**RECEPTION OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND DELEGATES**

**Church of Ireland: Archdeacon** Jim Cheshire; Dean Stephen Forde; Mrs Diane Ruddock

**The Methodist Church in Ireland:** Rev Alan Wardlow; Ms Elaine Barnett

**Presbyterian Church of Wales:** Rev Nan Wyn Powell-Davies; Rev Huw Powell-Davies

**Irish Council of Churches:** Rev Karen Campbell; Bishop Sarah Groves

**Reformed Church in Hungary:** Ms Júlia Berecz, *Ecumenical Officer*

**Reformed Church of Spain:** Rev Manuel López Franco, *General Secretary*

**Near East School of Theology, Lebanon***:* Dr Martin Accad, *President*

**National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon:** Mr Amir Bitar, *Executive Director, Compassion Protestant Society*

**Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Nkhoma Synod, Malawi:** Rev Brian Kamwendo, *General Secretary*

**Presbyterian Church of East Africa:** Rev John Mbae Muraga, *Deputy General Secretary*

DAVID ALLEN

The Moderator welcomed:

- From the Reformed Church in Hungary — Ms Júlia Berecz
- From the Reformed Church of Spain – Rev Manuel López Franco
- From the Near East School of Theology, Lebanon – Dr Martin Accad
- National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon – Mr Amir Bitar
- From the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Nkhoma Synod, Malawi – Rev Brian Kamwendo
- From the Presbyterian Church of East Africa — Rev John Mbae Muraga

Ms Júlia Berecz and Rev Brian Kamwendo replied and conveyed greetings.

The Initial Report of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE** (Reports pp3-5) along with Resolutions 1-6 (Reports p321) was submitted by the Rev RMcM Mackay, together with the following Supplementary Report (ppS2-S4), Supplementary Resolution 3.a (pS2), Amended Resolution 6 (pS3), Supplementary Reports Appendix 1 (ppS3-S7); and an Addendum in the name of Rev Dr TD Allen (pS14):

**PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

1. The General Assembly Business Committee met on Thursday morning, 4 June 2026. It received a number of reports regarding preparations for the General Assembly.
2. The Committee considered the draft of late and additional items of business submitted by the notified date and agreed the following:

a. That the amendment submitted by the Rev Craig Lynn, with regard to Business Item 13 (General Council Section 3), Resolution 15 (Reports page 322) be licensed.

b. That the amendment submitted by the Rev Dr Sam Bostock, with regard to Business Item 17 (General Council Section 4), Resolution 18 (Reports page 323) be licensed.

c. That the General Council be permitted to bring a verbal report during the Private Session on Friday morning.

d. That all of the remaining material in this Supplementary Reports Booklet be licensed, and instructs that it be made available in printed form from Tuesday 9 June and online, when available, and that the Acting Clerk be permitted to make any minor corrections.

3. The Committee considered Item 20 of the 2026 Assembly Business regarding the Private Session. As a Confidential Private Session Report Booklet will be made available at Registration from Tuesday morning, the Business Committee recognised that members would not have had the opportunity to submit any substantive proposed amendments in advance. Therefore, the Committee agreed that if such amendments were to be made, they should be with the Acting Clerk no later than noon on Thursday, 11 June, 2026. This would allow the Business Committee to licence any such amendments, if in order.

A resolution to this effect is appended as **Resolution 3.a** of the Initial Report of the Business Committee.

4. Livestreaming and Recording will be switched off during the Reports of the College Principal and Clerk Appointment Panels.

**Additional Resolutions 3.a, p321**

3.a That any substantive proposed amendments to the report(s) in the Confidential Private Session Report Booklet be with the Acting Clerk no later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 11 June 2026 for licensing by the Business Committee.

Amended Resolution 6, p321

6. That the General Council Introduction (including the Initial Report of the General Assembly Business Committee) be received.

## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS APPENDIX 1
## ADDITIONAL REPORTS FROM OTHER CHURCH ASSEMBLIES

**World Communion of Reformed Churches**

**"The unheard voice – the persevering witness of women in war": WCRC, Lebanon, April 2025 and**

**27th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches: Thailand, 14-23 October 2025**

*The Rev Dr Liz Hughes reports:*

1. The Council Theme was "Persevere in your Witness" based on Hebrews 12:1 and the formal opening address was given by the then President Rev Najla Kasab, who is from our Global Mission partner NESSL (National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon). The event was hosted by the Church of Christ in Thailand, and held in the city of Chiang-Mai. There were approximately 400 delegates representing 117 member churches – two thirds of the 170-strong active WCRC membership - along with many others attending visitors and hosts, observers and members from other church entities from across the globe.
2. It was such a thrill to be reunited with so many of our PCI Global Mission partners – old and new, from Malawi. Kenya, Hungary, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jamaica, Lebanon, Syria, Brazil, South Sudan and Myanmar. Many of the delegates we had met at our own General Assembly and others we had visited through the work of our own Global Mission Council. It was obvious that the support of such a gathering meant a great deal to our global colleagues.
3. A highlight of the programme for me was the opportunity to visit a refugee camp on the Myanmar border. I was part of a small group who were able to spend time at a theological college in one of the camps where we were able to talk and pray with young stateless refugee MDiv students - some of whom had parents who were still living precarious lives within Myanmar.
4. The morning worship sessions at the assembly were so refreshing - full of creativity in music, song and prayer – offered in many languages but with translation in our hands - as well as the privilege of listening to challenging bible studies led by speakers like Rev Munther Isaac, from Palestine, author of "Christ in the Rubble".
5. I was also struck by the approach to decision making which enables every single delegate present first to hear proposals in a plenary session and then to meet in allocated small groups to express their views freely and discern a way forward. Small group rewording was then forwarded to the redrafting committee who prepared amended proposals for the whole assembly to engage in decision making – typically on the following morning - and throughout the process we

were being continually reminded that we must be guided together by the Spirit of God.

6. A celebratory service took place on the Sunday afternoon recognising the 150th anniversary of the Communion at which past and present office bearers took part. There was a moving foot washing ceremony representing a theological process of new understanding and reconciliation with anabaptist brothers and sisters with the leadership of both confessing wrong attitudes of past days which had led to the persecution of the other.
7. At the Women's Caucus which, along with the Youth Caucus, took place before the full Assembly programme a report was made on the "The unheard voice – the persevering witness of women in war" a pre-assembly event held in Lebanon in April 2025 and organised by WCRC Europe for women church leaders in various roles from two of our partner churches - the Hungarian Reformed Church in Ukraine, and the National Evangelical Church of Syria and Lebanon. PCI Global Mission representation was requested because of our experience through the years of conflict in Northern Ireland and involvement in peace building as a church. Heather Clements and myself were privileged to participate. Hearing from women presently living and working in war was profoundly poignant and we have regularly been sharing their stories and their prayer concerns with the wider church. A follow up gathering is being planned with the same group in Lebanon in 2026.
8. It has been a privilege to attend all of these WCRC organised events – to meet with familiar global mission partners and also to meet with Christian leaders from parts of the world where we have little or no formal partnership or relationship and to hear their experience of daily life and ministry. It was also a challenge to be exposed to the plethora of justice concerns which impact other parts of the reformed communion and being reminded in the process that if one member of the body suffers, so do we all.

**Church of Ireland General Synod 2026**
**7-9 May 2026 – Newcastle Co Down**

*The Very Rev Dr Noble McNeely reports:*

1. The 2026 meeting of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland took place in Newcastle in County Down from May 7-9. For the first time since 2019, General Synod returned to meeting in person for three days with the venue being the Slieve Donard Hotel. Noble and Florence McNeely were present as the Presbyterian Church in Ireland delegates.
2. The Synod took place in the hotel's Grand Ballroom which accommodated very comfortably the 600 plus clergy and lay people attending. Other additional rooms were well suited for extra meetings, catering and the many exhibits and information stands provided by

missions and agencies.

