be withdrawn.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev TWD Johnston, seconded by the Rev JR Burnett, and agreed:

That the Report be received and that the Doctrine Committee be requested to bring to the 2013 General Assembly a report containing further theological reflection upon and elucidation of the biblical principles governing the financial support of the Church's ministers.

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

That the Report be received and that the Doctrine Committee be requested to bring to the 2013 General Assembly a report containing further theological reflection upon and elucidation of the biblical principles governing the financial support of the Church's ministers, and that the Doctrine Committee be requested to give further consideration to the issue of immersionist baptism raised in its 2012 Supplementary Report with a view to producing a substantial response for the 2013 General Assembly.

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

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev Prof A Gibson, and agreed:

2. That the General Assembly authorise the General Board to agree a job description for Clerk of the General Assembly and General Secretary; to advertise the post and to bring a nomination in 2013 for appointment as Clerk Designate 2013-14 and Clerk of the General Assembly from September 2014.

3. That the General Assembly agree from 2013 that the cost of the Head of Press and Media post be met by the Incidental Fund.

Priorities

4. That the General Assembly approve the order of the five "Fit for Purpose" themes and commend the theme "A Prophetic Voice" as a focus for the whole Presbyterian family in 2012-13.

5. That the General Assembly note the work of the Structures Review Panel and ask for a definitive report in 2013.

6. That the General Assembly encourage the on-going work of the Consultations review.

Doctrine

7. That the General Assembly note the conclusions of the report on marriage of the Doctrine Committee.

Moderator's Advisory

8. That the General Assembly encourage the Moderator's Advisory Committee to consider ways to strengthen conciliation throughout the Church.

Church Relations

9. That the General Assembly appoint the following to:

the Irish Council of Churches Executive: Revs John Brackenridge, Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, Dr. Donald Watts.

the Irish Inter-Church Committee: Revs Lorraine Kennedy-Ritchie, Dr. Donald Watts.

the Conference of European Churches Assembly (2013): Revs Lorraine Kennedy-Richie, Dr Donald Watts and one other appointed by the General Board.

10. Irish Council of Churches	£19,300
Irish Inter-Church Meeting	£10,700
Conference of European Churches	£5,500
Community of Protestant Churches in Europe	£1,500
Church and Society Commission, Brussels	£2,000
World Communion of Reformed Churches	£16,000

11. That the General Assembly adopt the recommendations of the Reception of Ministers and Licentiate Committee on Ministers and Licentiate without charge. **Reception of Ministers and Licentiate**

Intermission

The Report of the **GENERAL BOARD** (Reports pp 14-73) – debate continued.

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

12. That the General Assembly encourage the Committee in their preparations for a conference focussing on economics in February 2013. **Church and Society**

13. That the General Assembly encourage the work done through the Panel on Social Issues and the direction the Panel is giving to the process of public engagement.

14. That the General Assembly believe genuine efforts to facilitate the process of reconciliation between old enemies should be prayerfully encouraged and supported.

15. That the General Assembly affirm the view of the Church and Society Committee that the model used for the Citizenship, Covenant and Christ Conference is a good model for engagement in the public square.

16. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to engage with the opportunities and challenges of welcoming, accepting and integrating immigrant and minority ethnic people. **Global Concerns**

17. That the General Assembly commend the resources produced and provided by the Race Relations Panel and encourage congregations to make use of these.

18. That the General Assembly encourage the work of the Building Good Relations Panel and ask Ministers to promote this important aspect of the gospel message.

19. That the General Assembly approve the following budgets from the Incidental Fund:

To the Building Good Relations Panel	£3,000
To the Environment Panel	£2,400
To the Race Relations Panel	£7,000

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

- Planned Giving** 20. That the General Assembly commend the “Grace of Giving” initiative to the whole Church.
21. That the General Assembly, conscious of the difficulties in which people may find themselves in the current recession, call congregations to be aware that there may be individuals and families with whose basic needs local congregations may be able to assist.
22. That the General Assembly request ministers to preach and teach regularly and specifically about the importance of Christian generosity as a percentage of what is received.
23. That the General Assembly, while bearing in mind that circumstances vary widely, encourage Presbyterians, in the exercise of their joyful freedom and responsibilities, to consider setting aside in the region of at least 10% of their income (after tax) as a target for their Christian generosity.
- Financial Crisis Panel** 24. That the General Assembly thank those Congregations and individuals who generously left an additional voluntary contribution with the Presbyterian Mutual Society so that smaller savers might be repaid in full.
- Pastoral Care of Manse Families** 25. That the General Assembly continue to pray for the work of the Panel and encourage all Christian people to support and encourage one another so that the work of proclaiming the gospel can once again be given priority.
- Judicial Appeals** 26. That the General Assembly approve the guidelines recommended by the ad hoc Committee on Judicial Appeals.
27. That the General Assembly ask the Clerk of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Judicial Commission, to provide Presbytery Clerks with a guide to carrying out judicial processes.
28. That the General Assembly instruct the Clerk of the General Assembly, in consultation with the Judicial Commission, to make available a clear guide to anyone considering a judicial appeal.
29. That the ad hoc Committee on Judicial Appeals be thanked and discharged.
- Incidental Fund** 30. That the General Assembly approve the following budgets from the Incidental Fund:
- | | |
|--|--------|
| Work of the General Board | £6,000 |
| Fit for Purpose – Prophetic Voice | £5,000 |
| Church and Society | £5,000 |
| Planned Giving Committee | £1,000 |
| Pastoral Care of Manse Families | £1,000 |
| Conciliation Panel | £1,500 |
| Churches’ Legislation Advisory Service | £2,300 |
| Church Architecture Committee | £1,000 |
- Historical Society** 31. That a grant of £17,750 be paid from the Incidental Fund to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

