



THE SCOTTISH COLLEGE (CONGREGATIONAL AND UNITED REFORMED)
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No SC051195

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

The College Annual General Meeting will be held
at **2.00pm** on **Friday 11 March 2022**.

The meeting will be held at

Helensburgh United Reformed Church
35 West Princes Street,
Helensburgh
G84 8TF

Those unable to be present in person are invited to join online at:

zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 991 2985 9553

Passcode: 731856

or through the 'quick link'

tinyurl.com/joinAGM2022

All are welcome to attend this meeting. Representatives of local churches in membership of the College may vote.

Please call JM Scott on 0795 7657770 if you have any questions about setup, etc in advance of 12 noon on 11 March.

Once the meeting is in progress, we will unfortunately NOT BE ABLE to help with connection difficulties. We hope you will understand.



AGENDA
COLLEGE ANNUAL MEETING 2022
2.00pm Friday 11 March 2022

- 1 Welcome and Introduction
Opening Prayer
- 2 Annual Report
See attached paper A
- 3 Principal's Address
- 4 Treasurer's Report
Final 2021 Accounts for the
Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College
are available at
tinyurl.com/SURCC-accounts-final

Resolutions will be put
 - to note the accounts and
 - to reappoint MacMillan Craig, Chartered Accountants,
as independent examiners
- 5 Election of Trustees
See attached paper B
- 6 Resolution concerning membership status of Trustees
See attached paper C
- 7 Chairperson's Notices
- 8 Any Other Competent Business
- 9 The Grace

THE SCOTTISH COLLEGE (CONGREGATIONAL AND UNITED REFORMED) SCIO
3/2 Atlantic Chambers, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2AE
Scottish Charity SC051195

The College Trustees

Chairperson Myra Rose DipPrimaryEd
Secretary Revd John Bremner BD MTh
Treasurer Mark Kirkbride BSc FCIBS

Dr Graham Templeton
Douglas Hay BSc
Revd Craig Jesson BA MA
Revd Sue Kirkbride BSc MTh CertEd
Margaret Higton (Student representative, elected by the ordinand students)
Revd Lindsey H Sanderson MA BD MBA

The College Academic Staff

Revd Dr John McNeil Scott BA BD LLM DMin PgCertEd FRAS FRSA
Principal

Revd Fiona E Bennett BD
College Tutor

Revd Andy Braunston JP BA MA
College Tutor (2022-23)

Professor R Scott Spurlock BA MTh MSc PhD FSA Scot
College Tutor

Revd Dr John W Dyce
BA LLB MA(Ed) MSc MLitt PhD DipAdEd DPSE AdvDipEd Dip Viking Studies FSAScot FCIPD
Emeritus Research Professor of Nordic Theology

Ordinands

Third Year

Roberta Ritson	United Reformed Church Northern Synod Scottish Episcopal Institute
Louise Sanders	United Reformed Church Northern Synod Scottish Episcopal Institute
Lesley Thomson	United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland University of Glasgow

Second Year

Cathy Crosbie	United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland University of Aberdeen
Margaret Higton	United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland University of Aberdeen
Derek McDonald	United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland University of Aberdeen

First Year

Michael Topple	United Reformed Church Eastern Synod University of Glasgow
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ANNUAL REPORT

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

As the College pushes forwards in service with 210 years 'on the clock' since its foundation as the Glasgow Theological Academy, this report is offered as the first reflection on College life and work since the assets, students, staff, partnerships and traditions of our learning community transferred to a new corporate form and the **Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College**, a private charitable association, became **The Scottish College (Congregational and United Reformed)**, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

The College celebrated this transition at our Annual Service in September 2021, when we were delighted to welcome the Revd Thomas R Wilson, the Minister of Knightswood Congregational Church and Chair of the Congregational Federation in Scotland, as our guest preacher.

Our new constitutional status as a SCIO allows us to give concrete and practical effect to the College's desire to be in relationship with both United Reformed and continuing Congregational churches in Scotland, while respecting the wider partnerships – ecclesiastical and educational - in which the churches and the College are embedded.

Although in close relationship with the United Reformed Church - and its National Synod of Scotland, in particular – the College remains a distinct body. Its Trustees, like those of all independent charitable bodies, are not representatives of any outside interests but charged with furthering our agreed charitable objects:

- a) the education and training of adults for Christian ministry, primarily within the Congregational and United Reformed Churches in Scotland;
- b) the advancement of education among, and the training of, church members [...]; and
- c) the advancement of the Christian religion through publication of materials and promoting public debate aimed at deepening understanding of the Christian faith.

We are grateful that many United Reformed local churches in Scotland have taken the initiative to confirm their association with the College under the new constitutional arrangements. We celebrate the willingness of Congregational Federation local churches to similarly associate as members.

Our desire is to be a community of learning and companionship rooted in the Scottish context where our national conversations give substance and strength to the contributions we make to the wider ecclesial bodies to which we belong.

The College values its status as a recognised centre of training for Ministry of Word and Sacrament of the United Reformed Church and appreciates the resources of collegiality, and of finance, that flow from it.

