

# MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

May 2013

*Statement of Purpose:  
Resourcing Christ's Mission:  
to enable and empower people to engage in Christ's mission  
through resourcing worship, witness and discipleship  
in the context of the changing contemporary culture of Scotland and beyond*

## CONTENTS

Proposed Deliverance	5/1	Future Development of <i>Life and Work</i>	5/10
Introduction	5/3	Committee on Church Art and Architecture (CARTA)	5/10
Challenges of the Year	5/4	Review of Remit of CARTA and its purpose	5/11
Administration and Resources Team	5/5	Elder Moderators of their own Kirk Session	5/12
Pray It Forward Cards	5/5	Online Worship Resources	5/12
Resourcing Mission Website	5/5	Different Voices Magazine	5/13
Session Clerks' Conference January 2013	5/6	Equip Events	5/13
Presbytery Adult Trainers	5/6	Research	5/13
Review of Congregational Learning	5/6	Quick Guides	5/13
Royal Highland Show	5/7	Table Talk	5/13
Why Believe?	5/7	Emerging Church and Fresh Expressions Partnership	5/13
Local Church Review	5/7	Violence Against Women	5/14
Future Focus	5/7	Young People and Decision Making	5/14
Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014	5/8	Mission Forum	5/14
Scottish Storytelling Centre	5/8	Place of Doctrine	5/15
Saint Andrew Press	5/8	Asexuality	5/15
Different Voices Music Conference – March 2013	5/9	Interfaith and Mission	5/16
National Youth Assembly 2012	5/9	Place for Hope	5/16
Youth Representation at Ecumenical Events	5/9	Eldership Reflections	5/16
Council Finances	5/9	Statistics for Mission	5/18
Resources Group	5/9	Conclusion	5/18
Life and Work Online Presence	5/9		

## PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

### The General Assembly:

1. Receive the report.
2. Encourage the Church to make use of the wide range of mission website resources – [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk) (Section 5.1).

3. Urge all Presbyteries to recruit Congregational Learning Facilitators and collaborate with other Presbyteries in their area to ensure that there is a network of facilitators to support the ongoing engagement of members with learning and growth in the understanding of faith (Section 8.3).
4. Instruct the Council to produce guidance notes and appropriate forms for the Local Church Review process by 2014 (Section 11.1).
5. Welcome the revision of Future Focus for the benefit of congregations who are seeking clarity and understanding of their opportunities for mission and discipleship, and the development of Future Focus: The Way Ahead, which is a new resource designed to be used without an external facilitator (Section 12.2).
6. Encourage congregations throughout Scotland to become involved in the "More Than Gold" initiative in relation to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 (Section 13.1).
7. Congratulate the Council on the success of the Different Voices Conference and encourage the Council to plan future events of this kind (Section 16.1).
8. Commend the Council for living within its budget for 2012 and its elimination of all accrued debt (Section 19.1).
9. Note with interest the development of the "online presence" of *Life and Work*, as instructed by the General Assembly of 2010 (Section 20.2.2).
10. Recognise the continued contribution of *Life and Work* to the life of the congregations of the Church and its important financial support of the work of the Church and encourage its promotion by congregations (Section 20.2.3).
11. Instruct the Council to form a group with the purpose of seeking new ways of supporting the financing, marketing and promotion of the magazine (Section 20.3.3).
12. Thank all congregations who have engaged so effectively with the Committee on Church Art and Architecture (CARTA) in the early stages of proposals for change in church buildings and encourage other congregations to do so (Section 21.2).
13. Remind congregations of the statutory legislation which requires all congregations to plan for effective inclusion and access of those with disabilities, which is a Gospel priority that should be addressed in any consideration of the appropriate provision of a welcoming space for worship and fellowship (Section 21.4).
14. Instruct the Mission and Discipleship Council to set up a "review process" of the work of CARTA with a remit to investigate the ways in which the Committee may serve the changing needs of the Church in Scotland for building provision and report to the General Assembly of 2014 (Section 21.6.3).
15. Instruct the Legal Questions Committee to consider the implications of the survey regarding the use of Elders as Moderators, and bring forward recommendations on this issue to a future General Assembly (Section 22.2).
16. Welcome the decision of the Council to enable "*Different Voices*" magazine to become a free internet resource (Section 24.1).
17. Welcome the joint partnership of the Mission and Discipleship and Ministries Councils with "Fresh Expressions" and look forward to a report of progress in 2014 (Section 29.1).
18. Instruct the Council, in collaboration with the groups indicated in the Deliverance of 2012, to bring forward for consideration by the General Assembly of 2014 some indicative proposals regarding how young people may become involved more thoroughly in the decision-making processes of the Church at all levels, with final proposals coming to the General Assembly of 2015. (Section 31.1).

19. Thank all Councils and Committees for their participation in the Mission Forum and encourage congregations to examine the reflective papers which have been produced (Section 32.2).
20. Affirm the involvement of young people in the Mission Forum process (Section 32.3).
21. Affirm the direction of the initial exploration of the relationship between mission and interfaith in a multi-cultural Scotland and anticipate a further report in 2014 (Section 35.1).
22. Look forward to the availability of statistics for mission on the website of the Church of Scotland being available for every parish after the census results are published (Section 38.1).
23. Instruct the Council, in collaboration with the Council of Assembly, to prepare proposals in relation to the continued support and development of the provision of accurate statistical information for use by parishes in their mission and outreach (Section 38.2).



## REPORT

### 1. Introduction

1.1 At a recent conference on preaching and communication of the Gospel, a speaker asked the question "Who paints our picture of the world?" It is obvious that the media, in its various forms, powerfully paints all sorts of pictures of the world we live in, and saturates and shapes our consciousness of what God's creation is all about. Pictures in words, story, image and movement all contribute to our understanding and our interpretation of what is going on around us and within us.

1.2 In the report of the Council to the General Assembly we intend to use several pictorial images drawn from the Bible as reflective of the work we have undertaken in the fulfilment of the Council's remit. The first of these is that of journey. Journey is a characteristic of the Biblical narrative

from the time of Abraham in Genesis Chapter 12, running right through the Exodus and the Exile. The theme of journey is also part of the New Testament, with Jesus and his journeys throughout Galilee and beyond, and the final journey to Jerusalem. Of particular relevance to Mission and Discipleship, is the story of Cleopas and the road to Emmaus, where Jesus engages in teaching and reflection about the meaning of his life and mission and its impact on his disciples.

1.3 In the last year the Council was asked to produce a pictorial image to depict its work and life as it fulfils its remit to the General Assembly. One of our Mission Development Workers, Iain Campbell, produced the image above of two figures walking together past various posts. Of course, all images are open to interpretation and no

one may be able to defend their interpretation as the only, or the most important. From the perspective of Mission and Discipleship, the Council believes this image may say several things about the work of the Council as it goes on a journey with congregations and presbyteries in the support of the development of mission and discipleship. Among these may be:

- A journey towards a horizon where the unknown inspires us to trust a God who always leads the church into mission.
- The Council's work is both mission and discipleship. The two are intimately bound together. Those who engage in mission are disciples and mission brings disciples into the Church.
- Rather than the Council doing things for congregations and presbyteries, it works with them in partnership.
- The journey does not stop, and milestones and indicators of distance are but temporary and relative.
- There is no idea that "we have arrived" while the call of God remains.

