

SEVENTH SESSION

Thursday, 7th June 2018

1.45pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

CTM ALTERNATIVE PRESENTATION

Equipping the Church for effective Ministry in the 21st Century

The Council Convener, the Rev Nigel McCullough, opened the session. Particular areas of the Council's work were highlighted as follows.

- **Auxiliary Ministry** Mrs Evelyn Boyd (Auxiliary Minister) and Rev Colin McKibbin (Minister of the four congregations where Mrs Boyd is commissioned to work) were interviewed by Mr Ossie McAuley about Auxiliary Ministry in Donegal.
- **Conciliation** A video clip about the Conciliation Service featuring Joe Campbell and an elder from Kilfennan was shown. Mrs Mary Potter interviewed the Rev Corrina Heron, who had recently received training and joined the Conciliation service.
- **Union Theological College** The Principal, the Very Rev Dr Stafford Carson, introduced this section. A recently commissioned promotional video was shown and this was followed by an interview with Miss Rebecca Finlay, who is working towards a Queen's University B.Th. degree at the College. Mrs Joanne Smith, Licensed Assistant, shared her thoughts on Licentiate Training with the Rev Andrew Faulkner, Convener of the Ministerial Studies and Development Committee. The Rev Dr Martyn Cowan, College Lecturer, gave detailed information about a new Master of Theology course which is soon to be made available.

Mr McCullough made some concluding remarks, after which the Moderator thanked all the participants and closed the presentation in prayer at 2.45pm.

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

Intermission

Miss Helen Johnston (Mission Support Officer for Member Care) presented to the Assembly, and to the Moderator, Council for Global Mission personnel and candidates for overseas service. The Moderator led in prayer.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL MISSION** (Reports pp280-213) was submitted by the Rev Dr SE Hughes.

Moved by the Rev Dr SE Hughes, seconded by the Rev WS Marrs, and agreed:

1. The General Assembly commend the Report on Climate Change by the Stewardship of Creation Panel and encourage congregations to consider how its conclusions might challenge lifestyle choices.
2. The General Assembly recognise the rich contribution to PCI of partner churches, agencies and institutions living and working in challenging situations and acknowledge the privilege and mutual benefit of sharing and standing in solidarity together.
3. That the General Assembly give thanks for the gracious and sustained generosity shown by congregations and members of PCI in supporting the World Development Appeal, and commend the 2018 Appeal to all congregations.
4. That the General Assembly acknowledge PCI's commitment to share in the training of key leaders from PCI's global mission partners and encourage PCI's ministry students and ministers to explore sabbatical and other short-term opportunities that might prove envisioning for global mission engagement and a catalyst for congregational global mission involvement.
5. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the dedicated service of PCI's Global Mission Workers, both overseas and in sharing the story of God's work with the Church at home, and encourage the Council for Global Mission and the Council for Congregational Life and Witness as they collaborate on the 'Go Deep, Go Wide' strategy for developing greater congregational involvement in global mission.
6. That the Report of the Council for Global Mission be received.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.35pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

EIGHTH SESSION

Thursday, 7th June 2018

7.00pm

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp314-354) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr Rev Dr FP Sellar.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr FP Sellar, seconded by the Rev DJ Bruce, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Home Mission Review Panel (Appendix 1) be received and its recommendations adopted.

2. That the Submission of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust (Appendix 2) on the proposed introduction of a generic model of Chaplaincy be noted, and that the Healthcare, Prisons and Forces Chaplaincy Committee be encouraged to respond as appropriate to consultation requests from other Trusts and bodies making similar proposals.

3. That the Report of the Elmwood Avenue (Café Grace) Task Group (Appendix 3) be received, and its recommendations noted pending completion of relevant negotiations with all parties.

The Very Rev FP Sellar presented to the Assembly and the Moderator Forces Chaplains present in the House. At the invitation of the Moderator, the Chaplain of the Fleet (RN) addressed the House.

4. That the work of PCI chaplains in Healthcare, Prisons, the Forces, Universities and Colleges be commended to the Church for prayer, both privately and at services of worship.

CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION

5. (a) That the General Assembly affirm the work of the Council in support of Home Mission congregations and ministers, Irish Mission Workers and Deaconesses.

(b) That the General Assembly affirm the valuable work of staff and volunteers in mission projects under the auspices of the Council, including South Belfast Friendship House, Nightlight and the International Meeting Point.

- (c) That the General Assembly affirm the work of the Strategy for Mission Committee in its proposals for the deployment of a Rural Chaplain, and encourage the work of the Belfast Conference in developing a vision for Presbyterian mission in the City for the future.
6. That the Report of the Council for Mission in Ireland be received.

