

The Church of Scotland  
**General Assembly**



# 2017

REMITTS BOOKLET

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# INSTRUCTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERIES, KIRK SESSIONS, CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

## SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY

8. Support the Society in its desire to work in partnership with congregations to improve people's experience of the Bible and its impact on their life.
10. Encourage congregations to consider using Bibleworld Books as a way to improve literacy levels amongst children in their communities.
12. Commend the Society's global outreach to the generosity of congregations and members.

## LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

5. Note that the Unitary Constitution has been amended (a) to include reference to the requirement to hold a Stated Annual Meeting and (b) to correct a reference to an appeal process, and agree to amend the Model Deed to similar effect, all as outlined in Appendix C.
7. Agree that the process known as 'Arbitration', which has been used to make decisions between buildings in certain readjustment cases, should cease to be available from 1 January 2018.
8. Instruct Presbyteries to review any agreed Bases of Union or Linking which have yet to be implemented and, where any such Basis includes a clause indicating that the Panel of Arbiters should be asked to choose a building, instruct the Presbytery to amend its Plan by categorising the buildings in the proposed Union or Linking in terms of section 5(2) of Act VII 2003.

## COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

2. Issue a call to the Church of Scotland to pray that God will do a fresh work amongst us as God's people and instruct Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider how best to respond to this call.
10. Encourage Presbyteries and congregational office bearers to ensure local compliance with the Data Protection Act and instruct the Council to present to the General Assembly in 2018 measures to ensure ongoing compliance throughout the Church with the new General Data Protection Regulation being introduced across the European Union.
17. Approve the total to be contributed by congregations in 2018 of £46,055,000 based on the projection of congregational income for 2018 and its disposition among local congregational expenditure, the Parish Ministries Fund and the Mission and Renewal Fund.

## WORLD MISSION COUNCIL

3. Encourage members to prayerfully consider offering for service with the world church.
4. Encourage congregations to read and study the report, use the worship service and resources, and learn more about the life of churches in other parts of the world, and the links with the Church of Scotland.
8. Encourage congregations and members to engage with, support, and promote the work of Christian Aid, especially in its work on gender justice through the Side by Side movement.

9. Urge attendance at the Duff Missionary Lectures 2017 to engage with Professor Kwok Pui Lan.
10. Welcome the Council's plan, with the Church and Society Council, The Guild, and Christian Aid, to organise a conference on September 16, 2017 with international partners on the theme of Women in the World Church, and encourage congregations to send a representative.
11. Encourage congregations with twinnings to invite a woman to visit at the time of the Women in the World Church Conference or to purposely have a bias to women being part of group visits in 2017/18.
12. Encourage congregations without a twinning to consider building a relationship with a congregation of one of our partner churches.
13. Celebrate the ongoing contribution of women across the worldwide church, and encourage Councils, Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and members to continue to challenge any theology that is used to persecute and discriminate against women.
14. Welcome the engagement with South Sudan, and encourage the Council to continue its commitment to the Presbyterian Church there, and its work in conflict resolution and mediation and to encourage the whole church to pray for the people of South Sudan and for a lasting peace.
16. Welcome the recent visit of Pope Tawadros II, 118<sup>th</sup> Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St Mark to the United Kingdom, and commend the clergy and members of the Coptic Church to the prayers of the General Assembly and the whole Church.
17. Encourage the whole church to take part in the Thursdays in Black campaign.
18. Encourage support for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme.

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE WORLD MISSION COUNCIL AND CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL**

8. Note that 2017 marks the year of the Jubilee since the demarcation of Israel/Palestine and call for renewed prayer for all those who are displaced and live under occupation, and encourage the restitution of all Palestinian lands within the 1967 borders.
10. Instruct the World Mission Council to continue to support, encourage, and organise 'Go and See, Come and Tell' visits; and urge congregations, Presbyteries and individuals to make this kind of pilgrimage which offers opportunities to meet with, and better understand the realities of partners working for peace and justice.
11. Commend the Kairos Palestine document and invite the World Mission Council to produce resources to encourage all church members to engage with the document.
13. Instruct all church members to challenge antisemitism and anti-Muslim prejudice.
14. Urge all Presbyteries where such a service has not yet taken place to organise a "24<sup>th</sup> of the month" service of prayer for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.
15. Encourage all church members to work ecumenically and with interfaith partners to pursue a shared vision for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine.