**1.4** The Gospels use pictures to describe the ministry and mission of Jesus and, in particular, highlight the use by Jesus of parables and pictorial images. For some, the parables of seeds, sowing and growth may be closely associated with the work of mission and discipleship. In all of the Gospel narratives, Jesus uses parables to indicate the fact that we are called upon to sow seed and expect growth, and that there may be some challenges and difficulties (the stony ground). Sometimes there may also be weeds among the seeds and the harvest is uncertain (Matthew chapter 13:3 – 9; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:5-15). In other parables Jesus indicates the enormous growth (the mustard seed) that is completely unexpected and cannot be predicted, and the confidence that we all may have that God is in charge (Matthew 13:31; 17:20; Mark 4:31; Luke 13:10; 17:6).

**1.5** This year's report will take one of the hymns (Church Hymnary, 4th edition, number 343) associated with these parables as a structure for the report in the confidence that while the Council's work encourages, supports and nurtures the work of congregations in mission and discipleship, it is God alone who brings the harvest to fruition.

### Hymn – verse 1

The reign of God, like farmer's field  
bears weeds along with wheat;  
the good and bad are intertwined  
till harvest is complete

## 2. Challenges of the year

**2.1** In the last year the Council, as well as working with one of its Team Leaders as Acting Council Secretary, has engaged with a considerable number of challenges which it has had to overcome in fulfilling its remit. In the area of Congregational Learning, the departures of the Team Leader, the Leadership Development Worker and the Interfaith Worker placed particular stresses on this area. Illnesses among other staff also created some difficulty for the Council, which is grateful to the Staffing Group of the Council of Assembly for making it possible for temporary cover to be appointed so that the Council could continue its work.

**2.2** In a time of serious change in its staffing, the Council agreed to a thorough review of the work of Congregational Learning to ensure that it fulfilled its remit. The report of the review was adopted by the Council at its meeting in February with appropriate recommendations. A summary of the developments which will be implemented by the Council in this area is included in this report.

**2.3** Alongside a number of staff changes in the last year, there were some resignations of members of the Council and the Council was grateful to the Nomination Committee of the General Assembly for the number of nominations it produced, and these members have enriched the life of the Council by their willingness to be involved in its work. Rev Colin Sinclair has brought many gifts as the Convener and has ensured that the Council has vigorously and enthusiastically engaged with its role of setting appropriate policy and direction in a number of areas. In particular, an increase in the number of meetings of the Council and the Executive has improved the governance of the Council.

**2.4** The members of staff have continued to offer their gifts and skills to the work of the Council and have all been willing to do extra work in a time of vacancies without a reduction in expectation from congregations and presbyteries. While there has been some necessary restriction on what has been attempted, the core work of the Council has continued and some further developments, for example, the Interfaith and Mission Group, the growth of the Mission Forum, and the online presence of *Life and Work*, have been supported. The Council commends the magnificent work of the staff in sustaining, and indeed developing, the work during this last year.

**2.5** At the time of the General Assembly, the Council is pleased to report the arrival of a new Council Secretary, the Rev Alister Bull, and that progress has been made towards the appointment of both a Team Leader in Congregational Learning and a Learning Development Worker. It is hoped to appoint a “Fresh Expressions” worker in the near future as well, as a result of the co-operation with the Ministries Council. All of these indicate the confidence and expectation of the Council as it prepares to tackle the future challenges of its remit.

**2.6** As a result of the Administration Audit of the Mission and Discipleship Council undertaken on behalf of the Council of Assembly, several recommendations were made and have been seriously considered by the Council. In particular, the Council has acknowledged the need to ensure that there is an agreed focus and purpose which will govern all the future endeavours of the Council. This theological and reflective document will shape the priorities of the Council and ensure that all the work undertaken, either as a project or continuing work of the Council, is compatible with its goals and principles.

#### Hymn – verse 2

Like mustard seed, the reign of God  
from tiny seed will spread  
till birds of every feather come  
to nest and there be fed

### 3. Administration and Resources Team

**3.1** The Administration and Resources Team has demonstrated its ability to give loyal and enthusiastic support to the Council’s work throughout the last year in a time of change and challenge. They have dealt with an enormous range of enquiries and have helped individuals, congregations and presbyteries in a number of ways. The range of enquiries includes contact with other denominations and faith groups (for example, the visit of the Dali Llama), data regarding children’s spirituality, emerging church, music development and international conferences. Some have been short phone calls and others have led to the engagement of staff members in visits and involvement in the life of a congregation. Nearly every one of the presbyteries of the Church of Scotland has been in touch with the Council to make enquiries of some sort and the Council has been in touch with all presbyteries to ensure that they are informed of programmes, conferences and opportunities under the aegis of the Council.

**3.2** The Administration team has provided considerable support to the Music Conference held in March and organised a wide range of support systems to ensure that all who participated received information promptly and were assisted with the numerous enquiries which resulted.

### 4. Pray It Forward Cards

**4.1** The “Pray it Forward” cards have continued to sell extremely well and have reached an international audience, with orders coming from all over the world. It is hoped that this will be an area of continued development in future, with different forms of these cards being made available to suit a variety of audiences. This resource is available to purchase from [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk).

### 5. Resourcing Mission Website

**5.1** A grant from the K S Brownlie Trust allowed the Council to have its online resource website redesigned and re-launched in March 2013 to enable the Council to respond more rapidly and to deal with the expanding number of resources available through the Council. The

site may be accessed at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk) and through the site, "Starters for Sunday", "Quick Guides", and the web pages for young people area are available. The site will assist the Council in its goal of 'resourcing resourcefulness' in future.

## **6. Session Clerks' Conference – January 2013**

**6.1** The Council has committed time and resources to the support of two vital areas of work. The first has been the provision of a Training Conference for Session Clerks and the second a day conference for Presbytery Adult Trainers.

**6.1.1** Over the latter part of 2012, a large number of applications were received from Session Clerks interested in attending the Conference to be held at the end of January 2013.

**6.1.2** It was agreed that the Conference should be marketed at a subsidised rate to allow as many as possible to attend and nearly 100 Session Clerks were able to participate. The Council is most grateful to all those who gave of their time and insights as speakers and workshop leaders to allow this Conference to be so successful. The Council is also aware that this is an important area of continuing work and it intends to make another similar Conference available for the training of Session Clerks in September 2013. The Congregational Learning group of the Council believes that targeting those in such leadership roles and providing them with essential education and training is a critical priority for the Council in the fulfilment of its remit.

## **7. Presbytery Adult Trainers**

**7.1** The Congregational Learning Council Group arranged a Day Conference for Presbytery Adult Trainers in November and this group of volunteers, together with representatives of the Council, participated enthusiastically in a time of reflection and suggestion with representatives of the Council on various issues such as the Congregational Learning Review, the development of new materials for Eldership training, the possibility of new developments regarding the Eldership and the facilitation

of Future Focus. In that conference it was recognised that an important area of concern for the Church as a whole, and for Elders in particular, is the challenge of assisting those with dementia and their families as they participate in the worship and life of congregations.