3. The Synod began appropriately with a service of Holy Communion. The praise was wonderfully led by a group of musicians from Hillsborough Parish - the singing was inspiring and enthusiastic. The communion was led by The Most Rev John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and the sermon was delivered by The Most Rev Patricia Storey, Bishop of Meath and Kildare. Bishop Storey preached her swansong sermon at the Synod as her retirement is impending.
4. The main business meeting began with the President's Address. He referred particularly to the issues of social media and migration in a frank and thought-provoking speech. He said that social media was a phenomenon that should have democratised the world, but instead had concentrated power in the hands of "a few grotesquely rich men." He spoke about AI and its increasing influence. He argued that neither 'truth' nor 'fact' could be artificially generated. The process of AI-integration is all the more dangerous not because it is manipulated by the powerful, but because it is increasingly accepted by us as a logical choice.
5. The Archbishop spoke of how attitudes to equality and migration are "one of the great touchstones and tests of our Christian authenticity." He said to care for the stranger within our midst, regardless of ethnic differences, is the principal lesson of the parable of the Good Samaritan, and defines for us what we mean by the word 'neighbour'.
6. The bulk of the business on the first day were the debates on 5 Bills (resolutions in PCI jargon) that spilled over to the morning of the second day and were only agreed on the closing day of the Synod. These Bills were very detailed and created much deliberation and discussion about procedure. Four of the Bills were enacted. The Bills were related to (i) clergy disciplinary processes, (ii) provision of financial support for clergy who can't continue due to ill health, (iii) to introduce mechanisms to address intractable breakdown of relations between incumbent and members of a parish, (iv) reviewing of safeguarding policies.
7. Other reports over the three days included representation from the Youth Department, the Board of Education, Council for Mission, Commission on Ministry, Pioneering Ministry, Christian Unity and Dialogue. The reporting and debates followed the general pattern of the PCI General Assembly. Some discourses were strongly expressed, some were conciliatory and some quite humorous.
8. The Commission on Ministry reported new events to support clergy bearing heavy workloads. A new pilot initiative was commended - Clergy Support and Wellbeing Programme - which will promote an understanding of stress, dealing with conflict in ministry, building resilience and rekindling vocation. Another new initiative was highlighted which will support Archdeacons in their heavy workload

with diocesan duties added to their parochial duties. Interestingly there seemed to be support for the view that the pathway to ordination had become very academic. The emphasis on a Master's Degree in Theology, was thought to be too high a requirement and out of reach for some candidates.

9. The Synod was meeting in the Diocese of Down and Dromore and on Friday afternoon some time was set aside to have a presentation on the mission and development of ministry in the geographical area of the diocese. A video drew attention to the work that was expanding in some parishes and a new Christian from the Ballybeen Parish shared his testimony. The local church of Dundrum reported its recent recovery and flourishing, and how it is impacting the Dundrum community through programmes of outreach and social witness. The Bishop of Down and Dromore, The Rt Rev David McClay, spoke about intentional mission in the diocese and illustrated the initiative by referring to the three ships of 'Discipleship', 'Leadership' and 'Apostleship'. He quoted his mantra for sustaining of mission in the diocese; "If we don't keep evangelism at the top of our agenda it falls off the bottom."
10. Florence and I are extremely grateful for the warm reception we received and for the hospitality at the Synod. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet long-time friends and meet representatives from other churches in Ireland and England. We were encouraged by the spirit of the Synod and the vision for growth and revitalising of the Church through its emphasis on pioneering and church planting.

## MEMORIAL RECORD

### REV IAN MCDOWELL

The Rev Ian Strain McDowell, BA, MA, BD, Minister Emeritus (Released), Christian Aid Secretary, died on 17 May 2026, in the ninety-fourth year of his age and the sixty-ninth year of his ministry. Born in Kilrea on 16 January 1933, his father was the Rev George McDowell, minister of Second Kilrea and Boveedy, and his mother was Gladys Mary Strain. He was educated at Kilrea Primary School, Cabin Hill Preparatory School, and Campbell College. He studied physics at Trinity College, Dublin, from 1950-54 when he was awarded his BA (converted to MA in 1993). Sensing a call to ordained ministry, his theological training was at the Presbyterian College, Belfast and Princeton Seminary from 1954-57, leading to his licensing by the Presbytery of Coleraine in Second Kilrea on 23 June 1957. Prior to that, while serving as Student Assistant in Lowe Memorial Finaghy, he met Pamela Sythes – they married in 1961. In the meantime, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Belfast as Ordained Assistant in Taughmonagh Church Extension on 23 March 1958. This was followed by his installation by the Presbytery of Route in Mosside on 2 May 1961, where he served until 31 January 1967. He gained a BD from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1963

and served as Clerk of the Synod of Ballymena and Coleraine from 1964 to 1967. Parish ministry continued in Molesworth, Cookstown, where he was installed by the Presbytery of Tyrone on 1 February 1967. In Mosside and Cookstown, Mr McDowell developed close relationships with other church leaders from all denominations. A change of direction took place when he was installed by the Presbytery of South Belfast to the Recognised Ministry of Christian Aid Secretary on 11 November 1973. His firm belief in the Kingdom of God and deep convictions about peace and justice made him eminently suited for this role, from which he retired after twenty-four years on 16 January 1998, receiving the status of 'Released' on 4 October 2022. He also served as Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Board from 1972-78. On moving to Belfast in 1973, he became a member of Malone and then Fisherwick congregations. In the latter years, he was a member of St John's, Newtownbreda, and his membership and attendance at worship continued right up the end of his life and he proved to be an encouragement to the ministers of these congregations over the years. He had a commitment to the radical welcome of Christ, an open heart, an open mind, and an open heart to all, leaving a legacy of peace and reconciliation. We commend Pamela, their children Linda, Peter and Christine and their families to the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness." (Lamentations 3.22-23)

ROY MACKEY

**Addendum – Minor Corrections to the printed Reports**

1. P.5 General Council – Introduction, Par 16: the last sentence should conclude: "(See Appendix 2 and Resolution 2)."
2. P.11: Rev Dr Martyn Cowan, not Rev Dr Martin Cowan.
3. P.13 Appendix 2 Par 6: "An amendment to a proposed resolution or overture which would substantially affect its scope shall be transmitted to the Clerk at least one clear week before it is due to be considered by the Assembly; and it shall be announced to members and, where possible, circulated to members as additional business."
4. P.151 and P.324 (Res. 23): Rev Dr Allen Sleith's retirement date is 30th June not 20th
5. P.21 Memorial Record of Rev Martin Smyth:

   The final sentence should read as follows:

   > We pray God's blessing on their daughters Rosemary and Heather, with David and Rev Ivan, and their grandchildren. "Accepted in the Beloved." (Ephesians chapter 1, verse 6)

6. Report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, p.264: The Chairman of the Trustees is Mr Stephen Johnston and not Rev Dr Donald Watts.

7. Report of the General Assembly Advisory Committee p.53 Ards: Delete Rev NDH Stewart.
8. Report of the General Assembly Advisory Committee, p.55 Dromore: Delete Rev SW Moore.

DAVID ALLEN

Moved by the Rev RMcM Mackay, seconded by the Rev MR Burnside, and agreed:

1. That the Draft Order of Business for the 2026 General Assembly be approved.
2. That the revised version of Standing Orders with the decimal numbering system (as per the present Code) be agreed for adoption with immediate effect under Code Par 330.
3. That the "Guide to Assembly Procedure" (yellow pages) in the Assembly Book of Reports be approved with the appropriate General Assembly Standing Orders suspended where necessary to facilitate alternative presentations etc.

3.a That any substantive proposed amendments to the report(s) in the Confidential Private Session Report Booklet be with the Acting Clerk no later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday, 11 June 2026 for licensing by the Business Committee.

4. That a grant of up to £35,000 be made from the Incidental Fund to the Arrangements Panel of the General Assembly Business Committee.
5. That the review of Making the General Assembly More Accessible Task Group decisions by the Business Committee be noted and the Business Committee's recommendations on the matter be approved.
6. That the General Council Introduction (including the Initial Report of the General Assembly Business Committee) be received.

The **REPORTS OF PRESBYTERIES** (Reports pp28-34) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p325) were submitted by the Rev Dr TD Allen.

Moved by the Acting Clerk, seconded by the Deputy Clerk, and agreed:

1. That the Reports of the Presbyteries be received.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL WITNESS** (Reports pp184-194) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p325) was submitted by Rev DW Brice, together with the following Supplementary Report (ppS7-S8), Additional Resolution 1.a (pS8), and Supplementary Report Appendix 3 (pp S19-S23):

1. The Council for Social Witness has recognised for some time that as part of our recovery plan the Council would benefit from a re-structure process. Therefore, we have welcomed the engagement with the Structures and Resources Review Panel. We have also benefitted from consultation in particular with the Support Services Committee and also with the General Council. The Council for Social Witness has a clear opinion on the three options offered in the Structures and Resources Panel Review Report namely, the option to become an agency with links to PCI. However, it has to be said that whatever option is considered, all require that CSW has a successful recovery plan. We pursue this with determination.
2. In March this year we received an unexpected and disappointing end of year financial report for 2025. The previous year's financial report had been encouraging and we had hoped that our main recovery strategy of supporting and mentoring our services' managers, in bringing improvement to all areas of the service that would strengthen our finances, would be successful. In this regard, our senior management team and the services' managers achieved considerable and worthy progress. Nearly all our services achieved financial viability with operational costs but, when the cost of much needed building repair and compliancy improvements were added, some were in major deficit. Currently our cumulated deficit at end of year 2025 has amounted to £3.68m.

