

## **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015**

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The outline Order of Business in Appendix 1 details the arrangements for the 2015 General Assembly. The General Assembly will meet in the Salutation Hotel, Perth from Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th June. The annual meetings of the Women's Home and Overseas Committee and all Business Sessions and the Opening and Closing Services of the General Assembly will take place in the Salutation Hotel. The culmination of the General Assembly will be the Closing Service during which the Moderator will give his address. On Thursday evening, following the Youth Committee Report, there will be an opportunity for commissioners to reflect further on the 'Reshaping for Mission' Report and how this might assist local congregations. On Friday evening there will be a commissioning for the team going to Ethiopia in August and David Spurdle, Director of Stand By Me, will take part.

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016**

In accordance with the decision of the 2008 General Assembly that future meetings of the General Assembly be held in a central location, the committee recommends that the General Assembly 2016 be held in the Salutation Hotel, Perth from Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> until Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the usual week for the General Assembly, beginning on the Wednesday after the first Sunday in June.

#### **STEDFAST**

Mr Alastair Wright continues as Stedfast Secretary and works well with the Stedfast Editorial Team. The Stone Agency continues to design the magazine and the General Secretary provides valuable support and advice. The Team continues to commission and request material from within and beyond the church in its effort to provide a magazine that encourages, supports and advances the life and witness of the denomination. Congregations are, as always, encouraged to give Stedfast their support.

#### **PRAYER UNION**

The Committee appreciates the valuable contribution which the Prayer Union continues to make to the life of the church in providing an opportunity for focused prayer throughout the denomination. Mrs Wemyss Billows and her committee are to be commended for the quality and content of the Prayer and Study Guide which is widely used throughout the church. We would wish to express thanks to Mrs I Baird who has retired after 18 years as secretary of the Prayer Union Committee, and also to Mr A Rankin who has retired after 18 years service as a member of the Prayer Union Committee. Both have made extremely valuable contributions.

#### **COORDINATING FORUM**

The Coordinating Forum continues to meet to share information on the work of presbyteries and the committees of the church. The present committee structure has been in place for a number of years and has encouraged committees to liaise and work together where appropriate.

## **NOMINATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES**

The Committee would like to express thanks to everyone who has willingly accepted nomination to General Assembly Committees, in particular to those who have agreed to become Conveners and Vice-Conveners of Committees. The situation is now much more encouraging than it was last year.

## **CHURCH PLANTING / REVITALISATION**

The group appointed by the Coordinating Forum to consider Church Planting / Revitalisation has met on a number of occasions during the last year. Consideration has been given to the issues involved, and thanks are expressed to Dr David Miller for all the work which he has undertaken. There is obviously a need to consider how new initiatives can be funded. Although we regret when congregations dissolve, it can result in resources being made available to develop work elsewhere. The Committee is pleased to support the report, "Reshaping for Mission" which is included elsewhere in the Volume of Reports. A further meeting of church representatives who have a particular concern for Church Planting / Revitalisation took place in October at St Ninians and this was an encouragement to all who attended.

## **CHURCH WEBSITE**

Thanks are expressed to Colin McDowall for his help in developing the website with a view to making it easier for material to be changed.

## **SPECIAL AID**

Discussion has taken place regarding ministers who are looking for assistance with the provision of retirement housing. It was agreed to give guidance regarding the level of assistance which could be available and also concerning the price of property purchased.

## **CHURCH CENSUS**

Plans are being made for a Scottish Church Census to take place later in 2015. The Committee has agreed to make a small contribution to the total cost.

## **MODERATORIAL VISITATION**

Thanks are expressed to the Moderator, Rev Gary J A Barclay, for his visits to congregations during the past year and for the encouragement he has brought. The Moderator has willingly represented the church at a number of meetings and events.