**7.2** Presbytery Adult Trainers were given the opportunity to attend a Training Day at the University of Stirling Iris Murdoch Centre for Dementia Research. The training involved practical skills being shared and new insights developed to allow facilitators to raise the awareness of congregations about dementia issues. A module of training in this area will be developed so that a wider audience may be able to benefit from the insights in this field, while being firmly grounded in the context of the life and worship of the Church.

## **8. Review of Congregational Learning**

**8.1** The Council conducted a thorough internal review of the area of Congregational Learning in the last year. The Review Group was convened by the Very Rev John Christie and several members of the Council participated in the process of examination of submissions and proposals.

**8.2** The remit of the review was to look at all aspects of Congregational Learning and examine the budget implications of any proposals. The Review Group itself developed ideas from consultation with the staff of the Council and a questionnaire which was sent to all Councils and Committees of the Church to ascertain their understanding of possible developments in this area. Other Groups were also consulted for their particular perspectives, including the Group on the theology of the Place for Hope and the Presbytery Adult Trainers Network.

**8.3** As a result, a series of recommendations were made to the Council in February which contained proposals for a new structure and way of operation of Congregational Learning (for those interested in the full report it may be accessed at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk)). Among the main points of the report were:

- Its prime focus will be the education and growth of

members of all ages in congregations as they engage in their faith journey from baptism onwards.

- While some particular courses will be developed for members of the Church of specific relevance to the Church of Scotland, care will be taken to acknowledge ecumenical co-operation and the possibility of identifying courses that are readily available from other sources.
- The recruitment of a Team Leader with responsibility for this area of the Council's remit.
- The appointment of a Learning Development Worker to work under the direction of the Team Leader and the Congregational Learning Council Group alongside our existing Children and Young People's Development Worker.
- The Congregational Learning area would rely on a network of 'Congregational Learning Facilitators' who would offer support and assistance to congregations and presbyteries throughout the country (this would incorporate the existing Presbytery Adult Trainers Network).
- While some Congregational Learning Facilitators would have particular interests, for example Future Focus, World Mission initiatives, Church and Society projects, others would work in a general way to support the important issue of the development of individual members of congregations.
- The Council would continue to provide specific training for Session Clerks and others in leadership roles; in particular, the Eldership.
- The structure proposed is designed to enable the Council to live within its budget and facilitate the learning of members through a network of trained and supported volunteers.
- All Presbyteries have a crucial role in encouraging the recruitment of Congregational Learning Facilitators, to ensure a network which covers the geographical spread of Scotland and Presbyteries beyond.

## 9. Royal Highland Show

9.1 Once again the Council has been involved as the leading agency in the provision of a presence representing the churches in Scotland at the Royal Highland Show in

June. The Council has reaffirmed its conviction that this event is important and a strategic one, and that it will take the lead with ecumenical representatives and other Councils in providing a vigorous and energetic witness to the Gospel at the Royal Highland Show in future.

## 10. Why Believe?

10.1 The Why Believe? Group undertook two apologetics conferences in 2012 which were appreciated by all who attended. The Group produced a leaflet called "God, Jesus and Truth" and is developing a series of short articles for the website [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk) to help parents and grandparents address questions asked by teenagers, in language that is comprehensible and understandable. The Group has also continued to place suitable books on themes related to apologetics in University and Public Libraries.

10.2 It has become clear to the Council that the Why Believe? Group would benefit from becoming more closely associated with the responsibility that the Council has for addressing the challenge of apologetics (providing a reasoned case for Christian belief) in contemporary Scotland. The Group will be supported by the Church Without Walls team and will assist the Council in its efforts to produce literature and online materials which engage, facilitate and encourage the membership of the Church in the important issue of mission in a digital environment.

## 11. Local Church Review

11.1 As a result of proposals made by the Panel on Review and Reform, the General Assembly instructed the Council to produce guidance for congregations undertaking the Local Church Review process. Work has commenced on this large undertaking and it is hoped to produce guidelines for 2014, by which time we will have feedback from Presbyteries.

## 12. Future Focus

12.1 During 2012 the Church Without Walls team has continued to deliver Future Focus to congregations.

**12.2** At the General Assembly of 2012, a question was asked regarding the availability of Future Focus as a resource to enable congregations to investigate and reflect upon the missionary character of their life and witness without the services of an external facilitator. The Council is grateful to congregations who have tried this method and given feedback of their experience. The new resource is called Future Focus: The Way Ahead and is freely available to download from [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk).

**12.3** The Church Without Walls and Faith Expression teams, working together, having produced a stand-alone form of Future Focus, used the opportunity to revise the materials thoroughly to better reflect the nature and ethos of the Church of Scotland.

**12.4** The Council commends the Future Focus process in either format to Commissioners and invites them to make Presbyteries and congregations aware of this imaginative tool for planning for growth and development in advancing the mission of the Church, particularly in the context of Local Church Review.

### **13. Commonwealth Games**

**13.1** The Council has continued its support of the "More Than Gold" charity in co-operation with the Presbytery of Glasgow to ensure that the Church is represented appropriately at the Commonwealth Games through its funding support of a staff member and the participation of one of the Mission Development Workers. The importance of the spiritual aspect of the opportunity to welcome visitors from all over the Commonwealth has been recognised and the Council is confident that an effective and creative programme of support and outreach will be offered to all in 2014. For further information look on the website at [www.morethangold2014.org.uk](http://www.morethangold2014.org.uk).

### **14. Scottish Storytelling Centre**

**14.1** The Centre played its full part in 2012, the Year of Creative Scotland. Its own promotions included storytelling, literature, music, dance, visual arts and digital media. It also ran the International Storytelling Festival.

**14.2** Less publicised is the work of storytellers, professional and voluntary, in local communities across Scotland. This is evidenced through the Centre's work with children in faith communities, schools and family centres; through visits to care homes and community centres; through animation of local heritage, natural and historic; through nurturing stories of resilience, recovery and comfort in health care contexts. Storytelling is an effective way in which people can share experience and be affirmed, and the church has a special place and opportunity to foster a society that shares more often and meaningfully.

**14.3** Another major initiative, launched in November 2012 at the Storytelling Centre, was Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys, developed by the newly formed Scotland's Churches Trust. The six pilot routes, named for Ninian, Columba, Margaret, Mungo, Cuthbert and Andrew, were researched and interpreted through the contributions of the Scottish Storytelling Centre. The renaissance of pilgrimage is a distinctive twenty first century faith expression with immense potential for churches willing to journey in faith and mission. Full details are available on [www.scotlandspilgrimjourneys.com](http://www.scotlandspilgrimjourneys.com).

**14.4** Currently a joint group of the Council of Assembly and Mission and Discipleship is looking at how the ongoing work of the Centre fits within the work of the Church and is appropriately funded.

### **15. Saint Andrew Press**

**15.1** The agreement with Hymns Ancient and Modern to undertake the work involved in the development of Saint Andrew Press continues, and profit from the sales of books under this imprint was received by the Council in the past year. Several new titles have been published and a process of consideration by the Resources Group of suggested titles has been operational and proved satisfactory.

#### **Hymn – verse 3**

Though hidden now, the reign of God  
from tiny seed will spread  
from deep within it, rises up  
like yeast in swelling bread.