**Additional resolution 1.a, p325**

1.a That the General Assembly recognises the necessity of a recovery plan in whatever restructuring option is undertaken and welcomes the collaboration of the Council for Social Witness with the Support Services Committee and the General Council in exploring and finalising decisions in that recovery plan.

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS APPENDIX 3**

Scripture gives strong consistent grounding for caring as a core expression of Christian faith. Here are key biblical references that compel us to demonstrably care in circumstances of poverty, health care, showing mercy and providing relief from oppression and hardship.

**1. God's character: care for the vulnerable**

Caring isn't optional – it reflects who God is.

- Psalm 68:5; A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling.
- Deut 10:18-19; He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.
- Ps 146:7-9; He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, 8 the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. 9 The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

Ministry implication: The church mirrors God's heart by caring for those at risk.

**2. Old Testament mandate: justice and compassion**

- Micah 6:8; 8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
- Isaiah 1:16-17; 17 Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.
- Proverbs 31:8-9; Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
- Leviticus 19:9-10; When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.

Israel's faith was judged by how they treated the poor.

Ministry implication: Caring is obedience, not charity alone.

**3. Jesus' mercy mission: good news in action**

Jesus' mercy is woven into His mission.

- Luke 4:18-19; The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

Jesus' mission includes good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed.

- Matthew 9:35-36; 35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Jesus had compassion on the crowds and met their needs.

- Luke 10:33-35; But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.
- The Good Samaritan as model of practical love.

Ministry implication: Following Jesus means addressing real human need.

**4. Judgement and discipleship: caring as an evidence of faith**

Caring for others is presented as a measure of authentic faith.

- Matthew 25:41-45;"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Not to serve the hungry, sick and imprisoned for the believer is no more an option than not serving Jesus.

- James 1:27; Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Religion that God our Father accepts is to look after orphans and widows.

- James 2:14-17; What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Faith without works is dead.

- Isaiah 1:14-18; Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! 16 Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. 17 Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. 18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

We close ourselves off from God's favour when our faith is not demonstrated in compassion for others.

Ministry implications: Caring is a discipleship issue, not a side ministry.

**5. The early church: organised caring**

The first Christians provided structured care.

- Acts 2:44-45; All the believers were together and had everything in common. 4They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

Believers shared possessions so no-one was in need.

- Acts 6:1-6; In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them.

Organised Care: Appointment of deacons to ensure fair food distribution.

- Acts 4:34-35; that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Ministry implications: structured caring is biblically historic.

**6. Apostolic teaching: ongoing responsibility**

The epistles reinforce long-term commitment to caring.

- Galatians 2:9-10; James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognised the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.

*Caring at a strategic level* – When the apostles divided mission enterprise between Jews and Gentile there was only one condition – remember the poor.

- 1 John 3:16-18; This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

Love must be shown with actions and in truth.

- Rom 12:13; Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
- Heb 13:16; And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

How to please God.

Ministry implication: Caring is part of church maturity and witness.

**7. Witness to the world**

Caring validates the gospel

- Mt 5:16; In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Caring in the name of Christ is gospel witness – we point to God.
- Titus 3:8; This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Paul's advice to Titus he is to teach "devote yourselves to doing good."

- Jeremiah 29:7; Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

God calls His people to care for the citizens of a pagan city.

Ministry implication: Caring strengthens mission, not distract from it.

**8. Summary**

Scripture consistently affirms that care for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised is a defining mark of:

- God's character,
- Christ's mercy as it is interwoven with mission
- The Church's discipleship
- The Gospel's public witness

Seven ministry implications from biblical teaching on caring

- God's character must be mirrored by the church. "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy." (Lev19:2).
- Caring is obedience, not charity alone.
- Imitating Jesus means addressing real human need.
- Caring is a discipleship issue, not a side ministry.
- Structured caring is biblically historic.
- Caring is part of church maturity and apostolic responsibility.
- Caring strengthens mission, not distract from it, because it authenticates.

DAVID BRICE

Permission was given to Mrs Caroline Yeomans, Interim Director of Social Care and Interim Secretary Council for Social Witness to address the House.

Moved by Rev DW Brice, formally seconded by the Rev Dr A Alves-Areias, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Council for Social Witness be received.

1.a That the General Assembly recognises the necessity of a recovery plan in whatever restructuring option is undertaken and welcomes the collaboration of the Council for Social Witness with the Support Services Committee and the General Council in exploring and finalising decisions in that recovery plan.

The sederunt came to a close at 12.25pm, the Moderator pronouncing the Benediction.

# SECOND SESSION

**Tuesday, 9 June 2025** **2pm**

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**Section 1** of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp1-2, 15-27) along with Resolutions 7-8 (Reports p321) was submitted by the Very Rev Dr DJ Bruce.

Moved by the Very Rev Dr DJ Bruce, seconded by Mr Ken Swarbrick, and agreed:

**Safeguarding Development Committee**

7. That the Protocol for the Immediate Management of Safeguarding Concerns be incorporated within the Safeguarding Policies and Procedures as Guidelines.

**General**

8. That the Report of the General Council, Section 1, be received

**Section 2** of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp46-55) along with Resolutions 9-14 (Reports p322) was submitted by the Rev EP Gamble along with the following Supplementary Report (pS8) and Additional Resolution 12.a (pS8):

**General Assembly Advisory Committee**

1. Land at Primrose Lane, Lucan - Additional Par 34

34. The General Council, at its meeting on 27 May 2026, approved a 12-month extension to the existing contract for the sale of this land.

**Clerk Appointment Panel**

**Additional Resolution 12.a, p322**

12.a That the Rev Jonathan Boyd, having been appointed as Clerk of the General Assembly, be appointed as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

DAVID BRUCE

Moved by the Rev EP Gamble, seconded by the Very Rev Dr DJ Bruce, and agreed:

**General Assembly Advisory Committee**

9. That the recommendations contained in Appendix 1 concerning those whose retention as licentiates and ministers without charge has been sought by presbyteries be adopted.

**Church Relations Panel**

10. That the General Assembly instructs the General Council to appoint a Task Group to examine the principles that should underlie PCI's engagement with ecumenical bodies. This Task Group would include three representatives from the Doctrine Committee.

**College Principal Re-Appointment**

11. That the Rev Prof Michael McClenahan be re-appointed as Principal of Union Theological College for a further one-year term, commencing on 1 September 2026.

**Clerk Appointment Panel**

12. That the General Assembly appoint the Rev Jonathan Boyd M.A. (Oxon), Dip. Min. (PTFI), M.Div. (QUB), as Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, taking up post on 1 July 2026 (or other suitable date).

The Rev Jonathan Boyd was duly informed by the Moderator of his election and, having signed the following documents, he was declared appointed.

SUBSCRIPTION in terms of the General Assembly's Formula:

I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith, as described in the Code, Chapter 1, paragraphs 11-13, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and as such I subscribe it as the Confession of my faith.

JONATHAN BOYD

Attested by E PETER GAMBLE

Deputy Clerk of Assembly

9th June 2026

The DECLARATION:

I, Jonathan Boyd, having been chosen as Clerk of the General Assembly do hereby promise that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been appointed; and will carefully preserve and, when required by this Court, restore the records and other documents now intrusted to my care.

JONATHAN BOYD

Attested by E PETER GAMBLE

Deputy Clerk of Assembly

9th June 2026

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, instructed that the Rev Jonathan Boyd be made a member of the appropriate courts of the church.

12.a That Rev Jonathan Boyd, having been appointed as Clerk of the General Assembly, be appointed as a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

13. That the General Assembly express their appreciation of the Rev Dr David Allen for his work as Deputy Clerk and, more recently, as Acting Clerk of the General Assembly, and that he be appointed as Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, taking up post on 1 July 2026 (or other suitable date).

The Rev Dr TD Allen was duly informed by the Moderator of his election and, having signed the following documents, he was declared appointed.

SUBSCRIPTION in terms of the General Assembly's Formula:

I believe the Westminster Confession of Faith, as described in the Code, Chapter 1, paragraphs 11-13, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God, and as such I subscribe it as the Confession of my faith.

T DAVID ALLEN

Attested by E PETER GAMBLE

Deputy Clerk of Assembly

9th June 2026

The DECLARATION:

I, T David Allen, having been chosen as Assistant Clerk of the General Assembly do hereby promise that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office to which I have been appointed; and will carefully preserve and, when required by this Court, restore the records and other documents now intrusted to my care.

T DAVID ALLEN

Attested by E PETER GAMBLE

Deputy Clerk of Assembly

9th June 2026

The Moderator, on behalf of the Assembly, instructed that the Rev Dr T David Allen be made a member of the appropriate courts of the church.