The 'new college' especially welcomes its 'new member churches' of the Congregational Federation. We ask for your engagement and, when needed, your forgiveness as we seek to draw closer. When we are clumsy, or forgetful of your interests, please let us know and give us the opportunity to do better. This 2022 report details our work for and within the United Reformed Church. As the future unfolds we hope to have increasingly more to say about our engagement with our CF member churches.

This College Annual General Meeting is the first gathering of this type since 2019. Staff, students, trustees and officers – along with all in our local churches – have suffered and endured much. And we have learned a lot.

We meet at a time when most public health restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic have been lifted. Yet there continues to be a high prevalence of the virus in our communities, and deaths caused by the disease persist at a concerning rate. Our meeting takes place in 'hybrid format' with members able to participate 'in person' and online – evidence of the new ways of working that we have developed.

Since the 2019 meeting the number of ordinand students has increased from one to seven! The College pays tribute to the forbearance, flexibility and resilience of those training for Ministry of Word and Sacraments. It has not been an easy time to prepare for ministerial service.

Perhaps the greatest challenge has been the uncertainty that has necessarily accompanied all planning - until very recently, it seems. One negative consequence of this has been the difficulty in making elements of the programme for ordinands open to fellow learners in the churches as we have done in the past. We hope that this wider fellowship of learning will be restored and extended as we move into new times.

The period covered by this report began under stringent public health restrictions as a pandemic entered a second year. It ends with Europe falling again under the shadow of war, as the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues. Daily we stand witness to the evil and irresponsible misuse of military might, and to its consequences. This challenges our faith, our judgements, our wisdom and our resilience. We witness to our faith in the God of love and of justice, and seek to persevere in our work - neither averting our eyes from the horror of our times, nor being overcome by it.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 1

This College is recognised by the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church as one of three recognised resource centres for learning for Great Britain. Our charitable objects provide that our primary focus should be equipping people for service in the churches of Scotland. In addition, our recognition by the United Reformed Church's General Assembly requires, invites and challenges the College to ensure that its training pathways for EM1 are available and suitable for ordinands throughout the URC, with particular attention to provision for those residing in Northern England.

The College has been involved in developing training for a new pattern of non-stipendiary ministry, identified as 'Model 4'. Ordinands are trained for this mode largely in their current context of service, with the expectation that they will remain in that sphere of service following ordination.

Since the last Annual Meeting we have been delighted to welcome a student from Eastern Synod, Michael Topple. He joins our two other students from furth of Scotland, Roberta Ritson and Louise Sanders, under the care of Northern Synod. The number of our Synod of Scotland students stands at four: Lesley Thomson, Cathy Crosbie, Margaret Higton and Derek McDonald.

Students

Louise Sanders and **Roberta Ritson** are in their final year of studies with the Scottish Episcopal Institute toward Common Awards qualifications validated by the University of Durham. Louise and Roberta are undertaking placements with St Columba's North Shields (Revd Trevor Jamison) and St John the Evangelist LEP, Kingston Park (Revd Adele Moorhouse). **Michael Topple** is pursuing undergraduate studies with the University of Glasgow and has been on placement at St Ninians's Stonehouse (Revd Stewart Cutler).

Lesley Thomson continues to study for a Bachelor of Divinity degree with the University of Glasgow. She has made her mark both academically and in the community of ordinands from other denominations also studying there. She is on placement at St Mary the Virgin, Hamilton and St Andrew's Uddingston (Scottish Episcopal Churches) under the supervision of the Revd Matthew Little.

Our 'NSM4 students' are **Cathy Crosbie**, **Margaret Higton** and **Derek McDonald**. They have followed studies on the Theology and Religion Flexible Learning Programme with the University of Aberdeen and are developing their experience within and outwith their anticipated context of service under the guidance of their mentors, respectively – the Revds Lindsey Sanderson, Andy Braunston and Susan Henderson.

We are grateful to all of the ordinand students for their perseverance and engagement with the College formational programme and with their placements, as well as with studies through our educational partners. We thank them for the gifts of friendship and wisdom that each brings, as well as the sense of belonging to a church within and beyond Scotland.

Our great thanks go also to those who give of their time, insight and experience as placement supervisors and mentors.

Placements

Practical professional experience is a vital part of initial ministerial education and we are grateful to those ministers, elders and congregations that so willingly and helpfully receive ordinands on placement, particularly in the past year. Service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament is more challenging than ever before, and the need to develop resilience, insight, wisdom, flexibility and judgement has never been greater. Placements give our ministers in training an opportunity to learn from innovative

practice, to engage with a range of contexts, to enter into the rhythm of ministerial life and service, to try out their own ideas, and to practise the skills of ministry. It is good to know that those who receive students very often report that they benefit from having ordinands with them. We acknowledge that changing patterns of ministry are placing additional burdens on both ministers and local leadership and we are glad and grateful that the education of our ordinands remains important to them. This has been an unusually challenging year and we are grateful to all for their support.