## 16. Different Voices Conference

**16.1** In the light of the success of the Conference on Worship (“Weaving Worship”) held in Paisley Abbey two years ago, and the increased awareness of the popularity of resources on music, the Council agreed to encourage the Faith Expressions team to arrange a national Church Music Conference in Edinburgh in March 2013. At the time of writing of this report, it is expected that over 210 delegates will take part, and it is hoped that this Conference will enable a network of individuals interested in various forms of Church music, for different contexts, to be developed and supported in future.

## 17. National Youth Assembly 2012

**17.1** 150 young people from across the Church of Scotland, with over 70 attending for the first time, participated in the National Youth Assembly held in the Westpark Centre in Dundee in August 2012. A wide variety of workshops and debates were offered and members of the Council were also present to hear from the young people directly and to learn from their particular experiences and perspectives. The event itself relied on a very well organised team, led by the Children and Young People’s Development Worker, and plans are now in place for the National Youth Assembly of 2013, to be held once again in Dundee in August. The Programme has been arranged in conjunction with a group of young people who have been involved in the event before, and it is hoped that there will be further work in this area done in due course.

## 18. Youth Representation at Ecumenical Events

**18.1** The Council has been happy to co-operate with the World Mission Council and enable a number of young people to attend events in the World Church which concern and involve members of the Church in the under-30 age range. It is the hope of the Council that the young people who have the privilege of this opportunity will be invited by Presbyteries and local congregations to share their experiences on their return, so that others may be encouraged to look beyond the local and see the variety and challenge of being part of the World Church.

## 19. Council Finances

**19.1** The Council has achieved its goal of paying off the total deficit of the Council, accrued over past years, by the time of the General Assembly through the sale of investments and careful stewardship of its budget allocation. It intends, with the support of the Finance Team, to live within its budget allocation for 2013, as directed by the General Assembly and the Council of Assembly Finance Group.

**19.2** The savings made this year on salaries and on the reduction of some programmes will not continue in 2013 and, therefore, the Council hopes for an increase in its budget so that it may develop new and exciting plans for children’s and young people’s work in the area of Congregational Learning with the support of the General Assembly for 2014 and beyond.

## 20. Resources Group

**20.1** The Resources Group of the Council has been active throughout the year, giving advice to the Council as it seeks to engage with the wider Church in a number of ways which reflect the growth and development of online and electronic means of communication. The group has given invaluable assistance in providing the background necessary for the launch of the Council’s new web resource entitled Resourcing Mission ([www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk)). This enables the Council to promote its services including resources in print and other forms, encourage the sales of tickets for events and provide online booking processes for other events run by the Council. The website is developing an area for young people, which is designed to engage them with the Council’s area of responsibility and encourage them to become aware of the opportunities of service in the wider Church.

### 20.2 Life and Work

Circulation figures	Circa 23,200
Surplus	Circa £70,000
Online Presence	Launched Spring 2013

**20.2.1** In the General Assembly of 2010, as a result of a review of *Life and Work*, initiated by the General Assembly in 2009, the Council was given encouragement to explore new ways of utilising this resource on behalf of the Church. The Section of Deliverance read as follows:

*“Instruct the Mission and Discipleship Council to seek ways of enabling the magazine to be published in other forms in addition to the current media, and to review this after an appropriate period.”*

**20.2.2** The Resources Group, in collaboration with the Editor of *Life and Work* and the Acting Council Secretary, invited a number of firms to bid for the contract to provide “an online presence” for *Life and Work*. Following a thorough process of examination of proposals and interview, the contract was given to Adept, a Media Resource Company, with an excellent reputation for the development of websites and online presence facilities for Christian organisations. With the professional help of the Law Department, the contract was drawn up; its fruition is the newly launched website of *Life and Work* ([www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org)). It is envisaged that further development and investment could include online access to previous *Life and Work* editions. In time, new revenue streams from online subscriptions, advertisements and other online sales might be realised.

**20.2.3** It is hoped that this online presence of the magazine will enable congregations to access information on current events and generate advertising revenue to assist the Council in defraying the cost of this important new development. The Council is aware of the additional demands that this will make on the *Life and Work* team and commends them for their willingness to be engaged in a fresh opportunity for creativity and challenge.

### **20.3 Future Development of *Life and Work***

**20.3.1** Over the years *Life and Work* has produced a surplus for the former Board of Communication and, later on, for the Publications Committee of the Council and this was used to defray the deficit in Saint Andrew Press. The surplus is now used to continue the work of the Council.

The Council recognises that, as with all other printed media communications, the magazine is facing a great challenge to maintain its readership and sales.

**20.3.2** In the light of the decline in advertising revenue and the reduction in subscription figures affecting printed titles universally, the Council believes that a significant investment in marketing and promotion of the magazine is timely, necessary and deserved. This will examine not just how the printed magazine may continue as a congregational resource for congregations, but also consider ways of ensuring its sustainability, through reaching newer, wider and younger audiences that demand dynamic, relevant and creative content in their varied electronic devices.

**20.3.3** The Council is, therefore, recommending that the General Assembly agree to the formation of a group with a remit regarding the financing, marketing and development of the magazine and how this may be vigorously and energetically promoted on behalf of the Church. The group would include those with particular expertise in both print and electronic media, those with online marketing and brand development expertise, and a representation of younger members of the Church. It would be expected that the group would report to the General Assembly in 2014 on progress, with a final report and recommendations for change and implementation of new initiatives in 2015.

## **21. Committee on Church Art and Architecture (CARTA)**

**21.1** A few headline figures for the information of the General Assembly:

- 64 Projects involving one or more visits by members of the Committee considered
- 24 Projects approved in the course of 2012
- 8 Projects approved under powers without visit required
- 11 Stained glass projects considered and responded to
- 8 Requests concerning the disposal of communion ware responded to

- 7 Requests for advice responded to, some involving visits  
6 Organ reports commissioned and considered

**21.2** The workload of CARTA continues to be demanding since many congregations have responded positively to the advice in the General Assembly Report of 2012 to involve CARTA at an early stage in discussion of proposals for alterations, adaptations and reordering. CARTA welcomes this and also appreciates the invitations from congregations to visit their buildings when major alterations have been completed. It is often to these buildings that CARTA directs others, so that they can see for themselves what can be achieved and learned from the experience of those responsible for these successful projects.

**21.3** As instructed by the General Assembly of 2012, representatives of CARTA have met with representatives of the General Trustees and produced information and guidance notes for the benefit of congregations who wish to recognise the impact of ecological initiatives on the Church's architectural heritage. This is available at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk).

**21.4** CARTA strongly encourages all congregations to bear in mind the importance of making their buildings both readily accessible and welcoming to those with disabilities, and commends the use of self-audit tools for this purpose. An information leaflet entitled "Open Church: making better access" can be found at [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/3030/open\\_church.pdf](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/3030/open_church.pdf); information and advice on the topic from the Law Department is also available at [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0014/5081/law\\_equality.pdf](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/5081/law_equality.pdf). CARTA is happy to offer specific advice on the kinds of alterations needed to make our churches exemplars of good practice with regard to the inclusion of disabled people.