**General**

14. That the Report of the General Council, Section 2, be received.

The General Assembly Business Committee resolved that the General Assembly would close no later than 4.00pm due to the potential for social unrest across Northern Ireland.

**Business lapsed** **(see page 47)**

The sederunt came to a close at 3.58pm, the Rev KWJ Hanna leading in prayer and pronouncing the Benediction.

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# THIRD SESSION

**Wednesday, 10 June 2025** **10.00pm**

The Assembly convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS** (Reports pp236-244) along with Resolutions 1-4 (Reports p327) was submitted by the Rev DJ Kane, together with the following Supplementary Report (ppS8-S10) and Additional Resolution 3.a (pS10):

**Supplementary Report**

**Assisted Dying and Euthanasia Task Group**

1. At the end of April 2026, we welcomed the fall of The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, when it ran out of parliamentary time during its passage through the House of Lords. As this Bill fell and was not defeated, there is always the possibility that it may be reintroduced in the new parliamentary session, so we are not out of the woods yet. The Task Group will continue to maintain a watching brief on this important issue and is committed to engaging with all concerned.

2. At the same time, as a denomination, we renewed our call for 'the mainstreaming, investing in and strengthening of palliative care services across these islands that support those who are nearing the end of their lives.'

3. In a joint statement, the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Council Convener pointed out that:

"Over the years we have consistently affirmed and reaffirmed the importance and innate dignity of every human life from conception to death as a precious gift from God. Following the completion of the initial stages of the Bill in the House of Commons last June, we said that it was 'a profoundly dark turning point for the UK'. We are very thankful and relieved that with the fall of the Bill this turning point has now been halted and unnecessary pressure on a haemorrhaging NHS, which works so hard to heal and preserve life, has been avoided."

4. "As a Church we believe that well-resourced palliative care is the safest, most dignified and compassionate way forward, not just physically, but mentally, emotionally and spiritually. This is the hallmark of a mature, caring and compassionate society, not the state's ability to assist in the suicide of its citizens."

5. In the context of increasing public discussion around assisted dying legislation across these islands we, as a Church, have an important opportunity not only to affirm the sanctity and dignity of human life, but also to demonstrate practically our commitment to compassionate care for those approaching the end of life.

6. As a positive and constructive contribution by the Church, we will continue to advocate strongly for equitable and sustainable statutory funding for Hospice and Specialist Palliative Care services through the NHS and Health and Social Care systems, recognising that access to high quality palliative care should not be a postcode lottery nor depend primarily upon charitable fundraising. We are disappointed that in Northern Ireland Palliative Care services continue to be regarded as the 'icing on the cake.' On the other hand, we are gratified that in the Republic of Ireland, Palliative Care services are regarded as a core medical service and, as such, are much better funded and resourced.

7. The Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia Task Group is planning a conference to explore additional complementary ways we could support the palliative care community without replacing the responsibility of government to provide core funding. Practical initiatives might include the establishment of bursaries to support palliative care education and training for District Nurses, Hospital Nurses, Allied Health Professionals, or Palliative Care Chaplains, particularly in areas of deprivation or rural need.

8. In response to the resolution passed at last year's General Assembly, we call on every congregation to hold an annual "Palliative Care Support Sunday" where congregations can reflect prayerfully and practically on the needs of frail older people, carers, the dying, and the bereaved within their local communities. Such a focus could help foster compassionate neighbourliness in what is often described as a death-denying society, while also recognising and supporting the emotional, spiritual, and moral burden frequently carried by healthcare workers in palliative and end-of-life care.

9. Prayer, pastoral encouragement, volunteering, befriending, respite support, and public recognition of the value of palliative care are all areas where the Church can offer a distinctive and deeply human contribution in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

**Additional Resolution 3.a, p327**

3.a That the General Assembly encourage congregations to have an annual Palliative Care Support Sunday where they reflect prayerfully and practically on the needs of frail older people, carers, hospices, the dying and the bereaved within their local communities.

DANIEL KANE

Permission was given to Dr Rebecca Stevenson, Public Affairs Officer, to address the House.

Moved by the Rev DJ Kane, formally seconded by the Acting Clerk, and agreed:

1. That the General Assembly:

(a) commend the ongoing commitment and dedication of those who serve on Boards of Governors (NI) and on Boards of Management (RoI) and encourage all Presbyterians with an interest in the education of children and young people to prayerfully consider being actively involved in these roles.

(b) welcome the establishment of the Churches Consultative Group to ensure that the Christian faith remains at the centre of the new

religious education curriculum.

(c) acknowledge the ongoing commitment by parents, education and health staff, and politicians to ensure that SEN students receive the vital support that they need.

2. That the General Assembly encourage congregations to use the Considering Lament: Psalms of Protest, Pain and Hope resource where appropriate during worship as a mechanism of collective lament.

3. That the General Assembly encourage the use of the Graciously Confident Podcast as a resource to keep the denomination informed about current public policy issues and a means of equipping people to engage with these issues in everyday life.

3.a That the General Assembly encourage congregations to have an annual Palliative Care Support Sunday where they reflect prayerfully and practically on the needs of frail older people, carers, hospices, the dying and the bereaved within their local communities.

4. That the Report of the Council for Public Affairs be received.

The Report of the **LINKAGE COMMISSION** (Reports pp245-263) along with Resolutions 1-4 (Reports p327) was submitted by the Rev RK Graham:

Moved by the Rev RK Graham, seconded by Mr WK Belshaw, and agreed:

1. That parish bounds for the merged congregation of Portglenone comprise the previous parish bounds of 1st Portglenone and Townhill, Portglenone.

2. That parish bounds previously designated 'Ballina and Killala' be designated 'Ballina'.

3. That parish bounds for the merged congregation of Fintona comprise the previous parish bounds of Fintona and Ballynahatty & Creevan.

4. That parish bounds for the merged congregation of Toberkeigh comprise the previous parish bounds of Toberkeigh and Croaghmore.

5. That the Report of the Linkage Commission be received.

The Report of the **TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND** (Reports pp264-265) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p328), was submitted by Mr SR Johnston:

Moved by Mr SR Johnston, seconded by Mrs Joan Hunter, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland be received.

**COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND – debate resumed** **(see page 43)**

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND** (Reports pp195-225) along with Resolutions 1-7 (Reports pp325-326) was submitted by Mr RW Hill.

Moved by Mr RW Hill, seconded by Rev DTR Edwards, and agreed:

1. That the General Assembly welcome the progress in the '10 + 10 in 10' vision for new church planting and affirms the development of a document offering a framework for church plants seeking to journey towards constitution (as outlined in Appendix 1).

2. That the progress of the South West of Ireland Task Group be noted, with the overarching aims and supporting principles (as outlined in Appendix 2) affirmed as a basis for the Task Group's ongoing work.

3. That the online publication of the 'Mission as a Minority' tool be noted and commended for reflection by the church in areas where Presbyterians are culturally or religiously the minority.

4. That the General Assembly expresses its gratitude for the vital ministry which Healthcare, Prisons, Forces, University and Rural Chaplains carry out on behalf of the church, commending each to continued prayer.

The Moderator welcomed all Chaplains serving under PCI, thanked them for their service, and prayed for them while they stood in their places.

5. That the publication of the 'Chaplaincy: A Ministry of Presence' report be welcomed and used as an ongoing reference point that communicates the importance of chaplaincy ministry and defines a distinct ethos for Presbyterian chaplains.

6. That the updates regarding Mission Projects under the Council's oversight be noted, with thanks expressed to all staff members and volunteers, and glory given to God for the encouraging developments.

7. That the Report of the Council for Mission in Ireland be received.

**Business lapsed on Standing Orders** **(see page 57)**

The sederunt came to a close at 1.11pm, the Moderator leading in prayer.

# FOURTH SESSION

**Wednesday, 11 June 2025** **10pm**

**INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR**

The Right Rev Dr RM Murray, Moderator of the General Assembly, welcomed all present.

The Moderator led in public worship, expressing thanks for the help he had received since resuming office in November last year.

The Moderator asked the Assembly to proceed to the election and appointment of a successor to him in office for the ensuing year.

The Acting Clerk submitted the nominations of Presbyteries for the Moderatorship as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| The Rev Richard Ker Graham | 6 nominations |
| The Rev Richard Cameron Kerr | 6 nominations |
| The Rev Dr Jonathan Alexander Curry | 4 nominations |
| The Rev Mairisine Stanfield | 3 nominations |

A second round of voting took place in which the nominations of Presbyteries for the Moderatorship as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| The Rev Richard Cameron Kerr | 10 nominations |
| The Rev Richard Ker Graham | 6 nominations |

On the motion of the Acting Clerk, the Rev Dr TD Allen, seconded by the Deputy Clerk, the Rev EP Gamble, the Rev Dr RC Kerr was unanimously called to the Chair, welcomed by the retiring Moderator and commended to God in prayer.