32. That the resignation of the Rev Dr LE Carroll as Co-Convenor of the Church and Society Committee be accepted, that she be thanked for her services and the Very Rev Dr TN Hamilton be appointed in her place.

33. 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:

GENERAL BOARD

The Clerk, Convener

- (a) Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, preceding three Moderators and former Clerks of Assembly, Assembly Conveners and Secretaries of Commissions and Boards.
- (b) Revs Dr RA Russell, Dr WP Addley; Alan Boyd, Peter Davison — Revs James Gordon, AD Davidson; JG MacQueen, JLA McIlwaine — Revs JJ Andrews, RM Murray; H Kenneway — Revs TC Morrison, DW Brice; HA Groves, Tommy McWatters — CWL Graham; Revs AT Wimberly, WJ Orr; Mrs R Wilson — DC Cowan; Rev FP Sellar; CM Young, John McKibbin — Revs TJ Stothers, GAJ Farquhar; Edwin Boal, Brian McClenaghan — Revs WI Hunter, Richard Gregg; Cecil Lynn, George McIntyre — Revs Dr TR Buick, Dr David Latimer; Mrs Ruby Millar, David Amour — 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; Ms J Cowle, AW Finlay — Revs GE Best, RA Moffett; JB McClean, Dr TJ Robinson — Revs SG Anketell, GJ Mackarel; Charles Mills, David Russell — Revs SA Finlay, WT Bingham; James Chestnutt, Samuel Walker — Revs Robert Herron, CI Dickson; TR Reid, 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, JH Martin, WJ Cairns, Mervyn McCullagh.

A. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMITTEE

Revs Dr TN Hamilton, 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, Head of Press and Media, Rev Dr LE Carroll.
- (x) Revs John Brackenridge, AC Wilson, JA Kirkpatrick, Mary Hunter; ESR McCarter.
- (y) Revs WT Bingham, Brian Kennaway, RM Murray; JA Patterson, William Poole.

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, JJ Andrews, Dr RA Russell; 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 Colin Burcombe, 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; 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, Head of Press and Media.
- (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 Dr IJ Patterson, Convener

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Committee Convener, Convener of Board of Christian Training, Convener and Director of Ministerial Studies, Convener Church Relations, Principal UTC, Secretary of Board of Mission in Ireland.
- (x) Revs KWJ Hanna, 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 **Overture anent Par 76(e) of the Code** (Reports p 73) was 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 76(e) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

The **Overtures anent Pars 235, 313(1), 318(B)(2), 320(2), 325(2) of the Code** (Reports p 73-74) 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 overtures anent Pars 235, 313(1), 318(B)(2), 320(2), 325(2) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be made the rule of the Church.

BOARD OF SOCIAL WITNESS – debate resumed (see page 38)

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

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly call on the Northern Ireland Executive to seek to reduce the risk of potential hardship in the implementation of Welfare Reform.
3. That the General Assembly encourage all Ministers, Elders and Pastoral Carers to follow strict Hospital Visiting protocols.
4. That the General Assembly approve a grant of £6,500 from the Incidental Fund for the PCI Holiday and instruct that from 2013 the PCI Holiday is funded directly by the Board of Social Witness.
5. That the Board of Social Witness, with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed in accordance with Par 281 of the Code as follows:

SOCIAL WITNESS BOARD

Rev RA Liddle, Convener

L Conway, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener and Secretary, Residential Services Manager.