**21.5** CARTA is developing a series of brief online guides for congregations, designed to provide succinct and readily digested information on a variety of topics. These will complement the information that can be found at [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/art\\_and\\_architecture\\_resources](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/art_and_architecture_resources).

**21.6** CARTA's remit, as part of the Mission and Discipleship Council, includes the stimulation of "critical reflection and development of places and practice of worship." So, recognising that innovative worship practices may require access to different configurations of worship space as well as additional facilities, CARTA applies one major test to all proposals that are brought to it for consideration:

*"How will this particular development assist the congregation in its worship and mission in the 21st century?"*

This is also an aspect of good stewardship.

### **21.7 Review of Remit of CARTA and its Purpose**

**21.7.1** Given the desire of many congregations to be creative in their approaches to worship and to witness more effectively within their communities, CARTA believes that its work will continue to grow. It is convinced, however, that it needs to adopt a more pro-active role if it is to stimulate critical reflection and development of places of worship. One way is to use the Mission and Discipleship Council's "Equip Days" as well as articles in church magazines and on the website to publicise imaginative projects that CARTA has supported and encouraged.

**21.7.2** Once Presbytery Plans are finally agreed and begin to be implemented through readjustments and new patterns of ministry, there is likely to be a further increase in the workload of CARTA. So, if the Church is not to put at risk its current privileged status – its "ecclesiastical exemption" from certain elements of the normal planning process, then it is essential that CARTA continues to be able to offer independent and professionally informed advice to individual congregations as well as the Church as a whole, and that it is in a position to demonstrate to the secular authorities that its advice is being heeded.

**21.7.3** CARTA, therefore, requests the General Assembly, through the Mission and Discipleship Council, to set up a review of how it operates, including its composition and resourcing. This review would examine and make proposals regarding the way CARTA operates in relation

to Presbyteries and the Local Church Review process, as well as its collaborative, yet independent, advisory role in relation to the General Trustees. Such a review is timely, in CARTA's view, if it is to stimulate and support congregations to develop their buildings for the purposes of worship and mission in the 21st century.

## **22. Elders as Moderators of their own Kirk Sessions**

**22.1** At the General Assembly of 2012, the Council received an instruction to undertake a survey of all those Elders who had been trained to act as Moderators of their Kirk Sessions, and the Presbyteries and Ministers who had been involved, to establish the pattern of usage. It was hoped that this might identify the issues which need to be addressed so that these Elders might be used productively in future. Three training sessions have been held since November 2010, with attendance reaching 182 in total. However, only 34 responses were received from those who have been trained.

**22.2** The Council resolved to use a simple survey document by e-mail to all Elders who had been trained, all Ministers of congregations where Elders had received training and all Presbyteries where there were Elders who had been trained. The results of the survey may be viewed in detail on the website [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk). Some difficulties were encountered in using the electronic survey as those who had not exercised their skills could not be registered, but a number of written submissions were made and noted, in addition to the online responses.

**22.3** It is clear that there are some issues for the Church to consider in relation to Elders acting as Moderator of their own Kirk Session. At present, the Mission and Discipleship Council is responsible for this training but did not organise any training of Elders in 2012 due to the lack of use being made of those who had been trained.

**22.4** It is important that the General Assembly distinguishes this type of training and the particular function of this training from that of Elders who are trained

to be Interim Moderators in vacancies. The survey revealed a certain amount of confusion about the distinction. When an Elder is trained as an Interim Moderator, he or she does so under the direction of the Ministries Council and the role is distinctly different, as he or she is not a member of that Kirk Session. Elders acting as Moderators of their own Kirk Session are selected and trained differently.

**22.5** It is clear that the situation which currently operates creates confusion, and expectations are not being fully met, causing serious disappointment among those who have undertaken training. The Council recommends to the General Assembly that the Legal Questions Committee be invited to look into this situation and bring appropriate recommendations, guidance and/or alterations of the current legislation to the General Assembly.

## **23. Online Worship Resources**

### **23.1 Starters for Sunday**

**23.1.1** In the years before the Mission and Discipleship Council was formed in 2005, under the Panel on Worship, an initiative was developed to provide exegetical and homiletical support for Ministers and Leaders of Worship on the Church of Scotland website. This resource, based on the lectionary, became known as "Starters for Sunday", and in recent years has been developed to become the most popular part of the Church of Scotland website, achieving more than 30,000 "hits" per month. The Council is indebted to those who have provided material for this resource and can assure the Assembly that it is much appreciated, not just by the worship leaders and Ministers of the Church of Scotland, but by many throughout the world, who find it invaluable in their preparation.

### **23.2 Preachers' Perspectives and Readers' Reactions**

**23.2.1** Alongside "Starters for Sunday", a new resource was introduced in the last year with the provision of 12 articles from individual preachers on their perspectives and experience of preaching and worship. While there has been no restriction on their content or particular prescription given, the articles they have provided have produced an enormous amount of discussion, debate

and interest among the regular users of the website. "Preachers' Perspectives" will be kept as part of the website archive and will be used with groups who are training to be leaders of worship in future. As a result of the success of this additional resource, a further series of "Readers' Reactions" has been introduced to allow the users of the website to have the benefit of the perspective of some of their number on books on preaching and worship. It is hoped that these will assist and sustain those who are keen to become more aware of the information available and the insights that authors have contributed to the practice of worship and preaching.

#### **24. Different Voices Magazine**

**24.1** As a result of a decision of the Council, "Different Voices" magazine has become an online resource and is now available free to all who wish to use it. The magazine is designed to stimulate discussion and reflection on a wide variety of musical interests in the worship of the Church, and has been much appreciated by its readership. The authors of various articles have given generously of their talent and skill, and have engaged with a number of the vital concerns of congregations regarding music and its importance in shaping and creating the atmosphere of worship. The magazine is available at [http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/music\\_for\\_worship/different\\_voices](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/music_for_worship/different_voices) to download.

#### **25. Equip Events**

**25.1** Following the success of previous events where attendees are introduced to various aspects of the Council's work, it is proposed to have further events in other geographical areas to allow a wide range of congregations to engage with the Council and raise questions about how the Council may collaborate and support local developments through "resourcing resourcefulness".

#### **26. Research**

**26.1** The Council has undertaken a significant investigation into why people have become un-churched, focussing on the Highlands where the problem has been

particularly acute, and the results of the work have been incorporated in a number of publications and noted in the media. This research will continue to be undertaken by the Mission Development Worker in the north, who has been active in the support and development of a number of conferences and retreats in rural areas to encourage and support congregations.

#### **27. Quick Guides**

**27.1** The Council has commenced the production of a number of short and easily accessible resources to assist congregations when they commence consideration of particular aspects of mission, discipleship and worship. While these are brief and only aim to give a snapshot of particular issues, they are intended to assist congregations in the initial stages of exploration and investigation of an issue or project proposal. "Quick Guides" will include introductory information and "How to ..." guides and it is expected that they will be a continuing growth area of the work of the Council. These are available for free download at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk).

#### **28. Table Talk**

**28.1** It is hoped by the time of the General Assembly that a new resource, 'Table Talk for Scotland' will be available. Produced by the Ugly Duckling Company ([www.table-talk.org](http://www.table-talk.org)), the writing team included staff from Mission and Discipleship, and Church and Society Councils. It is a means of enabling conversations about the issues that really matter in Scotland. Designed to be used in social situations, its unthreatening format makes it particularly accessible to those outside of the church.