The Right Rev Dr RC Kerr addressed the House.

Mr Wilson Beare, CEO of the Bible Society of Northern Ireland, presented a Bible to the Moderator.

**LISTENING TO THE GLOBAL CHURCH**

Rev SA McCracken introduced the presentation highlighting the theme 'From the smallest of seeds' taken from Matthew 13:32. He interviewed Mr Amir Bitar from the National Evangelical Church of Syria & Lebanon, the Executive Director of the Compassion Protestant Society.

Rev Uel Marrs introduced Rev Manuel López from the Reformed Church of Spain, who then delivered a presentation to the Assembly.

Rev Uel Marrs interviewed Rev John Mbae, Deputy Secretary General of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa.

Subsequent to each section, there was a minute of prayerful reflection and, following the final presentation, the Moderator provided a closing reflection, bringing the session to an end with prayer.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL MISSION** (Reports pp291-312) along with Resolutions 1-6 (Reports p328), was submitted by the Rev SA McCracken

**Business lapsed on Standing Orders** **(see page 69)**

**Intermission**

The Assembly engaged in worship.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.18pm, the Moderator leading in prayer.

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# FIFTH SESSION

**Thursday, 11 June 2025** **2pm**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**SECTION 3** The Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp56-99) along with Resolutions 15-17 (Reports pp322-333), was submitted by the Rev EP Gamble. The following Licensed Amendment to Resolution 15 was submitted in the name of the Rev CN Lynn (Supplementary Reports pS10):

**Licensed Amendment to Resolution 15, p322**

15. That the principles outlined in the Interim Report be forwarded to the General Assembly Structures and Resources Review Panel, and to Presbyteries and Councils, to assist with proposals for denominational restructuring.

CRAIG LYNN

Moved by the Rev EP Gamble, seconded by the Rev Jonathan Boyd:

**General Assembly Governance, Culture and Integrity Task Group**

15. That the principles outlined in the Interim Report be forwarded to the General Assembly Structures and Resources Panel to assist in proposals for denominational restructuring.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev CN Lynn, seconded by the Rev AS McQuade:

15. That the principles outlined in the Interim Report be forwarded to the General Assembly Structures and Resources Review Panel, and to Presbyteries and Councils, to assist with proposals for denominational restructuring.

On being put to the House, the amendment was declared passed.

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

Moved by the Rev Dr Colin Burcombe, seconded by the Rev TD Kane and agreed:

16. That the General Assembly Governance, Culture and Integrity Task Group continue with its work.

**General**

Moved by the Rev EP Gamble, seconded by the Rev Jonathan Boyd and agreed:

17. That the Report of the General Council, Section 3, be received.

**SECTION 5** of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp145-169) along with Resolutions 21-26 (Reports pp323-324), was submitted by Mr Hugo Wilson, together with the following Supplementary Report (pS11), Additional Resolution 23.a (pS11) and Additional Draft Financial Information (Supplementary Reports Appendix 4, ppS24-S27):

**Support Service Committee**

**Prolonged Disability Fund pp150 & 324**

1. Replace Par 13 (p.150) with the following:

The documentation for the Prolonged Disability Fund contains several references to 'age 65'. This was to align with the then PCI normal retirement age, but that is currently 66 and will quite possibly move to 67 soon. The SSC proposed to the General Council, and it was agreed, that the rules be updated to replace references to 'age 65' with references to 'normal retirement age' rather than any specific age. A resolution giving notice of the intent to make a permanent change to the Prolonged Disability Fund was agreed by General Assembly in 2025 and a resolution to make the change is now appended to this report

**Additional Resolution 23.a, p324**

23.a That, in accordance with the formal notification agreed by General Assembly in 2025, references to 'age 65' in the rules of Prolonged Disability Fund be removed and replaced with references to 'normal retirement age' rather than any specific age.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS APPENDIX 4

Additional Draft Financial Information

**Summary DRAFT Financial Information**

*Please Note - The summary financial information included below is **draft** and still **subject to change** as the figures are finalised and audited in coming weeks.*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERALL**

These figures relate to the central activities of PCI. They do not include the General Investment Fund or the Pension Scheme which are shown separately below.

| General Assembly | 2025 DRAFT | 2024 Actual |
|---|---|---|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| **Income** | | |
| Assessments & Donations | 12,257 | 10,191 |
| Investments | 1,843 | 1,812 |
| Charitable activity | 17,664 | 19,549 |
| Gains on sale of assets | 492 | 330 |
| | 32,256 | 31,882 |
| **Expenditure** | | |
| Fundraising | (113) | (6) |
| Charitable activity | (30,941) | (30,816) |
| Governance | (248) | (164) |
| Other | (323) | (71) |
| | (31,625) | (31,057) |
| | | |
| Surplus | 631 | 825 |

The draft total income for 2025 of £32.3m is 1.2% higher than the 2024 figure of £31. 9m while expenditure is 1.8% higher in 2025 at £31.6m.

These figures give an overall small surplus of £631K, but this is more than cancelled by a £2.5m loss on our investments in the General Investment Fund.

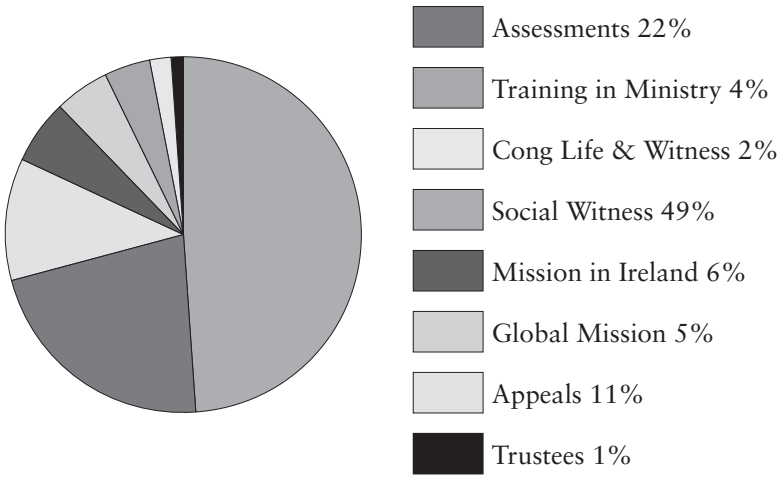
There are still some technical accounting adjustments to be processed in relation to the accounting impacts of our pension scheme. We are awaiting these figures from our pension advisers.

The charts overleaf show the proportion of income and expenditure by Council, clearly highlighting the substantial proportion of funding that flows through the Council for Social Witness.

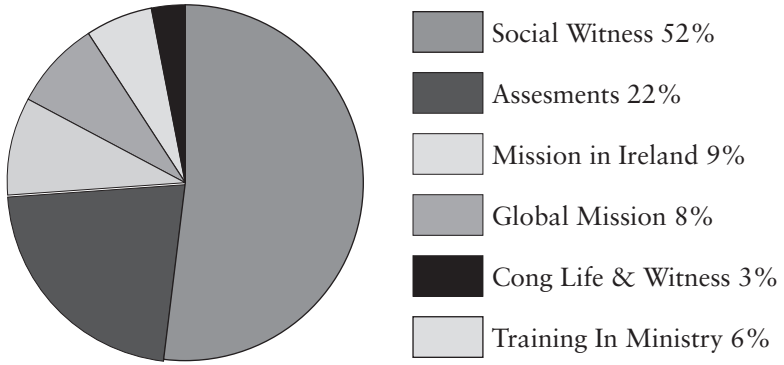
United Appeal income was very encouraging in 2025 at £3.5m. This level of generosity from individuals and congregations allows the Councils to focus on the overall strategic delivery of their programmes of work.

It has been said before but cannot be said too much that we simply could not function as we currently do without the support of United Appeal. Thank You!

Income Breakdown 2025




Expenditure Breakdown 2025



**PCI PENSION SCHEME (2009)**

| Pension Scheme | 2025 DRAFT | 2024 Actual |
|---|---|---|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| **Contributions and Benefits** | | |
| Employer Contributions | 3,146 | 4,125 |
| Member Contributions | 1,255 | 1,209 |
| Miscellaneous | 15 | 0 |
| | 4,416 | 5,334 |
| | | |
| Pensions Paid | (8,740) | (7,848) |
| Admin Expenses | (579) | (447) |
| | (9,319) | (8,295) |
| | | |
| Net Withdrawal | (4,903) | (2,961) |
| | | |
| **Return on Investments** | 10,976 | (3,748) |
| | | |
| Increase in Fund in Year | 6,073 | |
| | | |
| **Value of Fund** | | |
| Opening Value | 176,433 | 183,142 |
| | | |
| Closing Value | 182,507 | 176,433 |

The draft figures for the Pension Scheme show the value of our 17.5% employer contribution (24% in 2024), compared to an average employer contribution rate of 4.5% for CARE Schemes (Career Average Revalued Earnings).