**East:** Alloa: Moncrieff, Bannockburn: Murrayfield, Broxburn: St Nicholas, Menstrie

**West:** Bargeddie, Chryston, Clydebank, Cumock: St Andrew's, Duntocher: West, Crofffoot, Darnley, Stonehouse: Paterson, Wishaw

**North:** Aberdeen: Northfield, Balbeggie, Cunningsburgh, Dounby, Dundee, Sandwick

## **QUINQUENNIAL VISITATION**

During the year the following quinquennial visitations have been carried out:

**East:** Alloa: Moncrieff, Leith: Ebenezer, Menstrie, Sauchie & Fishcross

**West:** Bellshill, Chryston, Cumnock: St Andrew's, Duntocher: West; Glasgow: Candlish Wynd, Crofffoot; Greenock: St Andrew Square, Kilmaurs: Maxwell & Kilmarnock, Lochwinnoch: Calder

**North:** Auchterarder, Balbeggie

### STATISTICS

**Presbyteries:** The number of Presbyteries remains at 3.

**Congregations:** The number of Congregations at the end of 2014 was 59, the same as in 2013. The congregations of Clydebank, Ferryden, Perth and Whifflet have all had their final services but were not yet dissolved.

Name of Presbytery	Number of Congregations
1. East	13
2. West	29
3. North	18

**Roll of Ministers, etc.**

Ministers:

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
a) Retired .....	26	25
b) In Pastorate.....	16	16
c) Others .....	6	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>45</b>
Part-time Ministers & Pastors.....	11	15
Students.....	4	3
Probationers.....	1	3
Widows of Ministers.....	12	13
Widows of Pastors.....	2	2

**Persons and Agencies:** In the table appended to this Report the analysed details of schedules received from Congregations will be found with the corresponding figures for previous years.

**Communicants:** The number of Communicants on the Roll at 31 December 2014 was 2,757 compared with 2,876 at the end of 2013.

Admissions were as follows: -

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
By Profession	25	18
By Certificate	15	33
By Resolution	3	12

Removals were as follows: -

By Death	117	116
By Certificate	35	24
Without Certificate	28	42

**Office-Bearers:** There were 434 Elders was and 288 Deacons, Managers or Board Members who are not Elders.

**Baptisms:** There were 30 Baptisms of children and 5 of adults.

**Sunday Schools:**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Schools	36	30
Classes	49	41
Teachers	103	88
Children	275	236

**Bible Classes/ Youth Fellowships:**

Groups	25	22
Membership	103	86

**Midweek Organisations for Children & Young People:**

Number	53	50
Membership	777	763

**Adult Organisations:**

Number	154	151
Membership	1,958	1,925

**Roll of persons not yet Communicants:** The Committee recommend to the Kirk Session the practice of keeping a careful record of all persons not yet communicants who are in any way connected with the Church either by attendance or by affiliation with any organisation of the Church.

In the name of the Committee,  
GRAHAM G BROWN  
JOHN O. FULTON

Convener  
Secretary

**APPENDIX 1**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015**

**OUTLINE PROGRAMME  
SALUTATION HOTEL, PERTH**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> June**

11.00 & 2.15 Committee on Women's Home and Overseas.

7.00 Opening of General Assembly

**THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> June**

09.45 Opening Devotions  
Memorial Tributes  
Reception of Delegates from other Churches  
Report of Assembly Business Committee  
Presentation by Ecumenical Relations Committee  
Presentation by Christian Education & Evangelism Committee  
Presentation by Church & Society Committee  
Presentation by Youth Committee  
Presentation on Church Planting & Revitalisation

*Breaks will be: Lunch 12.30 – 1.45, Tea 4.30 – 6.00 (Meal at 5 p.m.) with tea/ coffee from 11 – 11.15 and 3.00 – 3.15 p.m.*

*The Annual meeting of the Friends of the Students Association will be at the close of the afternoon session.*

**FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> June**

09.45 Opening Devotions  
Representative of Scottish Bible Society  
Report by Committee on Women's Home and Overseas  
Presentation by Overseas Committee  
Presentation by Administration & Finance Committee  
Presentation by Ministry Committee

Report by General Trustees  
Committee on Records and Minute Books  
Any business left over from previous diets/ closing items

*Breaks will be: Lunch 12.30 – 1.45, Tea 4.30 – 7.00 (Meal at 5 p.m.) and tea/ coffee from 11 – 11.15 and 3.00 – 3.15*

7.00 **Closing Service**  
Including Moderator's Address