### **SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**

9. Encourage Church of Scotland members, in addition to their normal church giving, to adopt CrossReach as their chosen charity and make a regular standing order to support the work.

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## CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL

2. Express profound sadness at the attack at Manchester Arena and the tragic and pointless loss of life; affirm the courage and grace with which Manchester is already responding; call on the Church to continue to foster deep relationships across communities; and commit us to pray for all those affected.

### Speak Out

4. Celebrate the outstanding work which local churches are already undertaking to make Scotland fairer, more equal and more just – more like God intends.

### European Union

12. Encourage congregations to discuss our future in Europe respectfully, using the “Conversation Welcome” resource produced by the Joint Public Issues Team, and to raise their concerns and aspirations with their elected representatives.

### Asylum and Refugees

17. Encourage congregations that may be considering applying for community sponsorship to be aware of the wider implications outlined in the Report at paragraph 7.4.5.
21. Encourage congregations and church members to take part in opportunities for encounter and learning with asylum seekers and refugees, through appropriate groups or the programmes from the Scottish Refugee Council including Cup of Tea with a Refugee and Refugee Festival Scotland.
22. Acknowledge the generosity of many congregations in donating aid and money to support refugees and encourage giving money rather than purchasing new goods for donation, and where donated goods are offered that these are given in response to a specific list of requested items and to a registered charity.

### Pilgrimage

23. Affirm the place of pilgrimage within the life of the church and encourage congregations to explore opportunities for pilgrimage locally and how to provide practical and spiritual support for pilgrims passing through the parish.

### An Economy Driven by Equality

25. Welcome the growth of interest in ethical finance initiatives in Scotland and urge congregations to support the Christian Aid Big Shift campaign on banking and investigate what it means to become an Ethical Money Church.

### Doing Politics Differently

27. Welcome the impact of ‘Meet Your MSP’ and encourage congregations to build positive relationships with their local politicians.

### Gender Justice

33. Commend the new resources created by the Violence against Women Task Group for study and action by local churches and Kirk Sessions.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

3. Encourage congregations without a Guild to consider establishing one or forming a linkage with a neighbouring congregation.

5. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider reinvigorating their relationship with the Guild at all levels, including support of Guild Projects.
7. Commend the Guild's published resources for use by other congregational groups.

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD AND THE NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

3. Encourage ministers, Kirk Sessions and other church leaders to consider how intergenerational work and ministry might be of benefit in their congregations and parishes.
4. Encourage Presbyteries to consider how they might support congregations in developing intergenerational work and ministry.

### **IONA COMMUNITY BOARD**

3. Commend the proposed refurbishment plans for Iona Abbey and encourage church members and congregations to support the *Sanctuary and Light – Iona Abbey Appeal*.

### **SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

3. Instruct Presbyteries to ensure that all Kirk Sessions within their bounds keep a record of the number of people who have undertaken all types of Safeguarding training and submit an annual return to the Safeguarding Office by January 31 each year indicating numbers who have done so in the preceding calendar year.
5. Commend the Report of the Domestic Abuse Working Group and affirm the Domestic Abuse Policy Statement set out in Appendix 1.

### **MINISTRIES COUNCIL**

2. Welcome the efforts of the Council to promote resilience in ministry and invite the Council to cooperate with Presbyteries and other appropriate bodies to facilitate resilience in ministry across the Church.
7. Acknowledge the early signs of enthusiasm for a period of experimentation around Hub-style ministry and instruct the Council to work with a number of Presbyteries to identify key issues and characteristics of what Hub-style ministry could provide.
25. Commend to those in the recognised ministries the Ministerial Development Conversation material.
26. Instruct Presbyteries to work with the Ministries Council in developing a planning framework which supports and enables a locally-focused missional approach, taking into account: the statistical trends of availability of Ministers; the viability of congregations over the next 5 years, and acknowledging that further radical downward adjustment is not necessarily the appropriate response.

### **COMMITTEE ON CHAPLAINS TO HER MAJESTY'S FORCES**

4. Commend to the prayers of all members of the Church of Scotland not just our Chaplains but all who serve in HM Forces and their families.
5. Commend to eligible ministers of the Church consideration of service as a Chaplain to HM Forces – Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces.