Even with our high level of employer contribution, the figures show (in the 'Net Withdrawal' line) that we took £4.9m more out of the Scheme in 2025

than was added through contributions.

However, you can also see in the 'Return on Investments' line that the pension investments fared considerably better in 2025 than those in the General Investment Fund, generating a net return of almost £11m and giving the Scheme overall an increase in funds of just over £6m for the year. This compares favourably to a £6.7m loss in 2024.

In addition to managing the Scheme, we have worked closely with our Pension Administrators to connect the Scheme to the new government initiative known as the 'Pensions Dashboard'. This Dashboard will eventually let individuals identify all of their UK based pension earnings in a single system.

## GENERAL INVESTMENT FUND

| General Investment Fund | 2025 DRAFT | 2024 Actual |
|---|---|---|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| **Investment Activity** | | |
| Capital Losses | (2,587) | 3,043 |
| Revenue | 1,968 | 1,876 |
| | | |
| Return before distributions | (619) | 4,919 |
| | | |
| Distributions | (2,098) | (2,025) |
| | | |
| Loss from Investment Activity | (2,717) | 2,894 |
| | | |
| Opening Net Assets | 83,462 | 80,567 |
| | | |
| Net capital deposits | 217 | 1 |
| | | |
| **Value of Fund** | 80,962 | 83,462 |

Finally, the figures for the General Investment Fund (GIF) show the loss referred to above. The Investment Managers for the GIF, a firm called CCLA, did reasonably well to deliver close to their target income of £2m. However, the overall return target is a rolling average of 'CPI + 3%' and in

2025 the overall return was in fact a loss of £619K.

Trustees made use of their reserves to pay a dividend of 34p per share, which was a slight increase on the level of dividend in 2024 (33p per share) and reflects a desire to provide better levels of income from the GIF.

Taking account of the loss from investment activity and the net increase in deposits, the portfolio year end value fell disappointingly by £2.5m (3%) compared to the opening value for the year.

**Conclusion**

The overall financial position for PCI is strong, with a projected balance sheet value of approximately £80m. However, the financial landscape is far from settled. Falling numbers attending our congregations, coupled with increasing costs and levels of regulation mean we will need to manage carefully the coming years, while never forgetting that we worship a God who will provide for what we need.

HUGO WILSON

Moved by Mr Hugo Wilson, seconded by Mr Ken Swarbrick, and agreed:

**Support Services Committee**

21. That for 2026, the Assessment Rates, along with the estimated allocation of funds, be as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report of the Support Services Committee.

22. That the 2026 budgeted expenditure for the Incidental Fund be as set out in Appendix 3 to the Report of the Support Services Committee.

23. That under Par 157 of the Code, leave to retire pre-66 be granted for:

- Rev William James Allen Sleith (Hillsborough), on or after 20 June 2026;
- Rev William Harkness (Belmont), on or after 27 July 2026;
- Rev Thomas Alastair McNeely (Richhill), on or after 29 July 2026;
- Rev David William Reid (Ardstraw and Douglas), on or after 31 July 2026;
- Rev Stephen Wesley Rea (Carlow & Athy), on or after 30 April 2026.

23.a That, in accordance with the formal notification agreed by General Assembly in 2025, references to ‘age 65’ in the rules of Prolonged

Disability Fund be removed and replaced with references to 'normal retirement age' rather than any specific age.

United Appeal Committee

24. That the Appeal and Grants for 2027 be as set out in this Report.

**Website Task Group**

25. That the Website Task Group be thanked and discharged

**General**

26. That the Report of the General Council, Section 5, be received.

**Debate resumed** **(see page 47)**

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY** (Reports pp226-235) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p326) was submitted by the Rev Andrew Faulkner.

Moved by the Rev Andrew Faulkner, seconded by the V Rev Dr JA Kirkpatrick, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Council for Training in Ministry be received.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS** (Reports pp266-290) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p328) was submitted by the Rev AC Rankin.

**Business lapsed on Standing Orders** **(see page 70)**

The sederunt came to a close at 4.05pm, the Moderator leading in prayer.

# SIXTH SESSION

**Friday, 12 June 2026** **9.15am**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**Section 4** of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp100-144) along with Resolutions 18-20 (Reports p323), was submitted by the Very Rev Dr WJ Henry. The following Licensed Amendment to Resolution 15 was submitted in the name of the Rev Dr SL Bostock (Supplementary Reports ppS10-S11):

**Licensed Amendment to Resolution 18, General Council (Section 4) p323:**

That this report, along with a short summary of each council's vision and work provided by council conveners and secretaries, be sent to Presbyteries and Councils for response by 6 November 2026 using the proforma which will be supplied by the panel, with their responses to be shared digitally along with the panel's full policy report and final recommendations, which should be provided to the General Council by 1 February 2027 to enable theological and legal compliance checks prior to consideration and decision at the June 2027 General Assembly or at a Special General Assembly called for that purpose later in 2027.

SAM BOSTOCK

Moved by the Very Rev Dr WJ Henry, seconded by Mr Ken Swarbrick:

**General Assembly Structures and Resources Review Panel**

18. That this report be sent to Presbyteries and Councils for response by 30 November 2026 using the proforma which will be supplied by the Panel.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev Dr SL Bostock, seconded by the Rev DJ Kane:

18. That this report, along with a short summary of each council's vision and work provided by council conveners and secretaries, be sent to Presbyteries and Councils for response by 6 November 2026 using the proforma which will be supplied by the panel, with their responses to be shared digitally along with the panel's full policy report and final recommendations, which should be provided to the General Council by 1 February 2027 to enable theological and legal compliance checks prior to consideration and decision at the June 2027 General Assembly or at a Special General Assembly called for that purpose later in 2027.

On being put to the House, the amendment was declared passed.

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

Moved by the Very Rev Dr WJ Henry, seconded by Mr Ken Swarbrick, and agreed:

**Compromise Agreements Task Group**

19. That the Employee Compromise Agreement Policy in Appendix 2 be approved.

**General**

20. That the Report of the General Council, Section 4, be

received.

Moved as an amendment by the Rev JA McCaughan, seconded by the Rev RJ Hyndman:

20. That the Report of the General Council, Section 4, be received, and that the decision of Guysmere Trust to conclude the project, be acknowledged.

The amendment, being accepted by the proposer and seconder, became the substantive motion.

**Business lapsed on Standing Orders** **(see page 70)**

**In Private**

The Report of the **JUDICIAL COMMISSION** (Reports pp315-318) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p329), together with the Confidential Supplementary Report Section 1 (Confidential Supplementary Report Booklet pp1-17), was submitted by the Rev NAL Cameron:

Moved by the Rev NAL Cameron, seconded by the Acting Clerk, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Judicial Commission be received.

The Report of the SPECIAL COMMISSION (Reports p319) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p329), together with a verbal report, was submitted by the Rev NAL Cameron:

Moved by the Rev NAL Cameron, seconded by the Acting Clerk, and agreed:

1. That the report of the Special Commission be received.

The Report of the **COMMISSION ON APPLICATIONS** (Reports p320) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p329), was submitted by the Rev NAL Cameron:

Moved by the Rev NAL Cameron, seconded by the Acting Clerk, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Commission on Applications be received.

The Report of the **COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY** (Reports pp226-235) along with Resolutions 2-4 (Reports p326) was submitted by the Rev Andrew Faulkner.

Moved by the Rev Andrew Faulkner, seconded by the Rev WE Chestnutt, and agreed:

2. That the following candidates, their nominations having been sustained by the Council for Training in Ministry, be accepted as Students for the Ordained Ministry, and placed under the care of their Presbyteries:

| Applicant | Presbytery |
|---|---|
| Daniel Black | North Belfast |
| Thomas Brennan | East Belfast |
| Ben Day | Templepatrick |
| James Diffin | Ballymena |
| Richard Ferguson | North Belfast |
| Sarah McCullough | East Belfast |
| Ben McMechan | North Belfast |
| Matthew Reid | Dromore |
| David Robb | Coleraine & Limavady |

3. That permission be given to Ben Day to defer the commencement of his studies.

4. That permission be given to David Robb to defer the commencement of his studies.

**In Public**

**Intermission**

Members of Assembly participated in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, conducted by the Moderator. During worship the Memorial Roll of Ministers deceased since the 2025 stated meeting of the General Assembly was submitted by the Rev TJ Stothers, and the Assembly paid their customary tribute.

The sederunt came to a close at 1.18pm, the Moderator leading in prayer.

# SEVENTH SESSION

**Friday, 12 June 2025** **2.30pm**

The Assembly again convened, the Moderator leading in prayer.