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

Resolutions

- (b) Revs HS Boyd, Dr WJA Sleith; Laurence Willoughby — Revs WJI Thompson, PL McKelvey; Mrs S Somerville — Revs CK McDowell, DB McCorrison; Mrs Phyllis Linton — Revs Dr Norman Hamilton, Samuel Newell; Miss Doreen Draffin — Revs JA Braithwaite, BR Hughes; Miss Muriel Cromie — Don Harley, Mrs Margaret Cromie — Revs David Chapman, AE Tolland; Mrs Kay Fisher — Rev Dr RA Kane; Mrs Lorna Livingston, Miss Helen Lowry — Revs Amanda Best, Paul Linkens, Knox Jones — Barry Redhead, Mrs Joan Telford — Miss J McKee, Brian Magowan, Mrs A Magowan — Revs SW Rea; Elizabeth Nicholson — Rev PA McBride; Mrs Ruby Hamilton, Mrs Sharon Henry — Rev WJA Buchanan; Mrs Joyce Blackburn, Wilfred Carleton — Rev NJE Reid; RE McWilliams, Mrs Esther Barry — Rev RB Thompson; Mrs EM Patterson, Miss IM Anderson — Rev Dr Mark Jones; Mrs Michele McClean, Mrs Maeve Magowan — Rev ES McDowell; Mrs Jane Robinson — Rev SJM Lindsay; Mrs Eva Russell.
- (p) President, Home Vice President and General Secretary of PW; Mrs Elaine Coleman, 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 Church, Chaplains, Forces, Student Services Committees.
- (x) Miss Muriel Cromie, Mrs Carol Houston, Mrs Sadie McCullough.
- (y) Revs SJM Lindsay, David Chapman; Mrs Kay Fisher.

B. OLDER PEOPLE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Rev JN Seawright, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Committee Convener, Director of Social Service, Residential Services Manager.
- (x) Local Support Committee Representatives.
- (y) Revs Amanda Best, NJE Reid, CK McDowell; Mrs Sadie Somerville, Mrs Evelyn Coleman, 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 Learning Disability; Disability, Health and Wellbeing, Addiction Services, PCI Family Holiday; Residential Services Manager.
- (x) Miss Joyce McKee, Mrs Margaret McGuiggan, Mrs Sylvia McCracken.
- (y) Miss Muriel Cromie, Miss Doreen Draffin, 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, Convener Carlisle House and Thompson House, Residential Services Manager.
- (x) Rev Terry Laverty; Harry Minion, John Luke.
- (y) Revs Paul Linkens, Dr Mark Jones; Laurence Willoughby.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.56pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

On Wednesday evening, 30th May 2012, at 7.45pm, an Evening Rally was held in the Assembly Hall led by the Moderator.

SIXTH SESSION

Thursday, 31st May 2012**9.30am**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **BOARD OF EDUCATION** (Reports pp 198-206) 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:

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly thank those who serve as managers and teachers in schools under Presbyterian patronage within the Republic of Ireland and, at a time of financial pressure and rationalisation, call upon the government to ensure that the particular needs of schools serving minority communities continue to be both acknowledged and met.
3. That the General Assembly thank those who serve as Transferor Governors and representatives on Educational and Library Boards and who are not only having to manage the outworking of the current difficult economic situation, but are also having to cope with the additional pressure caused by the uncertainty regarding the future of educational administration in Northern Ireland.
4. That the General Assembly welcome the piloting of “Back to School with God” material in September 2012 and encourage the Board of Education in its plans to make such a resource available throughout PCI.

Resolutions

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Rev Dr Colin McClure, Convener

Rev TD Gribben, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator, Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Principal UTC, Full-time University Chaplains, Transferors' Representatives on Area Boards, Directors of Primary & Secondary Education in the Republic of Ireland.
- (b) Revs WG Cameron, RJ Montgomery — Revs John Hutchinson, TA McNeely — Rev William Sinclair; William McCartney — Rev Brian McMillen; William McDowell — Prof F Boal, CWL Graham — Miss J Williams, Mrs Hilary Gourley — Mrs N Johnston, Richard Wallace — Revs TV Mawhinney; ME Donald — Rev Dr SR Jones; Mrs Christine Edwards — Rev TW Gordon; Gary McCreery — J Wilkinson, AJ Cochrane — Rev GD Campbell; Mrs Eleanor Petrie — Rev MN Davidson; Mervyn Patton — Rev TD Hagan; Ronnie Gillanders — Revs MB Wilson, DJ Irvine — Revs RA Campbell, Miss C Trimble — Rev DIJ McNie; Mrs Mildred Poots — Mrs IK Nesbitt, DMcC Humphries — Rev GWD Stewart; Mrs Elsie Farr.
- (g) Revs Stanley Stewart, James Rogers; John Shivers, Mrs M Robinson, Dr M Hollinger, Mrs J Bell, Miss Barbara McDade, Uel McCrea.

SPUD YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The Report of the **SPUD YOUTH ASSEMBLY** (Reports pp 265-270) was submitted by Mr Andrew Downey and seconded by Miss Laura Hutcheson.

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

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the General Assembly encourage Congregations to use the Prayer Resource created by the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry to inform their on-going prayers for the young people and young adults throughout the denomination.
3. That the General Assembly encourage Congregations to make use of the "Grow Your Own SPUDs" programme created by the SPUD working group.

Intermission

BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Report of the **BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY** (Reports pp 172-184) was submitted by Miss Roz Stirling and Mr Graeme Thompson, together with the following supplementary report:

Guysmere Youth Centre

1. During the past year, the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry have

been seeking to lease the Guysmere Youth Centre as an interim measure to secure some income from the Centre while waiting for developments in the Sheltered Accommodation application at the Lucan Youth Centre.