### **MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL**

2. Encourage Kirk Sessions to explore how they might make use of the Conversations in Worship material.

3. Encourage the whole Church to use 'Pray Now: Word of Life' in daily devotions and public worship and to note the new How We Pray section.
4. Welcome the launch of the new Weekly Worship (formerly Starters for Sunday) pages and commend the efforts made to enhance content and accessibility.
5. Note the take-up of the online daily image macros shared through the Church of Scotland social media channels and encourage their widespread use.
6. Welcome CARTA's development of its new 360 degree resource as a way of promoting the use of art and architecture in worship and outreach.
7. Urge Kirk Sessions to engage with the children and young people faith formation resources arising from Learn: Community of Faith conferences and to promote their use within the wider congregation.
8. Urge Kirk Sessions to use the Learn: Children & Young People publication and to promote its use in the wider congregation.
13. Urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to engage fully in the Year of Young People initiative in 2018.
15. Encourage Kirk Sessions to consider using Future Focus as an envisioning and planning resource at appropriate moments in congregational life.
16. Encourage Kirk Sessions in rural settings to engage with and utilise the support that has been developed for them.
17. Encourage Kirk Sessions to use the Pastoral Care resources as appropriate.
18. Instruct Presbyteries, when training Elders as moderators of their own Kirk Session, to use the training resource that has been developed specifically for this situation.
19. Encourage Kirk Sessions to promote the use of the online Office Bearers resource.
20. Urge Kirk Sessions to provide a Learning Disability Contact and engage with the support that has been developed for them in the area of learning disabilities.
21. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to use and share the Life Stories videos and transcripts and Talking Jesus materials as a means of building confidence in articulating faith and to promote their use throughout the Church.
22. Urge Kirk Sessions to support members in sharing their faith, and to use the Sharing Faith resource where appropriate.
23. Urge Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to use the discipleship publications Learn: Exploring Faith and Learn: Understanding our Faith.
24. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to promote the use of Learn Online.
25. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to explore opportunities for pioneering forms of mission and to engage with the Fresh Expressions Development Worker.
26. Encourage Presbyteries, in conjunction with other denominations, to invite the Fresh Expressions team to run Fresh Expressions training events.
27. Encourage Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to promote digital subscription to Life and Work.
29. Approve the theme of 'Stories E.T.C.' to run from 2018 to 2020 and commend it to the whole Church.

## THEOLOGICAL FORUM

3. Recognising the Church's doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality and marriage:
  - a) Receive the report "An Approach to the Theology of Same-Sex Marriage" as a resource to the Church and commend it as a basis for study and discussion and instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee to invite comment and feedback from our ecumenical partners and report to the General Assembly of 2018.

- b) Invite the Church to take stock of its history of discrimination at different levels and in different ways against gay people and to apologise individually and corporately and seek to do better.
- c) Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to undertake a study of the matters which would require to be addressed in any new legislation permitting Ministers and Deacons to officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies, with a view to presenting a Report to the 2018 General Assembly.

## GENERAL TRUSTEES

5. Urge Presbyteries and congregations to undertake their respective responsibilities for the planned inspection, maintenance and repair of churches, halls and manses.

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# INSTRUCTIONS TO COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

## LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE

3. Approve the principles outlined in Section 2.7 of the Report and instruct the Committee to bring a draft Discipline Overture, written in accordance with these principles, to the Assembly of 2018.
4. Instruct the Committee, jointly with the Ministries Council, to consider whether there is scope to reformulate the Code of Professional Practice and Good Conduct for the Ministries of the Church of Scotland as a set of rules which might allow breach of the Code, or of a version of it, to be defined as a disciplinary offence, and to report to the General Assembly of 2019.
7. Agree that the process known as 'Arbitration', which has been used to make decisions between buildings in certain readjustment cases, should cease to be available from 1 January 2018.
9. Instruct the General Trustees, in consultation with *the Committee on Church Art and Architecture* and the Central Properties Department, to compile a guidance document for Presbyteries, outlining good practice which can be employed when choosing between buildings in the appraisal process.
10. Instruct the Committee, in consultation with the Ministries Council, to revise and consolidate the provisions of the Ministries Act, as outlined in the Report, and to report to the Assembly of 2018.
12. Instruct the Committee to undertake a consultation exercise in relation to membership of Church Courts and to report to the Assembly of 2018.

## COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY

3. Instruct the Council, working together with other appropriate Councils, to prepare as soon as possible, resources to support individuals, congregations and Presbyteries in prayer for the development and implementation of the Strategic Plan.