Section 4 of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp102-113) along with resolutions 29-32 (Reports p146) was submitted by the Rev TJ Stothers.

Moved by the Rev TJ Stothers, seconded by the Rev NAL Cameron, and agreed:

31. That the General Assembly authorise the General Council to bring in any necessary guidelines and interim regulations (prior to changes to the Code at a subsequent Assembly) relating to the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation at congregational, presbytery and General Assembly level.

32. That all presbyteries and General Assembly councils should note and act upon the following decisions of the General Council in relation to engagement:

- (a) That each council should offer an orientation meeting with representatives from Presbytery.
- (b) That once a year Clerks of Presbytery should meet together with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of Assembly and with council convenors and secretaries to hear from each other and discuss possible priorities and events for the year(s) ahead.
- (c) That presbyteries should seek every opportunity to work with councils in organising training and other events.
- (d) That presbyteries should seek to organise their business in such a way as to allow SPACE for the five elements specified in the report of the Engagement and Consultations Task Group (see pages 104-107) and that one presbytery be chosen by the Task Group to pilot this framework over the next year.
- (e) That presbyteries should endeavour to be more proactive in their engagement with the Linkage Commission prior to and during vacancies.

33. That the General Assembly instruct all presbyteries to consider the proposal to merge the 19 Presbytery Education Boards and form one, or if necessary two, holding trustee bodies for those congregations in the General

Assembly not wishing to appoint three or more individual voting members as named trustees to receive and hold their property, and report to the Convener of the Holding Trustee Task Group by 30th November 2018.

34. That Section 4 of the Report of the General Council be received.

OVERTURES: On the Books (Reports pp375-379)

The resolutions as moved below, were tabled in the name of the Rev TD Gribben in the Supplementary Reports to the General Assembly, ppS16-S17.

A. GENERAL

The Overtures anent Pars 35, 47(2)(f), 65(2) and 85(1) of the Code (Reports p375) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 35, 47(2)(f), 65(2) and 85(1) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

B. COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS

The Overtures anent Pars 85(5)(6) and (7) of the Code (Reports pp375-376) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 85(5)(6) and (7) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

C. COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND

The Overture anent Par 36(f) of the Code (Reports p376) was submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overture anent Par 36(f) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

D. LINKAGE COMMISSION

The Overtures anent Pars 57(5) and 76(b) of the Code (Reports pp376-377) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 57(5) and 76(b) of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

E. JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Overtures relating to Membership of a Congregation

The Overtures anent Pars 39(1), 39(3), 41(1), 45 and 45 of the Code (Reports pp377-378) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 39(1), 39(3), 41(1), 45 and 45 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

Overtures regarding Transfer of Congregational Property to an Associated Body

The Overtures anent Pars 53(a) and 57 of the Code (Reports pp378-379) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 53(a) and 57 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

Overtures regarding the Right of Appeal in Cases of Employment Grievances

The Overtures anent Pars 38 and 75 of the Code (Reports p379) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 38 and 75 of the Code, having lain on the books for one year, be enacted as the law of the Church.

OVERTURES: Ad-Hoc (Reports pp149-157)

The resolutions as moved below, were tabled in the name of the Rev TD Gribben in the Supplementary Reports to the General Assembly, pS17.

A. GENERAL

The Overtures anent Pars 53, 57, 70(b), and 70(d), 273(5)(d)(iii), Chapter XV, Section IV, Pars 246-251, Pars 224(2)(a), 256(2), 260(g), 273(2), 306(1), 146(1), 215(6), 258(c), 226, 318(3)(d) and Appendix 6 of the Code (Reports p149-155) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 53, 57, 70(b), and 70(d) of the Code be received and placed on the books.
2. That the Overtures anent Pars 53, 57, 70(b) and 70(d) of the Code be made Interim Acts.
3. That the Overtures anent Par 273(5)(d)(iii), Chapter XV, Section IV, Pars 246-251, Pars 224(2)(a), 256(2), 260(g), 273(2), 306(1), 146(1), 215(6), 258(c), 226, 318(3)(d) and Appendix 6 of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

B. LINKAGE COMMISSION (Reports p155)

The Overture anent Par 273(5)(d)(v) of the Code (Reports p155) was submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overture anent Par 273(5)(d)(v) of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

C. COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS

The Overture anent Par 308 of the Code (Reports pp155-157) were submitted by Rev TD Gribben.

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

1. That the Overture anent Par 308 of the Code be received and that, under Par 111 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The sederunt came to a close at 8.53pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.