2. In the spring of 2011 a number of applications were made to lease the Guysmere Centre, from which a suitable applicant was selected. Following a lengthy process with this client in late November 2011 the client withdrew its application. The centre was re-advertised in January 2012. However, the Board was not happy to proceed with any of the applicants.

3. At the meeting of the General Board in March 2012, the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry brought an up-date on the Guysmere Centre, requesting permission to adjourn the leasing process and invite an Architect to prepare a report outlining a number of routes for renovation, refurbishment or indeed re-build of the Guysmere Centre. Mr Mark Finlay, of Kennedy FitzGerald and Associates, Architects, was invited to produce this report, which has now been forwarded to the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry. This report will be tabled at a special meeting of the Board in June.

4. Appreciation is expressed to O'Connor Kennedy Turtle, Estate Agents, for their positive assistance with the leasing process during the past eighteen months.

Moved by the Rev JP Moxen, seconded by the Rev DS Brownlow, and agreed:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the General Assembly accept the resignation of Miss Roz Stirling, as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, effective from 30th September 2012, thank her for her many years of devoted service and wish her God's richest blessing in her future life and ministry.

Business lapsed on Standing Orders (see page 60)

The Assembly engaged in worship conducted by the Moderator and others. The Moderator invited Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali to address the Assembly.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.05 pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

Resolutions

Resignation

SEVENTH SESSION

Thursday, 31st May, 2012

2.00pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**BOARD OF
YOUTH AND
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
(cont'd)**

**BOARD OF YOUTH & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – debate resumed
(see page 59)**

3. That the General Assembly approve the Youth and Children's Project to equip the Girls' Secondary School in Naniyuki, assist the outreach programme in the Ol Kinyiei area of Kenya, and resource the Sunday school and crèche rooms within the new Church in Drogheda.

4. That the resignation of the Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus as Convener of the Training Committee be accepted, that he be thanked for his services and that the Rev DB McCorrison be appointed in his place.

5. That a grant of £9,736 be paid from the Incidental Fund to Youth Link:
NI.

6. That the Board of Youth and Children's Ministry, with its associated working Committees for the ensuing year, be appointed as follows:

BOARD OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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 PD Thompson; Graham Doherty — Rev WJA Moody; Jonathan Boyd — Rev EJ Hyndman; Miss Deborah McKelvey — Rev Grant Connor; Johnny Bell — Andrew McCann — Stuart Hawthorne, Andrew Howard — Revs John Kirkpatrick, Chris Aitcheson — Rev DM Shaw; Andy Lamberton — Stanley McFarland, Scott Moore — Rev Gareth McFadden; M Glenn — Revs MRJ Anderson, Andy Carroll — Revs Raymond McKibbin, Philip McCullough, — Rev Troy Morgan; Richard Carleton — Rev Andrew Mullan; Ronald Annett, — Revs CFD Clements, NRA Cooper — Revs Peter Turton, Kenneth Henderson — Jonathan Alexander, RWH Hill — Revs Martin Gracey, JD Montgomery.
- (g) Rev Amanda Best; Mrs C Murray, Mrs J Craig, Mrs S Campbell, Mrs G Ditty, Mrs F Cromie, Mrs L Keys, Mrs C McQuigg, P McKinstry, A Ditty, G MacLean, A Brown, Miss S Moore, Mrs Alison Fleming, Jocelyn Brown, Mrs Thia Dickie.

A. TRAINING COMMITTEE Rev Darren McCorrison, 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, Rev Christoph Ebbinghaus.
- (x) Mrs Jenny Robinson, Miss Michelle McCauley Miss Nicola Morrison, Mrs G McCormick, Neil Harrison.

- (y) Revs Kenneth Henderson, Grant Connor, Gareth McFadden, John Kirkpatrick; Scott Moore.

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.
- (x) Glenn Jordan, Mrs Sonia Mawhinney, Chris Hunter, Philip Scott, Matt McCracken.
- (y) Revs EJ Hyndman, Troy Morgan, RJ Montgomery; Stuart Hawthorne, Jonathan Boyd.

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.
- (x) Rev RL Brown; Jim McDowell, Mrs Ruth Elkin, Miss Nicky Bradley, Pete Waugh.
- (y) Revs Mark Shaw, Peter Turton, GJ Kennedy, PD Thompson; 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) Rev JA Curry; Mrs G Montgomery, Ruth Spratt, Mrs L Robinson, Andrew Downey, Richard Houston.
- (y) Revs Martin Gracey, JD Montgomery, Andrew Mullan, Andy Carroll, Jonathan Alexander, Andrew Lamberton.

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) Lachlan Webster, David Penney, Mrs Sharon Karayiannis, Mrs Nikki Gillan, Mark Moorhead.
- (y) Revs Nick Cooper, MRJ Anderson; RWH Hill, Jonathan Bell, S McFarland.