5. Welcome the report of the Council's review of the work of the Ecumenical Relations Committee and instruct that Committee to continue its own review of the Church's Ecumenical Policy in consultation with the Council of Assembly, reporting to the General Assembly in 2018.
6. Approve the revised Remit of the Ecumenical Relations Committee as set out in Appendix 3 to the Report.
7. Affirm the planned changes to the way in which the Ecumenical Relations Committee intends to relate to Councils and the Theological Forum and instruct those bodies to engage appropriately.
8. Welcome the establishing of the Gaelic Working Group and encourage the Group to press forward timeously with the development of the Gaelic language plan for the Church, and with other activities aimed at encouraging the use and enlivening of Gaelic in the Church.
9. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Nomination Committee, to investigate the opportunities, costs and financing of making video-conferencing more widely available for meetings of the Councils and Committees of the Church and report to the General Assembly in 2018.
10. Encourage Presbyteries and congregational office bearers to ensure local compliance with the Data Protection Act and instruct the Council to present to the General Assembly in 2018 measures to ensure ongoing compliance throughout the Church with the new General Data Protection Regulation being introduced across the European Union.
15. Instruct the Council, in cooperation with the Assembly Arrangements Committee and the Legal Questions Committee, to review the terms and processes relating to the future appointment of a Principal Clerk and report to the General Assembly in 2019.

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ASSEMBLY, MINISTRIES COUNCIL, MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL, PANEL ON REVIEW AND REFORM AND LEGAL QUESTIONS COMMITTEE**

2. Instruct the Council of Assembly, working jointly with the Mission and Discipleship Council, the Ministries Council, the Panel on Review and Reform and the Legal Questions Committee to complete its work on resourcing the implementation of Local Church Review as outlined in section 5(c) of the Deliverance of the Council of Assembly's Report to the General Assembly in 2016, and report to the General Assembly in 2018.

### **WORLD MISSION COUNCIL**

6. Give thanks for the ordination of women in the Middle East and encourage the Council in its support of other churches considering ordaining women.
7. Regret the absence from this General Assembly of Rev Rola Sleiman (National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon) and Rev James Makuei Choul (Presbyterian Church in South Sudan) due to visa problems and instruct the Council, and other relevant bodies or individuals within the Church, to continue to work with Government, especially the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that the Church of Scotland is recognised as an institution whose word is accepted in all UK Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates around the world when visa applications are being considered.
10. Welcome the Council's plan, with the Church and Society Council, The Guild, and Christian Aid, to organise a conference on September 16, 2017 with international partners on the theme of Women in the World Church, and encourage congregations to send a representative.

13. Celebrate the ongoing contribution of women across the worldwide church, and encourage Councils, Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and members to continue to challenge any theology that is used to persecute and discriminate against women.
14. Welcome the engagement with South Sudan, and encourage the Council to continue its commitment to the Presbyterian Church there, and its work in conflict resolution and mediation and to encourage the whole church to pray for the people of South Sudan and for a lasting peace.
15. Instruct the World Mission Council, in collaboration with the Church and Society Council and the Ecumenical Relations Committee, to engage in vigorous advocacy on issues of peace for South Sudan and to work ecumenically, particularly with the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, in relation to the peace and mediation work which the Church of Scotland has already begun.
19. Agree that the McKean Bentinck Fund be used to support Christian Witness in Southern Europe.

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE WORLD MISSION COUNCIL AND CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL**

2. Instruct the World Mission and Church and Society Councils to make available an easily accessible study document based on the information in this report to help Church members understand the conflict and engage with steps for a just peace.
5. Commend all those who are committed to the use of non-violent means to resist the occupation and achieve a just peace, and instruct the World Mission Council to support partners who are working in this way, particularly those civil society organisations under threat because of their work.
9. Instruct the World Mission Council, with the co-operation of the Church and Society Council, Council of Assembly and other relevant bodies within the Church, to undertake a strategic review of the Church's presence in Israel/Palestine, and to consider what would be the most effective use of the Church's assets in the pursuit of a just peace in Israel/Palestine, and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
10. Instruct the World Mission Council to continue to support, encourage, and organise 'Go and See, Come and Tell' visits; and urge congregations, Presbyteries and individuals to make this kind of pilgrimage which offers opportunities to meet with, and better understand the realities of partners working for peace and justice.
11. Commend the Kairos Palestine document and invite the World Mission Council to produce resources to encourage all church members to engage with the document.