#### **29. Emerging Church and Fresh Expressions Partnership**

**29.1** The Council, jointly with the Ministries Council, has formulated plans for their involvement in the Fresh Expressions Partnership. This will offer the Church of Scotland an opportunity to benefit directly from the experience of other denominations which have developed innovative programmes of new "Church" growth and

planting. The Council expects a staff appointment by the time of the General Assembly to take primary responsibility for the promotion, support and encouragement of the work in this area.

**29.2** The background and context to this work can be found in the Joint Emerging Church Group Report, which can be found in the Ministries Council Report (section 4).

### **30. Violence Against Women**

**30.1** As directed by the General Assembly of 2012, the Church's opposition to violence against women has been incorporated into the work of the Council in the following ways:

- The topic was part of the Youth Assembly Programme in August 2012.
- The issue was highlighted in the prayers during Lent featured in "Starters for Sunday".
- A 'Quick Guide' has been produced for the use of congregations which will identify resources, principles and agencies which may assist congregations in dealing with this issue.

#### **Hymn – verse 4**

The reign of God is come in Christ  
the reign of God is near.  
Ablaze among us, kindling hearts,  
the reign of God is here.

### **31. Young People and Decision Making**

**31.1** In 2012 the Council was directed by the General Assembly to take the lead in a working party designed to examine the work which had been completed on young people and decision-making processes, with the involvement of the Church and Society Council, the Legal Questions Committee, and the General Assembly Arrangements Committee. The Council has attempted to fulfil this directive by calling together representatives of the groups named and has begun to consider the important issue of how young people may indeed be meaningfully and strategically involved in the decision-making processes of the Church.

**31.2** In the initial meetings, it was clear that this is an extremely complex and challenging area and there will be some hurdles to overcome if this is to become a reality. The group has also come to the conclusion that while the involvement of young people in the General Assembly and its deliberations is important, there is also a major paradigm shift required to allow the voices of young people to be heard in the decision making of **all** Councils and Groups within the Church, as well as in local congregations and presbyteries. Therefore, the work will take some time to complete and it is hoped that some reflections and indications of possibilities will be made available to the General Assembly of 2014, with firm proposals formulated in time for consideration and debate at the Assembly of 2015.

**31.3** In the meantime, however, the Council is committed to listening attentively to the voice of young people and has held two consultative conferences with young people, involving representatives of other Councils of the Church, to develop work with young people in a way that is relevant, engaging and appropriate. The Council is most grateful to those who have participated in the work so far, and looks forward to creative initiatives as a result. The Council believes that through reflection, discussion and attentive listening, the voice of young people will be heard and will assist the Church in its development and growth.

### **32. Mission Forum**

**32.1** The Mission Forum was a responsibility given to the Council from its inception in 2005 and a number of developments have taken place over the years. The purpose of the Forum was to ensure that Mission is at the forefront of the life of the Church and that fresh understanding and new approaches may be developed in line with the Gospel and the needs of contemporary society.

**32.2** In 2012, under the leadership of the Council Convener, a new process has begun with the enthusiastic support and co-operation of the other Councils and Committees of the Church, as directed by the General Assembly. Each meeting of the Forum has reflected on

papers and questions regarding the various aspects of Mission and some of these are available for the benefit of congregations and commissioners at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk). The Forum has developed a process of reflection and engagement in this process and used as a framework five particular questions:

- Why mission?
- What is mission?
- What is the context for mission today?
- How do we interact in mission?
- In what spirit do we do mission?

**32.3** As a result of discussion at the Youth Assembly, a number of the young people have engaged with the work of the Forum in a parallel process, which will enrich the final report. Their questions, concerns and insights help the Church to better understand the complexities and challenges of addressing effectively, with young people, mission issues from the perspective of their generation.

**32.4** It is hoped that a full report on the work of the Forum will be available for consideration by the General Assembly in 2014.

### 33. Place of Doctrine

**33.1** The General Assembly in 2012 directed the Council of Assembly and the Mission and Discipleship Council to review the work which had been done on where and how the reflection on doctrine and theological matters should be undertaken by the Church. This was based on work which had been undertaken as a result of two directives of the General Assemblies of 2010 and 2011.

**33.2** The full report of the group, which was convened by the Rev Professor David Fergusson, Principal of New College, is available within the joint report with the Council of Assembly (section 21). The proposals made in the report will ensure that a group is available to provide the in-depth and thorough work necessary for the Church to be sustained and supported in this area.

**33.3** In outline, the proposals are to form a "Theological Forum", which will have a representation of academics,

ministers, elders and members of the Church of Scotland and a representative of the Ecumenical Relations Committee. The Theological Forum will have the power to co-opt members as it sees fit to address the particular areas under consideration and will report directly to the General Assembly, and be accountable to the Council of Assembly for its budget and the fulfilment of its remit. Several features of the work which has been undertaken in doctrinal and theological areas since 2005 in the Council will continue in the Forum, including the need for consultation with the membership of the Church regarding doctrinal and theological statements and the strategic importance of such statements being expressed in language that is comprehensible to the membership.

### 34. Asexuality

**34.1** At the 2012 General Assembly, the Council was instructed to prepare a report on the issue of asexuality, a matter which had been drawn to the attention of the General Assembly in 2009.

In order to understand this issue, the Council believes the following definition may be of some assistance:

*Asexuality is a sexual orientation. Unlike heterosexuality, where people are sexually attracted to the opposite sex, or homosexuality, where people are sexually attracted to the same sex, asexual people are not sexually attracted to anyone. It is not an inability to have sex, it's not celibacy or abstinence, it's not a temporary 'dry spell', and it's not fear of sex.*

*Asexuality is not something you can switch on and off on a whim, asexuality is not a choice. Most asexual people will tell you that they've always been this way and that they've never known anything different.*

*Asexuality does not mean 'not having sex'. Certainly you can practice abstinence and choose to become celibate, but asexuality and celibacy are not the same thing.*

Reference: Asexuality: a brief Introduction published [AsexualityArchive.com](http://AsexualityArchive.com)

**34.2** On the basis of this definition, the Faith Expression group commenced exploration of this issue. The group explored with the proposer of the motion at the General Assembly of 2009, some of the particular concerns and issues. These might be summarised as follows:

- No Christian denomination actively affirms, supports or discusses the area of asexuality.
- The Church might rightly be seen as discriminatory if it does not affirm asexuality as an orientation.
- Not all those who are asexual are single people.
- There is a need to undertake positive affirmation of the proportion of the population who are asexual.
- Negative ideas which are often expressed in the words “suffering from asexuality” should be confronted and rejected.

**34.3** These issues will be considered and a report made to the General Assembly in 2014 as directed. In particular, attention will be given to what is the appropriate theological response of the Church to those who are by definition ‘asexual’.