The Report of the **BOARD OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL** (Reports pp 207-251) was submitted by Mr John Hunter, CB, together with the following supplementary report:

Overview of Risk Assessment Review

1. In 2006 the General Assembly passed the following resolution *“That the General Assembly encourage all Boards and Agencies to have Risk Assessment as a recurring item on Board Agendas, that once a year Boards and Agencies should submit a report to the Board of Finance and Personnel confirming that they are not aware of any factors which would cause one of the identified risks to materialise, that in addition they should report on possible new risks or risks which have ceased during the year.”*

2. In the report of the Board to the General Assembly that year eight Key Risk Areas were identified i.e. reputational, duty of care, financial, missional, use of people, taking of professional advice, contingency plans re loss of data, and issues which could be divisive to the Church. Since then an additional risk has been added regarding compliance with laws and regulations. All Boards were asked and have completed a Risk Assessment Review covering these nine areas. With regard to each risk area Boards were asked to comment on whether the likelihood of the risk materialising and its potential impact were regarded as low, medium or high.

3. Boards have identified a number of risks within each of the 9 areas and the Board of Finance and Personnel expects Boards to be taking steps to mitigate the possibility of these risks materialising.

4. Reputational risks have been identified within the areas of education, theological training, and the communication of congregational issues e.g. in relation to child protection matters. Most of the debates at the General Assembly are in public and there is always the potential for an adverse news headline. Lessons should clearly be learned from the past and there is the need for clear governance arrangements and an understanding of what falls and what does not fall under the authority of the General Assembly.

5. There are risks associated with the management of investment funds and fraud must be recognised as a possibility in any organisation. Many of the capital assets of the Church have been eroded in the current financial climate and much of the work of the General Assembly depends on continued support from Congregations and their declining membership base. Given reduced investment returns there is on-going concern about the financial challenge of maintaining a defined benefit pension scheme.

6. Missional risks have been identified due to changing attitudes to organised religion, membership continues to decline and reaching out to young people remains a challenge as many see the Church as irrelevant.

7. Many Boards identified issues relating to same sex relationships as a major challenge.

8. While no Board reported major concerns in relation to compliance with laws and regulations, it is recognised that the requirements of data protection legislation constitute a substantial risk area across not only Boards but also the wider Church.

Expenses for Board/Committee Members

9. In response to a request from a Board/Committee member during the year it was agreed that where a member attends a Board/Committee meeting on two subsequent days that a claim for costs incurred up to the cost of the combined travel could be submitted. This would permit members travelling long distances to claim for overnight accommodation up to the cost of the combined travel allowance. The Board is not proposing that this arrangement be extended to attendance at the General Assembly. The Board encourages members staying overnight for meetings to avail of the many generous offers from ministers, colleagues etc. who may be able to provide accommodation for the evening.

Statistical Returns from Presbytery

10. A summary of returns received for the year ended 31 December 2011 is attached. One Presbytery did not submit a return.

Retirements

11. Notification has been forwarded to the Pensions and Assessments Committee by Presbytery that permission has been granted to the Rev CI McKnight, a Minister without Charge, to retire on 30 June 2012.

Rates of Assessment – Pension Fund

An actuarial valuation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension Scheme (2009) is required as at 31 December 2011. The valuation has to be completed and a schedule of contributions agreed by the Scheme Trustees and Scheme Employer (i.e. the Board of Finance and Personnel) by 31 March 2013.

The Board of Finance and Personnel await the results of the valuation from the Scheme Trustees. The Board understands that the Trustees are taking advice from the Actuary in relation to recent guidance from the Pension Regulator. This guidance outlines how Trustees should approach valuations in the current financial climate of very low gilt yields. The application of low gilt yield will have the impact of increasing the schemes liabilities and deficit position. The Pension Regulator's guidance appears to suggest that there is sufficient flexibility within the funding framework to cover funding issues arising in the current financial climate.

As the valuations need to be agreed before the next meeting of the General Assembly the Board seeks the permission of the Assembly to refer any decision relating to the actuarial valuation to the General Board, if necessary.

Auditors

The present auditors of the accounts of the General Assembly are Ernst & Young, LLP. Mr Keith Jess has been the audit partner for the last 10 years but due to auditing regulation cannot continue as audit partner beyond this term. The Board would like to express appreciation to Mr Jess for his advice and encouragement as the Board has sought to improve its financial reporting and accounts presentation. Mr Ian Gibson will be taking over as audit partner.