**Section 6** of the Report of the **GENERAL COUNCIL** (Reports pp170-183) along with Resolutions 27-30 (Reports pp324-325), was submitted by the Rev TWA Greer, together with a Supplementary Report (pS13) and Additional Resolution 27.(h) (pS13) as follows:

**Nominations Committee pp171 & 325**

1. Include additional Par 5. g (p.171) as follows:

Interviews were also held for the newly created post of Co-convener of the General Council and the Committee recommended the appointment of Mrs Avril Heenan to this post.

**Additional Resolution 27.(h) p.325:**

27.(h) That Mrs Avril Heenan be appointed as Co-convener of the General Council.

TOM GREER

Moved by the Rev TWA Greer, seconded by the Rev Jonathan Boyd, and agreed:

**Nominations Committee**

27. That the following resignations be accepted, and appointments made:

(a) The resignation of Mr Martin Hampton as Convenor of the United Appeal Committee [under the General Council], that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev Alan McQuade be appointed in his place.

(b) The Resignation of Rev Roy Mackay as Convenor of the

General Assembly Business Committee [under the General Council], that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev Mark Neilly be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Acting Clerk:

(c) The resignation of Rev Tom Greer as Convenor of the Nominations Committee [under the General Council], that he be thanked for his services and that Rev Andrew Downey be appointed in his place.

Moved by the Rev TWA Greer:

(d) The resignation of Dr Heather Clements as Convenor of the Global Mission Committee [under the Council for Global Mission], that she be thanked for her services and that the Rev Peter Fleming be appointed in her place.

(e) The resignation of Rev Richard Kerr as Convenor of the Global Development Committee [under the Council for Global Mission], that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev Susan Moore be appointed in his place

(f) The resignation of Very Rev Dr Charles McMullen as Convenor of the Specialist Services Committee [under the Council for Social Witness], that he be thanked for his services, and that Rev Peter Bovill be appointed in his place.

(g) That the nominations to Commissions, Councils and Committees as set out in the Nominations Handbook be approved.

(h) That Mrs Avril Heenan be appointed as Co-convener of the General Council.

The Moderator welcomed the retiring Conveners, the Revs Roy Mackay and Tom Greer and Dr Heather Clements to the platform. He thanked them for their service, along with Mr Martin Hampton and the Very Rev Dr Charles McMullen. The Rev Stephen McCracken, Convener of the Council for Global Mission, thanked the Moderator for his service. The Moderator then welcomed the incoming Conveners and thanked them for taking on these responsibilities.

Guidelines Review Task Group

28. That recommendations (a)–(c), relating to the original remit of the Task Group, be approved.

29. That the General Council be authorised to develop a searchable electronic archive of General Assembly Reports and Minutes when there is capacity for the work.

General

30. That the Report of the General Council, Section 6, be received.

**OVERTURES AND REGULATIONS** (Reports pp313-314) along with Resolution 1 (Reports p329), together with the following Supplementary Report (ppS11-S12) and Additional Resolutions 3-4 (ppS11-S12)

**Overtures pp314-315**

1. Anent Par 311 of the Code – deemed a Category A Overture

   Purpose – to ensure that the Director of Operations (the Personnel Specification of which requires that the post-holder is an elder of PCI) is able to fulfil their role by being a member of the General Assembly.

   It is hereby overtured that a new sub-paragraph Par 311.13 be added on the following terms:

   311.13 the Director of Operations.

   Additional Resolution 3. P.329 (pS11)

   3. That the Overture anent Par 311 of the Code be received and that, under Par 337 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

2. Anent Par 577 of the Code – deemed a Category A Overture

   Purpose – to give adequate time for new evidence submitted by parties to an Appeal to be considered by the Judicial Commission before being forwarded to parties.

   It is hereby overtured that existing Par 577 be deleted, and replaced with the following:

   577. If a party to an appeal wishes to tender to the appellate court new evidence which was not tendered on the hearing of the case, he or she shall send that evidence in written form to the Clerk of the appellate court not later than fourteen days before the date set for the hearing of the Appeal and the appellate court shall within seven days determine if such new evidence may be tendered. If the appellate court permits the tendering of such new evidence, it shall forthwith send a copy of that evidence

   577.1 to the Clerk of the court which made the decision appealed against; and

   577.2 to any other party or parties to the case;

   not later than seven days before the date set for the hearing of the appeal and advising them that the appellate court has permitted the tendering of that new evidence.

   Additional Resolution 4. p329 (pS12)

4. That the Overture anent Par 577 of the Code be received and that, under Par 337 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

**Regulations**

1. Regulations for the appointment of the Clerk of the General Assembly and other General Assembly appointments

The Judicial Commission, at its meeting on 23 April 2026, approved the above regulations, determining that they did not fall under Par 344.1.1. These are included as Appendix 1 of the Supplementary Reports Booklet (pS15).

2. Revised Regulations for the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates

The Judicial Commission, at its meeting on 26 February 2026, approved the above regulations, determining that they did not fall under Par 344.1.1. These are included as Appendix 2 of the Supplementary Reports Booklet (ppS16-S19).

DAVID ALLEN

## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS APPENDIX 1
### Appointments to General Assembly Offices

**Relating to Code Pars 313.2 and 401.6**

1. The Offices to which these regulations apply are:
   - The Clerk of Assembly
   - The Deputy Clerk of Assembly
   - Theological Professors of Union College
   - The Principal of Union College.

2. In the event of there being a vacancy in any of the offices mentioned in paragraph1, the General Council shall recommend to the General Assembly an appropriate person for appointment to that office.

3. The General Council, having consulted appropriately, is responsible for approving the job description and personal specification for the office.

4. The General Council shall appoint a task group to bring forward to the General Council the name of a suitable candidate to be appointed to the office in question.

5. The task group shall invite applications as follows:

5.1 for the offices of Clerk of the Assembly and Deputy Clerk of the

Assembly from anyone who is a minister of the Church and who is qualified to be appointed to such office;

The agreed revised wording concerns paragraph 5, as follows:

5. The task group shall invite applications as follows:

5.1 for the offices of Clerk of the Assembly and Deputy Clerk of the Assembly from anyone who is a minister or elder of the Church and who is qualified to be appointed to such office.

## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS APPENDIX 2

### Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee

**Regulations to be followed in the reception of ministers and licentiates from other churches (replacing all previous versions):**

**Introduction**

1. All applications from licentiates or ministers of other churches to be received under the care of the Church shall be made to the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee (hereafter the Committee).

2. The term 'Licentiates' shall be taken to include anyone who has completed their studies in another denomination and is eligible to receive a call within that denomination.

**Process**

3 On receiving an enquiry the Committee shall:

(a) Send the Information Sheet [I1] and invite the Enquirer to request an Initial Enquiry Form (E1);

(b) Send Form E1 to the Enquirer if this is requested.

4. If form E1 is returned

(a) An initial conversation shall take place between the Enquirer and the Convener of the Committee;

(b) An initial check of the Enquirer's academic qualifications (via the Principal of Union College) shall be made;

(c) A first interview (online) with not less than three members of the Committee shall take place. This shall be deemed the equivalent of a Presbytery interview. The Interview Panel shall have the authority to permit or decline to permit an Enquirer to proceed in the application process. The decision of the Interview Panel shall always be subject to review by the Committee.

5. If the Enquirer wishes to pursue the enquiry potential applicants shall undertake a week of orientation within Ireland at the direction of the Convener of the Committee, prior to formal application. This shall include:

(a) Visits, normally comprising (i) the Committee Convener; (ii) a rural setting; (iii) a suburban setting; (iv) an urban setting; (v) a previous

Transferor;

(b) conducting worship and preaching under observation, preferably on two occasions;

(c) a meeting with the Dean of Ministerial Studies and Development;

(d) a meeting with College and Council representatives.

All of this at his/her own expense. Some help may be given with accommodation.

6. To proceed with the application

(a) The Enquirer shall write a reflective journal of the orientation week (one or two A4 pages);

(b) An Application Form [A1], which shall be prescribed by the Committee, shall be sent to the Enquirer, accompanied again by Information Sheet [I1].

7. On receipt of Form A1, which shall also include a Certificate of Ordination or Licensing, or equivalent, a statement from his/her present denomination of good standing as a Minister, details of content of theological course studied and a passport photo, the following shall be carried out:

(a) Receive references [Form R1] from the Applicant's specified Referees;

(b) Completion of a Healthlink360 assessment (at the Applicant's expense);

(c) Each Applicant shall be interviewed by not less than five members of an Interview Panel appointed by the Committee, of whom at least one shall be female, and a report brought to the Committee, which shall have power to issue* and may approve or reject any application. This decision shall be reported at the subsequent meeting of the Council for Training in Ministry. The names of successful applicants shall be reported to the next stated meeting of the General Assembly.