### **SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL**

8. Note the difficulties of running small homes for older people in rural locations within the funding levels provided by the National Care Home Contract, and in situations where recruitment is also a challenge, and instruct the Principal Clerk to write on behalf of the General Assembly to both the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to encourage them to review the funding in such situations.

### **PANEL ON REVIEW AND REFORM**

2. Instruct the Panel on Review & Reform to work in partnership with others to enable conversation and discussion across the Church of Scotland on Ecclesiology in a post Christendom context.

3. Instruct the Panel on Review & Reform along with Ministries Council to bring proposals to the General Assembly of 2018 on payment, training and placement of Auxiliary Ministers and Ordained Local Ministers.
4. Instruct the Panel, the Theological Forum, the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Legal Questions Committee jointly to give consideration to whether, in the light of the ideas raised in the Report and Supplementary Report of the Panel on Review and Reform, there should be any change to the practice of Sacramental Ministry in the Church of Scotland and to consult with others and to report to a future Assembly.
5. Instruct the Panel on Review & Reform to work with Ministries Council, Mission and Discipleship Council, Fresh Expressions and outside agencies to ensure that appropriate training for Pioneer Ministry is developed.

## **CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL**

### **Speak Out**

3. Approve the Speak Out Implementation Plan and encourage the Council in its long-term planning process.
5. Instruct the Council to work in partnership with other Councils and Committees in the implementation of the Speak Out Implementation Plan.
6. Instruct the Council to develop resources to enable congregations to engage fully in the work of Speak Out.
7. Instruct the Council to establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework which will enable the Church to scrutinise, measure and learn from the work of Speak Out.

### **Surveillance**

8. Instruct the Council to develop appropriate resources to ensure the wider discussion of the issues raised in the Surveillance and Social Justice report.
9. Instruct the Council to continue to challenge organisations, including governments, in their inappropriate use of surveillance especially with regards to the poorest and most marginalised in society.
10. Note the imminent introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation and encourage the Council to monitor its effects on vulnerable people.

### **European Union**

14. Instruct the Council to ensure the voice of the Church is heard in the public debate around the Article 50 negotiations.

### **Pilgrimage**

24. Instruct the Council, in partnership with the Mission and Discipleship Council and others to develop resources to support pilgrimage in Scotland, and to explore and develop ways of assisting congregations on pilgrim routes to fulfil the missionary purposes of the Church.

### **An Economy Driven by Equality**

26. Instruct the Council to consider the effectiveness of microcredit schemes in lifting people out of poverty and report to a future General Assembly as part of the Council's focus on an economy driven by equality.

**Doing Politics Differently**

29. Encourage the Council to reflect on changes in the way that decisions are made at the level of Government and report to a future General Assembly.

**Gender Justice**

31. Welcome the work being undertaken by the Violence against Women Task Group and Development Officer and urge the Church to continue to work to end violence against women.
32. Condemn the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as an act of violence against women and call on the Council to urge the UK Government to seriously consider an individual's risk of falling victim to FGM when determining asylum applications.
34. Instruct the Council to reflect on the issue of prostitution and the Church's response to it and to report on this subject to a future General Assembly.

**Caring for creation**

35. Call on the UK Government to ensure that ship to ship transfers of crude oil are not permitted in the Inner Moray Firth.

**Flourishing local communities**

36. Welcome the development of Visitor Centres in Scottish Prisons, welcome the engagement of the Church in this development, and encourage the Council to continue to pay attention to this and other matters relating to imprisonment and penal reform.

**The Role of the Church in the context of Constitutional Change and Uncertainty**

38. Instruct the Council to continue to monitor the ongoing debate about Scotland's Constitutional Future and to report the General Assembly of 2018.

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD AND THE NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

5. Encourage the Councils and Committees of the Kirk to keep intergenerational issues in mind in their discussions and decision-making.

**MINISTRIES COUNCIL**

2. Welcome the efforts of the Council to promote resilience in ministry and invite the Council to cooperate with Presbyteries and other appropriate bodies to facilitate resilience in ministry across the Church.
3. Instruct the Council to work with the Council of Assembly and other appropriate bodies to develop a strategic vision and plan for Ministry and report to the General Assembly of 2018.
4. Instruct the Council to consider what further steps they might take to promote and to ensure the highest standards of preaching in the Church of Scotland.
5. Instruct the Council to work with the Legal Questions Committee to consider how current legislation might allow for Hub-style ministry to be adopted and how that legislation might be extended to allow other Hub-style models to be implemented, making use of learning from previous models which have demonstrated characteristics of Hub-style ministry and taking into account potential ecumenical expressions of Hub-style ministry.
6. Instruct the Council to work with the Theological Forum and the Ecumenical Relations Committee to understand better the increased place of oversight in the Church's ministry and how this fits within Presbyterian ecclesiology.