Moved by Mr John Hunter, CB, seconded by the Rev DC Porter, and agreed:

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received and that the Board of Finance and Personnel be instructed to bring to the 2013 General Assembly a report outlining the number of staff (full-time and part-time), the cost of salaries and the administrative costs for each office in Assembly Buildings.
2. That the rate of assessment for the Central Ministry Fund for 2012 be 19.0p in the £ of stipend.
3. That the rate of assessment for the Retired Ministers' Fund for 2012 be 1.5p in the £ of stipend.
4. That the rate of assessment for the Widows of Ministers' Fund for 2012 be 4.0p in the £ of stipend.
5. That the rate of assessment for the Prolonged Disability Fund for 2012 be 0.25p in the £ of stipend.
6. That the rate of assessment for the Church House Repair Fund for 2012 be 3.50p in the £ of stipend.
7. That the rate of assessment for the Incidental Fund for 2012 be 5.00p in the £ of stipend.
8. That the rate of assessment for the PCI Pension (2009) Fund for 2012 be 30.00p in the £ of stipend.
9. That the rate of assessment for the Sick Supply Fund for 2012 be 0.25p in the £ of stipend.
10. That the General Assembly authorise the General Board to act for the General Assembly in connection with any matters relating to finalising the actuarial valuation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland Pension Scheme (2009) as at 31 December 2011.
11. That under the provisions of the Code Par 556(3) the Rev DS Mackay (Magherally) be given permission to retire on or after his 64th birthday, on 31st August 2012.
12. That under the provisions of the Code Par 556(3) the Rev WT Corder (First Bangor) be given permission to retire on or after his 64th birthday, on 7 September 2012.
13. That under the provisions of the Code Par 556(3) the Rev NA Brown (Wellington, Ballymena) be given permission to retire on or after his 64th birthday, on 30 September 2012.
14. 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:

BOARD OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

John Hunter, Convener

Clive Knox, Secretary

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly, Board Convener, Financial Secretary, Convener of Union Commission.
- (b) Rev David Johnston; Alexander Dalzell — WK Belshaw, AG Sleator — Rev Dr DA Murphy; Lyle Cubitt — Rev WA Abernethy; Roy Eakin

SUMMARY OF PRESBYTERY RETURNS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	€stg unless indicated	Assessment		INCOME				EXPENDITURE				TOTAL EXPENDITURE	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	CLOSING BALANCE
		Opening Balance	Congregations	Other	TOTAL INCOME	Presbytery Clerk	Other Staff	Insurance	Other					
1	Ard	13,686	16,521	10,313	26,834	(9,823)	(6,464)	(214)	(1,462)	(17,963)	8,871	22,557		
2	Armagh	4,256	9,796	4	9,800	(8,183)	(638)	(207)	(1,234)	(10,262)	(462)	3,794		
3	Ballymena	22,767	15,490	12,836	28,326	(10,625)	(2,000)	(207)	(21,132)	(33,964)	(5,638)	17,129		
4 *	Belfast North	5,336	17,358	11,354	28,712	(10,161)	(7,442)	(817)	(4,553)	(22,973)	5,739	11,075		
5	Belfast South	1,183	14,659	7,028	21,687	(7,970)	(340)	(207)	(4,100)	(12,617)	9,070	10,253		
6	Belfast East	4,730	19,162	154,300	173,962	(8,443)	(3,038)	(207)	(21,335)	(33,023)	140,939	145,669		
7	Carrickfergus	6,302	10,306	4,984	15,290	(6,388)	(2,077)	(127)	(997)	(9,589)	5,701	12,003		
8 **	Coleraine & Limavady	35,017									0	35,017		
9	Derry & Donegal	34,694	15,823	25,589	41,412	(10,962)	(1,175)	(207)	(37,185)	(49,529)	(8,117)	26,577		
10	Down	5,328	7,585	26,173	33,758	(6,507)	(1,000)	(206)	(991)	(8,704)	25,054	30,382		
11	Dromore	1,241	12,751	360	13,111	(10,193)	(1,600)	(207)	(310)	(12,310)	801	2,042		
12 €	Dublin & Munster	64,965	22,888	21,658	44,546	(10,142)	(26,363)	(617)	(16,976)	(54,098)	(9,552)	55,413		
13	Iveagh	9,776	13,212	78	13,290	(10,913)	(620)	(207)	(1,242)	(12,982)	308	10,084		
14 €	Monaghan	62,898	5,535	8,189	13,724	(2,050)	(2,215)	(395)	(11,287)	(15,947)	(2,223)	60,675		
15	Newry	1,792	7,902	981	8,883	(6,889)	(300)	(127)	(972)	(8,288)	595	2,387		
16	Omagh	12,663	10,548	374	10,922	(7,048)	(1,300)	(127)	(1,984)	(10,459)	463	13,126		
17	Route	64,297	11,466	104,752	116,218	(8,807)	0	(207)	(3,707)	(12,721)	103,497	167,794		
18	Templepatrick	9,617	17,951	3,682	21,633	(7,938)	(5,170)	(207)	(8,256)	(21,571)	62	9,679		
19	Tyrone	2,784	8,630	1,445	10,075	(7,450)	(1,000)	(445)	(2,342)	(11,237)	(1,162)	1,622		
	Sterling	235,469	209,160	364,753	573,913	(138,300)	(34,164)	(3,926)	(111,802)	(288,192)	285,7215	21,190		
	Euro	127,863	28,423	29,847	58,270	-12,192	-28,578	-1,012	-28,263	-70,045	-11,775	116,088		

