

Church of Scotland - General Assembly 2021
Brief Preview

**General Assembly 2021 will be held via Zoom
from Saturday 22 - Thursday 27 May.**

I shall be one of the Commissioners from the Presbytery of Gordon.

The General Assembly 2021 will be held online for a second year.

It will open on Saturday 22 May with commissioners and other attendees joining together remotely from across Scotland and around the world.

Plans are being made by Assembly Business Committee for this online Assembly, which will again be facilitated via Zoom and the "Assembly Hub".

On Saturday 22 May, there will be an opening session at 10am, including the installation of the Moderator, and an afternoon session at 1pm.

To limit screen time, business sessions Monday to Thursday will be across two afternoon sessions 1pm and 4pm, with anticipated latest end times of 3.30pm and 6pm respectively.

The General Assembly will close on the Thursday afternoon.

Issues for debate?

It is expected that there will be at least three issues that may have significant effects on congregations.

1. New legislation to permit Team Ministries. This may include tenure.
2. A proposal to reduce the number of FTEMWS to 500. This may impinge on the new Plan of the Presbytery of Gordon (and other presbyteries).
3. A new form of Ministry and Mission contributions. This may lead to less being paid to the Church Offices; the new larger presbyteries being allowed to keep a greater percentage of the moneys paid by congregations; a decrease or increase in payments made by congregations.

What congregations may have to pay once larger presbyteries are established will depend upon the cost of running the new presbyteries. The presbyteries will have to pay for the staffing each chooses to run the presbytery. Initially there may be a grant given to each presbytery from the national Church Offices to help with start-up costs, but such a grant is unlikely to exceed £150,000, and is unlikely to be extended beyond the start-up stage. A few richer presbyteries are expected to receive no start-up grant.