### **35. Interfaith and Mission**

**35.1** At the General Assembly of 2012, the Council was given an instruction to produce a major report on the practice of mission in an environment of interfaith, dialogue and multi-culturalism. The group appointed by the Council (listed in Appendix II), indicates the wide range of expertise, interest and experience which the Council has drawn upon to undertake this important work. While it is anticipated that the group will produce a report for consideration by the General Assembly of 2014, the progress so far has indicated that there are four areas of particular challenge and engagement to be considered. They are as follows:

- How has the context of mission in Scotland changed and developed since the production of the report presented to the General Assembly on interfaith issues in 1993? It is important for the Church to understand the particular context and significant questions of the contemporary environment in which the Church engages with its mission.

- How do we support and assist Christians in their desire to be confident witnesses to the Gospel while recognising the appropriate boundaries and necessary respect for others of a different faith position?
- What are the best working practices that might be suggested to those who wish to engage in mission in this context?
- What are the theological principles about which the Church may agree and disagree regarding the particular demands of engaging in mission in this context?

**35.2** While there has been lively discussion, honest debate and open exchange of ideas, perspectives and viewpoints on these issues, the group believes that there is a great deal more required before a full report may be presented to the General Assembly. It is their hope that a report, based on the questions indicated above, will be available for consideration by the General Assembly of 2014.

### **36. Place for Hope**

**36.1** The Council, through its Faith Expression area, was invited to explore, with a group of those involved in the Place for Hope project, some of the main theological foundations of the work of Place for Hope. The result is a paper expressing some of the basic principles of the work and ethos of the Place for Hope within the Church – this can be found at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk). It presents a discussion of the importance of a theological understanding of the ministry of reconciliation and how destructive conflict diminishes community and reduces a congregation’s ability to engage in mission effectively. It offers an insight into the process adopted by the Place for Hope, which may assist congregations and others within the Church in understanding the principles which support and guide the operation of this important initiative of the Church. There will obviously be developments of perspectives in future, but it is offered at the present time as a basis for comprehending the theological and ecclesiological background of its operation.

### **37. Eldership Reflections**

**37.1** As a result of the debate about the development of Ordained Local Ministers in 2011, the Mission and

Discipleship Council formed a group of Elders, with a small representation of Ministers, to consider the future role of the Eldership and the various models of the Eldership which may serve the Church in the future.

**37.2** What became clear from the research done on behalf of the Group was that the ministry of the Eldership is “diaconal” and has developed in a number of ways and changed and adapted according to the needs of the Church since its inception at the time of the Reformation. A full summary of the statements on the doctrinal understanding of the Eldership and its historical significance and growth may be viewed on [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk).

**37.3** The group was aware that many different forms of service are available to the Church in the office of the Elder. The challenge to the group was to find a means whereby these various models might be reflected upon and engaged with appropriately throughout the Church of Scotland. While the current model of Elders and districts developed out of the post-Napoleonic War period of industrial expansion in the cities of Scotland, it is clearly not the only model that is available for congregations to adopt. The Group has no wish to suggest, in a post-modern culture, that “one size fits all”, but would want to share the experience of various Kirk Sessions and groups of Elders to allow the variety and different models to enrich the Church as a whole.

**37.4** The group was also concerned that, while a lot of work had been undertaken on the subject of the Eldership prior to the re-organisation of the central administration of the Church in 2004/5, little had been done to bring that work to fruition in practice. Therefore the group set about looking at how various understandings of the Eldership might be considered by Kirk Sessions as they engage with the contemporary challenge of looking after the spiritual and temporal needs of congregations. The group was also aware that some of the recent changes in civil legislation, whereby Elders on the Kirk Session are deputed to act as Trustees, dictate that the role becomes even more challenging and important.

**37.5** A reflective paper was produced for use with Kirk Sessions based on some of the research which had been completed. Before it was issued, however, it became clear to the group that the most important issue of concern was to listen attentively to Elders and members of Kirk Sessions and reflect on their experience. If any new models or understandings are to be developed, they must be congruent with the life and experience of Kirk Sessions in a contemporary context.

**37.6** The reflective document is now available at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk) for those Kirk Sessions who wish to use it for education and development. The group decided its priority was to arrange a series of consultations throughout Scotland in April 2013. These took place in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cumnock, Perth, Inverness and Aberdeen. Two Elders were invited from each Kirk Session in these areas and a small representation of Ministers from Presbyteries in these areas was also encouraged to participate. A set of questions was devised and tested in a series of meetings arranged by members of the group in their home congregations, or in congregations which volunteered to be part of the experiment. The questions may be viewed on [www.resourcingmission.org.uk](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk).

**37.7** The responses from these consultations will shape a discussion paper for Kirk Sessions in 2013/14 and it is hoped that it will be possible to bring forward some material to the Assembly in 2014 for approval. It is the hope of the Council that this will be an opportunity for the Church to realise more fully the potential of the Eldership as an agent of mission and leadership within the Church of Scotland. At a time of change and decline in the number of full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament, the role of the Elder is of crucial importance. The Council wishes to highlight the work which has been undertaken and hopes that it might result in a flexible and varied model of Eldership in future, fit for the purpose of leadership within congregations.

**37.8** Once the result of the full consultation process is known and the approval of the General Assembly of 2014 is given for any proposals, the Council, through

Congregational Learning, will provide the courses of education and vocational development of Elders which are required if the Church is to utilise the Eldership appropriately. Initial reactions indicate that there is a real desire for Elders to be engaged (as is the case in most professions of these times) in continuing vocational development. If required, the Council will provide courses in the support of Elders from the time before they are ordained and throughout their years of service.

### **38. Statistics for Mission**

**38.1** In the summer, when the Scottish Census 2011 results are available, a statistical profile for each parish will be available through the Church of Scotland website. Close co-operation with the IT and Media Departments of the Church offices, and the National Record Office, has encouraged the Council group responsible for this work to believe that the statistics will be available in an accessible form for each parish shortly after the General Assembly. The Council is grateful to the Ministries Council and all others for the co-operation which has made this important initiative possible. The Council urges any remaining Presbyteries who have not sent in details of their parish boundaries to do so as soon as possible to allow us to ensure that our information is complete

**38.2** The Council believes that when this work is completed, there will be a need for some other group/council/committee covering the whole of the Church to take on board the ongoing work of updating and progressing the data and statistics which we are certain will be invaluable for the whole Church in its mission and strategic planning. It may be that such a group would sit independently but be representative of all Councils such as the Council of Assembly. This is not of immediate importance, but some thought and preliminary discussion ought to take place so that the General Assembly may be clear about what the next steps will be regarding responsibility, budget, and future planning.

**38.3** The Church is indebted to those who have offered their talents, skills and professional expertise in the production of this work to allow it to advance to this stage.

### **39. Conclusion**

**39.1** There is a story from the 16th Century of Sir Francis Drake planning an expedition. He gathered a group of sailors together and told them that if they came with him, they would see some of the most marvellous sights that they could ever imagine, exotic fruit, foreign peoples, amazing landscapes and priceless treasures. All of this could be theirs if they signed up for the trip. Yet no one signed on the dotted line. The next day Drake tried again. This time he spoke of how they would encounter storms that might terrify them, winds that would blow them off course and waves that would threaten to drown them. Danger would be their constant companion. He concluded by declaring that if they could handle these things, the joys of exploration would exceed their wildest dreams. The response was that everyone signed up.