* for the year ended 28 February 2012

** no return received

— Rev Dr WI Hull; RD Guiller — JD McKibbin, Martin Hampton
 — Rev RJA Bell; Ronnie Nelson — Rev Dr David Clarke; Basil
 McCorrison — Rev RA Mulholland; Stuart Ramsey — Norman
 Jackson, Desmond Milligan — Rev John Brackenridge; R McCullagh
 — Alan Foster, Stuart Ferguson — Rev Dr MCA Gray; Herbert Smyth
 — Rev RS Agnew; Allan McAdoo — John Peacock, Mervyn Agnew
 — Alex Fletcher, N Baxter — 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.
- (x) Rodney Power, Alan Meban.
- (y) Revs. Dr WI Hull, JH Flaherty; Martin Hampton, Stuart Ramsey.

B. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Robert Campton, Convener

- (a) The Moderator and Clerk of Assembly; Board Convener, Committee Convener, Head of Personnel, Financial Secretary.
- (x) Brian Phillips, Ian Moore, Len Murray, John Francey.
- (y) Revs Dr PB Wilson, Dr WI Hull; 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 Convener and Secretary, Financial Secretary.
- (x) JDD O'Neill, John Francey.
- (y) Rev Dr David Clarke; Ronnie Nelson, Basil McCorrison.

D. PENSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE

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 Clements, Clarence Scott.
- (y) Revs WA Abernethy, David Johnston, RJA Bell; Ronnie Nelson, Alex Chestnutt, Alex Fletcher.

Intermission

In Private

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports pp 75-85) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following Supplementary Report: **JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

1. The Judicial Commission has met on three occasions since the annual report was written. It considered Appeals of the Rev David S Henry, Minister of First Lurgan, and Mr John Spence, Clerk of Session of First Lurgan Congregation, in relation to the Finding of the First Lurgan Commission of the Armagh Presbytery. While Findings have been issued in relation to the appeals the Judicial Commission has determined, pursuant to The Code paragraph 20(1)(b) and (e), to make a preliminary enquiry to investigate matters in the congregation of First Lurgan under the provisions of paragraph 161 of The Code.

2. The Judicial Commission received correspondence from a Minister, Presbytery and Kirk Session expressing concern about the publication of a Finding. The views have been carefully noted and the Commission will respond verbally during the private session. The response was as follows:

The Judicial Commission takes this opportunity to clarify the Finding published on pages 81 and 82 of the 2012 Annual Reports, and emphasises that it rejected the Appeal and affirmed the Finding of the Presbytery Commission which, unknown to the Judicial Commission, had not identified the appellant or the allegations or the congregation which were the subject of the appeal when it had reported to the Presbytery. The Judicial Commission completely and fully exonerated and vindicated the Minister, who was not a party to the appeal, and apologises for the unintentional hurt the publication caused.

3. The Judicial Commission has been concerned that under the current provisions of The Code an office-bearer may only be removed “from office in the congregation” under Code Par 224 (3)(a) if it has been established that “a minister may have placed himself in a position where it is impossible for him satisfactorily to discharge the duties of his charge, or where it is publicly reported that a minister’s usefulness has been seriously impaired.” (Par 224(1)). While this is not intended to imply that there is necessarily blame on the part of the minister, it is a very difficult process for the minister to live through. The Commission may bring forward to the 2013 Assembly recommendations for amendments to paragraphs 133 and 161 of The Code.

4. The Judicial Commission continues to consider appeals from elders in Cairnalbana Congregation against a decision of the Ballymena Presbytery.

Moved by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, seconded by the Rev Dr Derek McKelvey, and agreed:

1. That the Report be received.

Resolutions

The Report of the **SPECIAL COMMISSION** (Reports pp 86-87) was submitted by the Rev Dr DJ Watts, along with the following Supplementary Report: **SPECIAL COMMISSION**

1. Having received the report referred to from the Board of Christian Training (Reports page 87, par 3) the Special Commission noted that, with regard to the nomination process for the Ordained Ministry and the Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Ministry schemes, the Board of Christian Training had in place an appropriate review procedure. Through this procedure a nominating Presbytery could seek a review of a decision of the Board of Christian Training not to nominate an individual to the General Assembly (in the case of the Ordained Ministry) or not to accept an individual (in the case of the Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Ministry schemes).

2. The Special Commission however noted that an applicant for one of the three areas under consideration has a right to formally appeal against the decision of a Presbytery not to nominate him or her to the Board of Christian Training in the first instance.

3. The Special Commission concurs with the view of the Board of Christian Training that a Special Standing Commission should be appointed by the General Assembly to deal with such formal appeals. (It should be noted that historically the number of appeals that have required attention by an Assembly Commission has been exceptionally few and a significant increase is not anticipated.) It is recommended that appropriate training should be provided for members of such a Special Standing Commission to enable them to be familiar with the guidelines adopted by the Board of Christian Training for use when interviewing applicants for the Ordained Ministry and the Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Ministry Schemes.