8. If the Applicant is successful

(a) A minister or licentiate whose application has been approved in this way shall have the status of a 'Transferring Minister' (or 'Transferring Licentiate' as appropriate – hereafter simply 'Transferring Minister');

(b) A Transferring Minister shall enter into an Assistantship, as arranged by the Committee in consultation with the Assignments Committee (commencing in not less than 9 months and normally for a duration of 2 years);

(c) The placing of the Assistantship shall be determined by the Assignments Panel in consultation with the Committee;

(d) A Transferring Minister shall not be eligible for call until he/she has successfully completed any studies and/or assistantship required by the Council for Training in Ministry;

(e) The funding of a Transferring Minister shall be according to rules as set from time to time by the Council for Training in Ministry;

(f) The assistantship shall be the equivalent of a Licentiate Assistantship, including additional training and remuneration, except that an ordained person may celebrate the sacraments;

(g) A Transferring Minister shall be under the supervision of the presbytery in which he/she is serving as an assistant, but shall remain a member of the denomination he/she is transferring from until installed or inducted in a charge within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland;

(h) The Committee shall review and evaluate the progress of a

Transferring Minister every six months in consultation with the

Supervising Minister;

(i) The Council for Training in Ministry may re-assign a Transferring Minister or terminate his/her pathway. Termination may take place either at the end of the period of assistantship or, if it becomes clear that he/she will not satisfactorily complete his/her studies and/or assistantship, at any point before that;

(j) A Transferring Minister whose pathway is terminated ceases to have any status within the Presbyterian Church in Ireland;

(k) A Transferring Minister who successfully completes the studies and/or assistantship required by the Council for Training in Ministry shall be deemed to have been received by the General Assembly and is thereby eligible for a call under Code Par 254.3 or 255.3 as appropriate;

(l) A Transferring Minister who has not received and accepted a call within 18 months of becoming eligible shall normally cease to be eligible;

(m) A Transferring Minister may request a review of any reassignment or the termination of his/her pathway, which will operate under the review procedures of the Council for Training in Ministry as applicable to a Licentiate. [Note this is the equivalent of an appeal under Code Par 467, and the outcome is final.]

**Eligibility for Call**

9. In cases where the reception of a minister is being sought to facilitate the work of a Council of the General Assembly under Code Par 145, the Committee may make special interview arrangements and the Council for Training in Ministry shall have power to issue or to refer the matter to the General Assembly. The Committee may apply certain conditions before the minister may receive a further call within

PCI, including, but not limited to: specification of a length of time that must pass; a requirement to take part in post-ordination training applicable to PCI ministers; participation in mentoring arrangements.

10. In cases where a vacancy commission seeks to approve the placing of a minister of another denomination on a list for hearing under Code Par 243.4, the Committee may make special interview arrangements and the Council for Training in Ministry shall have power to issue or to refer the matter to the General Assembly. If approved, and subsequently called, the presbytery, if the Linkage Commission so nominates, will appoint him/her as Stated Supply, on terms set by the Linkage Commission, and normally reflecting the Terms of Call. The Transferring Minister shall carry out the normal duties of a minister of a congregation for a period of two years. It is recommended that he/she be invited to sit and deliberate at presbytery during that time. The Committee will set requirements for college courses and/or participation in post-ordination training. Following successful completion of the Committee requirements, and successful reviews of progress at six, twelve and eighteen months, the Transferring Minister shall be installed by the presbytery as minister of the charge and have the status of full minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

11. No one with an active application as a Transferring Minister, and not yet declared to be eligible for a call, may be approved for placing on a list for hearing by a congregation under the previous paragraph.

*Power to issue was given by the Council on 19 January 2015: "That the Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee be given power to interview and issue on behalf of the Council concerning all applications from students, licentiates or ministers of other churches to be received under the care of the Church."

DAVID ALLEN

**General Council**

The Overtures anent Pars 111, 346.1, 402.7.2, 402.8.3.3, 433, 438 and 447 of the Code (pp313-314) were submitted by the Acting Clerk.

Moved by the Acting Clerk, seconded by the Deputy Clerk, and agreed:

1. That the Overtures anent Pars 111, 346.1, 402.7.2, 402.8.3.3, 433, 438 and 447 of the Code be received and that, under Par 337 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The Overtures anent Pars 34 and 34.2 of the Code (p314) were submitted by the Acting Clerk.

Moved by the Acting Clerk, seconded by the Deputy Clerk, and agreed:

2. That the Overtures anent Pars 34 and 34.2 of the Code be received and that, under Par 337 of the Code, they be made the rule of the Church.

The Overture anent Par 311 of the Code (pS11)

Moved by the Acting Clerk, seconded by the Deputy Clerk, and agreed:

Additional Resolution 3.

3. That the Overture anent Par 311 of the Code be received and that, under Par 337 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

The Overture anent Par 577 of the Code (ppS11-12)

Moved by the Acting Clerk, seconded by the Deputy Clerk, and agreed:

Additional Resolution 4. p329

4. That the Overture anent Par 577 of the Code be received and that, under Par 337 of the Code, it be made the rule of the Church.

**COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL MISSION – debate resumed** **(see page 49)**

Moved by the Rev SA McCracken, seconded by the Rev WS Marrs, and agreed:

1. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the faithful, sacrificial service of PCI's global mission workers and commend the Global Mission Worker Sending Strategy 2026 – 2028 (Appendix A), encouraging prayerful and active support by the wider church for this work.

2. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for PCI's partnerships with churches, institutions and agencies around the world, whether longstanding or exploratory, and for the strong missional focus to these relationships.

3. That the General Assembly, deeply concerned by war, conflict and loss of life around the world, commit to pray and advocate for peace and justice for those impacted including PCI's partners in mission in the Middle East, Ukraine, South Sudan/Sudan, and Myanmar.

4. That the General Assembly give thanks for the good progress in implementing recommendations set out in the Stewardship of Creation Report to the General Assembly 2024, especially for the 'God's World, Our Responsibility' Conference in September 2025 and the growing range of related resources now available on the PCI website for wider

use.

A card vote was taken, 61 votes were cast for and 50 votes were cast against. The resolution was declared passed.

5. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the generosity of congregations and members of PCI in support of the World Development Appeal 2025 'Hives of Hope; working together for a better tomorrow' and commend the 2026 World Development Appeal to the whole church.

6. That the Report of the Council for Global Mission be received.

The Moderator paid tribute to the late Miss Diane Cusick, to Gary & Mary Reid, to other PCI missionaries

**COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS – debate resumed** **(see page 57)**

Moved by the Rev AC Rankin, seconded by the Rev DH Thompson, and agreed:

1. That the Report of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness be received.

**GENERAL COUNCIL, SECTION 4 – debate resumed** **(see page 59)**

Moved by the Rev JA McCaughan, seconded by the Rev RJ Hyndman, and agreed:

20. That the Report of the General Council, Section 4, be received, and that the decision of Guysmere Trust to conclude the project be acknowledged.

The Final Report of the **GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUSINESS COMMITTEE**, was submitted by the Acting Clerk as follows:

**Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee**

1.The General Assembly Business Committee met at on numerous occasions during the week.

2.The Business Committee agreed the Final Report of the Business Committee to the Assembly consisting of the following three Resolutions:

(a) That the Acting Clerk be given authority to finalise and make corrections to the Minutes as required.

(b) That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Tuesday, 15 June 2027, or, if necessary, on another suitable date that month as agreed by the General Council on the recommendation of the General Assembly Business Committee.

(c) That the Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee be received.

ROY MACKAY, Convener

DAVID ALLEN, Acting Clerk of Assembly

Moved by the Acting Clerk and seconded by the Rev RMcM Mackay, and agreed:

31. That the Acting Clerk be given authority to finalise and make corrections to the Minutes as required.

32. That the next General Assembly be held in Belfast on Tuesday, 15 June 2027, or, if necessary, on another suitable date that month as agreed by the General Council on the recommendation of the General Assembly Business Committee.

33. That the Final Report of the General Assembly Business Committee be **received.**

The Moderator thanked: The Acting Clerk and Deputy Clerk; Council Conveners; the General Assembly Business Committee; the Arrangements Panel and Convener, the Rev Mervyn Burnside; Assembly Buildings staff; catering, music, sound and vision and logistics staff; Mr Raymond Robinson; stewards.

**CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY**

The Moderator declared the Assembly to be dissolved and convened the next Stated General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to meet in Belfast, on Tuesday 15 June 2027 or, if necessary, on another suitable date that month.

The Moderator pronounced the Benediction.

The sederunt came to a close at 5.07pm.

Attested by

T DAVID ALLEN

Acting Clerk of Assembly