

## 7. GAELIC IN THE CHURCH

### 7.1

The Gaelic Group of the Council has been working under the leadership of the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison to help promote and develop the use of the Gaelic language in the Church of Scotland. The membership includes the Principals of both the Highland Theological College and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (the Gaelic College in Skye), along with a serving Gaelic-speaking minister and an Elder who is a native speaker.

### 7.2

The Gaelic Group has made significant progress this year in the development of a Gaelic Language Plan. The Group took advice from a member of staff from Bòrd na Gàidhlig who gave guidance on taking this project further. Following much consideration, Steven MacIver was appointed on a temporary basis to take on a three-month post to help develop the plan for the Church. An audit of Gaelic Ministry was carried out in January in order to gather further information and a better understanding of the use of Gaelic in the Church. It is hoped that the draft plan will be presented in the Supplementary Report of the Council of Assembly.

### 7.3

The remit of the Group has been updated and can be found in Appendix 2.

### 7.4

Members of the Group have been exploring the opportunity to produce *The God Question* in Gaelic as an ecumenical project. An analysis of this has been completed and the Group will now seek funding to enable this to happen.

### 7.5

It was reported last year that after 37 years of service to Na Duilleagan Gàidhlig, the Rev Dr Roderick MacLeod would be handing over the role of editor. In the interim, it was agreed that an Editorial Team would take on the task of editing the publication. Over the past year, this team has produced a number of issues which has included highlights of Na Duilleagan Gàidhlig over the years.

### 7.6

In order to produce new resources and materials, as well as activities, the Gaelic Group is exploring a number of different opportunities to receive funding for this work, both internal and external to the Church.

### 7.7

The Council would wish to thank the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison for his contribution to the work of the Gaelic Group. His commitment has resulted in a significant step forward in the support of Gaelic Ministry across the Church including the development of a Gaelic Language Plan. His leadership has left a solid foundation for the work of the Group to continue.

## Appendix 2

### GAELIC GROUP REMIT

The Council of Assembly has a coordinating function relating to the promotion of the use of Gaelic in the Church of Scotland. It fulfils this function through the work of the Gaelic Group. The remit of the Gaelic group will be:

1. To coordinate the Church's contribution to the development and promotion of Gaelic within the Church.
2. To explore ways in which Gaelic can continue to make its distinctive contribution to the religious life of Scotland and the Church of Scotland.
3. To promote the use of Gaelic both in the context of traditional worship services and in imaginative ways that take account of the developing needs of the Gaelic-speaking and Gaelic-learning communities in Scotland.
4. To monitor and report progress among Councils in relation to Gaelic worship and ministry.
5. To maintain contact with the London Gaelic Service, supporting its efforts to ensure an ongoing provision of Gaelic medium worship.
6. To develop and implement a Gaelic Language Plan for the use of Gaelic in the Church.
7. To coordinate with Life and Work on the production and future development of Na Duilleagan Gàidhlig.

### Membership:

Convener, Vice-convener and 4 members appointed by the Council of Assembly.

The Group shall report on its work to the Council of Assembly through the Secretary of the Council