7. Acknowledge the early signs of enthusiasm for a period of experimentation around Hub-style ministry and instruct the Council to work with a number of Presbyteries to identify key issues and characteristics of what Hub-style ministry could provide.
8. Instruct the Council to work with the Council of Assembly, and particularly its Finance Group, to consider how Ministries and Mission contributions are set for congregations in Guardianship or a long vacancy.
9. Instruct the Council to report to the General Assembly of 2018 regarding how Priority Areas are resourced within Presbytery Plans.
10. Instruct the Council to consider how they might support those in parishes which are not designated as priority areas but which have levels of deprivation in the highest 5% according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016, and report back to the General Assembly of 2018.
12. Instruct the Priority Areas Committee to establish opportunities for Priority Areas congregations to access information through occasional surgeries with key bodies within the Church, e.g., General Trustees; Stewardship and Finance.
13. Instruct the Council to work with the Council of Assembly to explore the possibility of having payment relief with respect to congregations' contributions and to report to the General Assembly of 2018.
14. Note the report on the work of the Priority Areas Committee from 2010-2017 and instruct the Council to implement the Priorities Areas Plan for 2017-2022.
15. Instruct the Council to further develop the plans for supervision, coaching, and spiritual accompaniment for Ministers, directing the Council to ensure that participation in all such support plans is at the discretion of individual ministers, and to report to the General Assembly of 2018.
16. Instruct the Council to reconsider the age-limit for candidates entering training for full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
20. Instruct the Council, in consultation with other Councils as appropriate, to consider how the Church might mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of the Act anent the Admission of Women to the Ministry and to report to the General Assembly of 2018.
21. Affirm the Tomorrow's Calling project as part of the Decade for Ministry and instruct the Council to work with the Council of Assembly to promote further understanding about ministry.
22. Instruct the Council to articulate a 2018-2023 recruitment strategy for ministry.
23. Commend the work of the Volunteering Vocations Scheme and instruct the Council to ensure that the new Recruitment Strategy offers a variety of experiences of ministry which are accessible and relevant to young adults and report to the General Assembly of 2018.
24. Instruct the Council to ensure that the fullest possible range of learning options are available to candidates (including distance learning) when considering new patterns of training.
26. Instruct Presbyteries to work with the Ministries Council in developing a planning framework which supports and enables a locally-focused missional approach, taking into account: the statistical trends of availability of Ministers; the viability of congregations over the next 5 years, and acknowledging that further radical downward adjustment is not necessarily the appropriate response.
27. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to reconsider whether all previous Interim Moderators in a vacancy should be barred from applying for that vacancy in the light of so many long-term vacancies and current practice and report to the General Assembly of 2018.

28. Instruct the Council to increase the Guardianship Allowance to 2 days per week of pastoral cover plus pulpit supply with effect from 1 January 2018.
29. Instruct the Council, in partnership with the Panel on Review and Reform, to initiate an evaluation of the Path of Renewal with a view to making recommendations on the future of this programme and to report back to General Assembly of 2018.
30. Instruct the Council, jointly with the Council of Assembly, Panel on Review and Reform, the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Legal Questions Committee, to review the processes set out in Act VIII 2003 Vacancy Procedure with a view to creating a process which is more appropriate to this time while honouring the unique place which a Call by a congregation has in relation to parish ministry in the Church of Scotland and to propose such amendments as may be necessary to the Vacancy Procedure Act to achieve that aim and report to the General Assembly of 2019.
35. Instruct the Council jointly with the Legal Questions Committee to consider issues that have arisen when implementing the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act, (Act I 2015) and report to the General Assembly of 2018 as to whether amending legislation is required.
36. Instruct the Council, when reporting the annual salary and stipend increase to the General Assembly of 2018 to:
  - (i) state which inflation index has been used in calculating the stipend and salary increases for 2018;
  - (ii) offer a considered opinion on what is the most appropriate inflation index to use when determining the stipends and salaries of the Church in subsequent years; and
  - (iii) include a commitment to providing cumulative information on how stipend/salary increases (setting 2017 as the base year) have related to the index identified in (i).
37. Note the Council's initial discussions with the Mission and Discipleship Council with respect to Youth Ministry and instruct the Council to continue these discussions with a view to considering the possibility of recognising Youth Ministry as a strand of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, and in due course to consider whether the Ministries Council should take responsibility for the assessment, training and ongoing support of Youth Ministers, bringing a final report to the General Assembly of 2018.
38. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to develop a Capability Procedure for Parish Ministers and report further to the General Assembly of 2018.
40. Instruct the Council to consider the pay structures for salaried ministries and report to the General Assembly of 2018 with an explanation of how such calculations are made.
41. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Council of Assembly, to consider the possibility of paying the visa fees and all fees associated with applying for a long-term right to settle and all UK nationality fees of those who are becoming ministers of the Church of Scotland and who are coming to the UK from outside the European Union and the European Economic Area and report to the General Assembly of 2018.
42. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to explore the introduction of a process to permit the extension of parish ministry beyond the age of 75 on a case by case basis, taking into account all relevant factors, including the nature and context of the work of parish ministry, and to bring proposed legislation to the General Assembly of 2018.
44. Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Legal Questions Committee, to bring proposals for a major revision of, or replacement for, the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act VII 2003), to the General Assembly of 2018.

## MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

10. Affirming the importance of including children and young people in the community of faith, and noting the Council's intention to focus on the question "How and when are children and young people to be fully involved in the Sacrament of Holy Communion?":
  - (i) Instruct the Council to consult with Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions in order to determine the extent to which the Church is finding Act V 2000, the Sacraments Act, to be pastorally helpful in the discipleship of children and young people;
  - (ii) Instruct the Council, in consultation with the Theological Forum, to re-examine the Church's current understanding that all children must be baptised prior to sharing in the Lord's Supper, within the context of the New Testament and the Church's Confession of Faith; and
  - (iii) Instruct the Council to produce resources to help ministers, Sunday School volunteers and congregations to know how best to include children and young people at the Lord's Table.
11. Instruct the Council to address the proposals contained within its report on the subject of the National Youth Assembly Review and as part of that process to create a working group of fourteen people comprising seven members of the Mission and Discipleship Council and seven young people (including former and current members of the National Youth Assembly, youth workers and other young people), young people to form the majority of the group and the group to be co-chaired by a young person and a member of the Council, and to bring an interim report to the General Assembly of 2018 considering the vision, scope, structures and resourcing that engage young people in spiritual formation and decision making processes at all levels of the Church.
12. Instruct the Council to continue its work on developing the eldership by addressing the proposals presented in the report from the Eldership Working Group.
30. Instruct the Council to consider the development of a National "Season of Invitation" as a call to mission across the Church to be nationally driven and locally delivered and report to the General Assembly of 2018.

## THEOLOGICAL FORUM

3. Recognising the Church's doctrine and practice in matters of human sexuality and marriage:
  - a) Receive the report "An Approach to the Theology of Same-Sex Marriage" as a resource to the Church and commend it as a basis for study and discussion and instruct the Ecumenical Relations Committee to invite comment and feedback from our ecumenical partners and report to the General Assembly of 2018.
  - b) Invite the Church to take stock of its history of discrimination at different levels and in different ways against gay people and to apologise individually and corporately and seek to do better.
  - c) Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to undertake a study of the matters which would require to be addressed in any new legislation permitting Ministers and Deacons to officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies, with a view to presenting a Report to the 2018 General Assembly.
4. Urge the Forum, in consultation with other Councils, to investigate theologically the theme of reconciliation, with particular reference to the divisions within the Church of Scotland, Scottish churches and Scottish society concerning same-sex marriage.

**GENERAL TRUSTEES**

4. Invite the General Trustees to consider ways in which the funds a congregation has invested with the General Trustees might be used to pay the Ministries and Mission contribution of the congregation where they are finding it difficult to meet their obligation.

**CHURCH HYMNARY TRUSTEES**

2. Urge the Trustees to publish CH4 in a format more easily accessible to the visually impaired.

**CHALMERS LECTURESHIP TRUST**

3. Instruct the Trustees to bring before the General Assembly of 2018 detailed proposals for the Lectureship Cycle 2018-2021.

**NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

2. Instruct the Council of Assembly to facilitate conversations among the Nomination Committee, the Legal Questions Committee and senior officers of the Church to recommend whether a better alternative method may be put in place for the nomination of persons to serve on bodies dealing with specific legal matters and report to the General Assembly in 2018.