**39.2** The response was not because the two groups were different. It all related to the format of the message. The first time he spoke of rewards and the second time he spoke of challenges. In one, he offered comfort and in the other he promised suffering. In the first, he tempted them with physical things, and in the second he offered them an experience unlike any other. It appears that Drake discovered what Jesus knew about human nature – that for us to follow him in the path of mission and discipleship, that path must shape us, build our character and change the way we view the world.

**39.3** In presenting this report, the Council is aware that words alone are insufficient to describe its work with congregations and presbyteries throughout the country. Such accounts do not adequately reflect the level of enthusiasm and commitment which is often demonstrated by members of congregations when they are involved in projects of creative and imaginative mission and discipleship. The Council is aware of the energy, dedication and vision in small and large congregations throughout the country, which support the continued revelation of the message of the Gospel. It is the privilege of the Council, with individuals and groups, to participate in the memorable work described by Archbishop Oscar Romero when he said, *"Our task is to put feet on the Gospel."*

**39.4** The Council is excited and encouraged by the requests for assistance and information it has received, as together we explore the meaning of mission and discipleship in the early 21st Century. As we continue to go on the journey with Jesus, a journey that has its roots in the Old Testament, and is characterised by the surprising and challenging nature of the Grace of God, we know that the Council will doubtless face its challenges and difficulties. In the journey that Mission and Discipleship has taken and will take in the future, there will be difficulties to surmount, problems to solve and sometimes enormous blockages to remove and tough decisions to be made. This is the nature of what we are called to do, in obedience to the invitation of Jesus, and we are assured that the God Jesus relied upon will bring that journey to fruition. With the support of the General Assembly and the involvement of so many in our work, we are confident that there is much that can be achieved in the future. This confidence is based on the abiding trust that we may have in the God who called Abraham, brought his Son into the world and commissioned the Church to follow in his teachings. As St Paul writes in I Corinthians 3: v 6-9 (New International Version):

*I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.  
So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything,  
but only God who makes things grow.  
The man who plants and the man who waters have  
one purpose,  
and each will be rewarded according to his own labour.  
For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field,  
God's building.*

*In the name of the Council*

COLIN SINCLAIR, *Convener*  
DAVID CAMERON, *Vice-Convener: Church Without Walls*  
RODDY HAMILTON, *Vice-Convener: Faith Expression*  
JOHN HAWTHORN, *Vice-Convener: Congregational Learning*  
NIGEL J ROBB, *Acting Council Secretary*  
(until 12 February 2013)  
ALISTER BULL, *Council Secretary* (from 13 February 2013)  
LESLEY HAMILTON-MESSER, *Team Leader:*  
*Church Without Walls*

*In the name of the Committee on Church Art and Architecture*

GRAEME ROBERTS, *Convener*  
IAN PATERSON, *Vice-Convener*  
NIGEL J ROBB, *Team Leader: Faith Expression*

## ADDENDUM

### David Cameron

David has brought to the role of Council Vice-Convener a long and enthusiastic association with the work of Church Without Walls. His commitment to its principles, and his belief in the vital importance of mission to the life and future of the Church, and, in particular, to the work of the Council, have been matched by the passion and energy he has shown throughout his years of service to the Council.

Tenacious but courteous in debate in Executive and Council meetings, David has had no hesitation in promoting the work of Church Without Walls, encouraging the Council to explore in detail how it can best support the mission and witness of congregations throughout Scotland.

With his background in industry and parish ministry, David has given generously of his time and energy as a Vice-Convener, and now returns to his parish on the edge of the Forth in a full time capacity. The Council wishes him well as he engages with a fresh set of opportunities and challenges, and is immensely grateful for the gifts he has so freely given to the work of the Council and invites the General Assembly to commend him for his service.

*In the name of the Council*

COLIN SINCLAIR, *Convener*  
RODDY HAMILTON, *Vice-Convener: Faith Expression*  
JOHN HAWTHORN, *Vice-Convener: Congregational Learning*  
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*Church Without Walls*

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GRAEME ROBERTS, *Convener*  
IAN PATERSON, *Vice-Convener*  
NIGEL J ROBB, *Team Leader: Faith Expression*

### **Nigel Robb**

When the post of Council Secretary became unexpectedly vacant, there was really only one person capable of stepping up to take on the daunting task of steering the Council through the uncharted waters that lay ahead – the Rev Nigel Robb. Nigel filled the role of Acting Council Secretary for what turned out to be 16 months, while at the same time continuing to lead the Faith Expressions team; later still he also oversaw the work of Congregational Learning.

During that time Nigel played a vital role in holding the staff team together, working extremely hard to ensure that through a difficult period the work of Mission and Discipleship continued as effectively as possible.

Nigel's capacious grasp of the work of the Council enabled him to have a key role in helping to shape the new structure, one that put the focus of our work more clearly on supporting congregations in their call to mission and discipleship. His many years of experience within the Church Offices, and his finely tuned grasp of the harsher financial climate in which we must now work, helped the Council to face up to the challenge of transition and to bring this period of the Council's life to a significant and satisfactory conclusion. We thank Nigel for his willingness to provide the expert leadership that was needed and invite the General Assembly to commend him for his service.

*In the name of the Council*

COLIN SINCLAIR, *Convener*  
DAVID CAMERON, *Vice-Convener: Church Without Walls*  
RODDY HAMILTON, *Vice-Convener: Faith Expression*  
JOHN HAWTHORN, *Vice-Convener: Congregational Learning*  
ALISTER BULL, *Council Secretary (from 13 February 2013)*  
LESLEY HAMILTON-MESSER, *Team Leader: Church Without Walls*

*In the name of the Committee on Church Art and Architecture*

GRAEME ROBERTS, *Convener*  
IAN PATERSON, *Vice-Convener*

## **APPENDIX I COMMITTEE ON CHURCH ART AND ARCHITECTURE MEETING DATES FOR 2013**

27 June, 26 September, 5 December

## **APPENDIX II CO-OPTED MEMBERS ON GROUPS AND COMMITTEES**

### **Pray Now Group**

Rev Carol Ford  
Rev Peggy Roberts  
Rev Tina Kemp  
Rev Mark Foster  
Rev Adam Dillon  
Rev Mary Ann Rennie  
Ms Ishbel McFarlane

### **'Why Believe?' Group**

Church of Scotland: Mrs Alison Carter, Prof Joe Houston,  
Rev Jock Stein, Dr Donald Bruce,  
Dr Paul Nimmo  
Salvation Army: Mr John Coutts  
Scottish Episcopal: Prof Wilson Poon  
Free Church: Rev David Robertson  
Baptist: Rev Andy Scarcliffe  
Methodist: Dr Gerald Bostock  
Roman Catholic: Dr Victoria Harrison

### **Statistics for Mission**

Mr Andy Whittet  
Mr David Stewart  
Mr Douglas Vallance  
Mr Norman Jamieson  
Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie  
Dr David Lewis

**Scots Language Group**

Rev Dr Robert K MacKenzie

Mr Jamie Stewart

Rev James Campbell

Rev James Merilees

**Interfaith and Mission Group**

Mrs Rosemary Dowsett

Dr Martin Whittingham

Rev Mahboob Masih

Rev Ken Ross

Dr David Smith

Rev Malcolm Duff

Mr John Kennedy

Rev David Black