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

Resolutions

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the following Special Nomination Commission be appointed to deal with formal appeals relating to applications for the Ordained Ministry and the Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Ministry Schemes:

Moderator and Clerk (Convener); the Revs Prof Patton Taylor, Mairisennne Stanfield, Noble McNeely, Trevor Gribben, Ronnie Hetherington; Mr Mervyn Morrow QC.

3. That, when required, suitable training be provided for members of the Special Nomination Commission to enable them to be familiar with the guidelines, adopted by the Board of Christian Training for use when interviewing applicants for the Ordained Ministry and the Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Ministry Schemes.

In Public

BUSINESS BOARD

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

Final Report

The Business Board met once during the Assembly. It licensed an amendment and additional resolution.

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

1. That the Report be received. **Resolutions**
2. That the General Assembly convey their congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen on the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of her accession to the throne and give thanks to God for the service given by her to the United Kingdom and to the Commonwealth.
3. That the following corresponding members be appointed:
To the Church of Scotland 2013
The Right Rev. Dr. Roy A. Patton
The Rev. Dr. Michael Barry
Mr. Alastair Vance
4. That the delegates to the Presbyterian Church of Wales 2013, the General Synod of the Church of Ireland 2013 and the Methodist Conference 2013 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 Londonderry on Monday, 3 June, 2013.

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 Assembly Buildings 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; and those who acted as stewards, from Belfast City Mission and others, and 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 the Millennium Forum, Londonderry, on Monday 3rd June, 2013.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

The sederunt came to a close at 4.35 pm.

Attested by
DONALD J WATTS
Clerk of Assembly

CHANGES IN THE CODE

2012

ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS,
BELFAST, BT1 6DW
AUGUST, 2012

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 76(e)

In Par 76(e) delete the words “proportional to the amount of stipend paid.” (2012)

Par 128(1)

In Par 128(1) the Convener of the Pensions and Assessments Committee (Board of Finance and Personnel) be added to the membership of the Union Commission and that the term “Strategy for Mission Convener” be substituted for the term “the Convener of the Home and Irish Mission Committee”. (I.A. 2012)

Par 193(1)(c)

Delete Par 193(1)(c) and add the following paragraph:

“Eligibility for Restricted List Charges, whose Ministers’ stipends are less than the basic ministerial minimum, shall be limited to those Ministers declared eligible to candidate for such charges by the Union Commission.” (2012)

Par 195(11)(d)

Delete Par 195(11)(d) and substitute the following:

“(d) a promise also that the cost for a holiday pulpit supply for six weeks annually during vacation will be met as a congregational expense, and an acknowledgement of the Minister’s entitlement to avail of both in-service and sabbatical leave under the terms approved from time to time by the General Assembly.” (2012)

Par 204

Delete Par 204 and substitute the following:

“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.” (2012)

Par 209

Add the following prior to the end of the sentence:

“and also transmit credentials to the Clerk of Presbytery within whose bounds the Licentiate will be serving as a Licensed Assistant. Any student who is a ruling elder will be deemed to have resigned the duties of the eldership at the point of licensing.” (2012)

Par 210(1)

Delete Par 210(1) and substitute the following:

“(1) appoint ministers and ruling elders to conduct the service.” (2012)

Par 212(1)

In Par 212(1) delete the words “an address dealing with” and substitute the words “an address or statement dealing with”. (2012)

Par 235

Delete Par 235 and substitute the following:

“**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.” (2012)

Par 313(1)

In Par 313(1) delete 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,” and substitute the words “on Assessable Income,”. (2012)

Par 318(B)(2)

In Par 318(B)(2) delete the words “in the preceding financial year, or as fixed by the Union Commission in giving leave to call in a vacancy,”. (2012)

Par 320(2)

In Par 320(2) delete 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,” and substitute the words “on Assessable Income,”. (2012)

Par 325(2)

In Par 325(2) delete 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,” and substitute the words “on Assessable Income,”. (2012)

Appendix 5(A)

In Appendix 5(A) delete the words “*one month annually during vacation, together with such supplies and other arrangements as will be required to permit the minister to attend In-Service Training Courses, on the basis of one week for every three years of service*” and substitute the words “*six weeks annually during vacation, and acknowledge the Minister’s entitlement to avail of both in-service and sabbatical leave under the terms approved from time to time by the General Assembly*”. (2012)

Appendix 5(D)

In Appendix 5(D) delete the words “*and to meet as a congregational expense the cost of such arrangements as will be required to permit the associate minister to attend In-Service Training Courses, on the basis of one week for every three years of service*” and substitute “*and acknowledge the Associate Minister’s entitlement to avail of both in-service and sabbatical leave under the terms approved from time to time by the General Assembly*”. (2012)