We believe that our way of educating – a close relationship to the life of the Church – in whatever situations we face – and drawing on a range of disciplines and perspectives, rooted in a radical tradition, ecumenical in commitment and undertaken primarily through conversation – is one that contributes well to ministerial formation.

Vocations and Candidating

The Church continues to have need of fresh calling to ministry and we look to be partners with congregations in nurturing the gifts of all, some of whom we hope will sense a call to ministry of Word and Sacrament. As other forms of service continue to develop, we are ready to play our part in offering the learning and development opportunities that will be required to the end that all shall play their invited part in the call of God to the whole people of God, expressed in worship, leadership and service.

Following a period of meeting wholly online, the November 2021 General Assembly Assessment Conference for those candidating for Ministry of Word and Sacrament and CRCW ministry was held in person again, and the same arrangement is in place for March 2022.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 2 AND 3

The College co-operates with the **Revds Jenny Mills** (The United Reformed Church's Secretary for Education and Learning) and **Nicola Furley-Smith** (The United Reformed Church's Secretary for Ministries) in support of ministers in their early years through the Education for Ministry 2 phase, currently we have the **Revd Susan Henderson** on this programme. We are grateful to those who act as pastoral advisers for 'young' ministers in this phase. We are aware of increasing pressures of time and commitment and hope that experienced ministers will continue to agree to serve in this role as there are ordinands 'in the pipeline'. The pattern of EM2 provision is expected to shift over the next few years and the College is working with URC Education and Learning, as well as with Synod Moderators and others as scope and responsibility is re-negotiated throughout the United Reformed Church.

Ministers Gatherings and Conferences

A Synod of Scotland ministers' conference was to be held in May 2020 at the Schoenstatt Retreat House. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed on a number of occasions. It is hoped to hold a short residential gathering for ministers in the URC

Synod of Scotland in autumn. This will be in addition to the United Reformed Church's Assembly-wide Gathering for ministers in May 2022 at Yarnfield Park, the attendance charge for which is being shared for Scottish URC ministers between the Synod and the College.

SUPPORTING AND RESOURCING LEARNING

Stepwise

Almost all of the Stepwise resource for discipleship development has been piloted and is now available to the church. The College has been involved through the Principal's engagement on the Stepwise Learning Standards Board. The work of this committee has recently been passed to a newly constituted Stepwise Development Group.

Stepwise is centrally co-ordinated from United Reformed Church House in London and members, ministers and elders are invited to explore the opportunities afforded through this initiative at www.urc.org.uk/stepwise

Eldership, Communion Training and Lay Preaching

The College values greatly its role as provider, partner and encourager of training, initial and ongoing for a wide range of roles in the church. The Principal is always happy to receive requests and suggestions concerning gaps in provision that the College can usefully be involved in filling. We have agreed with the Synod of Scotland Pastoral Committee a schedule for training those authorised to preside at the sacraments. Initial and refresher training will be offered in the early autumn.

We are disappointed that the annual residential consultation for lay preachers at Millport had to be postponed again in 2021. A new residential venue is being sought for this year. The College also administers the continuing education grants scheme for accredited lay preachers, which may be used for attending training events and/or for purchasing books.

The Synod of Scotland Pastoral Committee has responsibility for agreeing the nomination of people proposed by churches in the United Reformed Church to celebrate Holy Communion and baptism in recognised circumstances. The College supports this through the provision of both initial learning, and in refresher learning. We have agreed with the Synod of Scotland Pastoral Committee a schedule for training those authorised to preside at the sacraments. Initial and refresher training will be offered in the early autumn. The College has been pleased to support eldership training in a number of pastorates during the year.

COLLEGE STAFFING AND OFFICERS

Academic Staff

The Revd Lindsey Sanderson finished in her role as a college tutor in July 2021 following seven years' service. Lindsey brought local ministry involvement, significant ecumenical and world church experience, and other wide-ranging gifts to her tutorial role. We are grateful to Lindsey for her service as tutor, for her continuing contribution

to our teaching and for serving as an NSM4 mentor. In addition, Lindsey is a Trustee of the College. For all that she has done and continues to do we are very grateful.

During the year **Professor Scott Spurlock** has continued to support the College through serving as tutor for some of our ordinands. Scott is Professor of Scottish and Early Modern Christianities at Glasgow University. We thank Scott for the energy and commitment he brings to his role with us.

The Revd Fiona Bennett was elected to serve as Moderator of the United Reformed Church's General Assembly for 2022-23. Fortuitously perhaps, before her election the College had already asked her to serve as a tutor (and Fiona agreed). Fiona has engaged actively with the ordinand students and travelled widely to attend College events and learning meetings. She has quickly become a wise, steady and supportive part of the College community and is appreciated not just by students but also her staff colleagues. We are proud that the General Assembly has called Fiona to be its Moderator and offer our support during her year of office, looking forward also to those times after 2023 when she has more time to spend with us.

Over the past few years of pandemic we have appreciated the involvement of the **Revd Andy Braunston** in College life. Andy has taught sessions at College events including sessions on church procedures and trusteeship, as well as theological reflections on slavery. He has been a placement supervisor and an NSM4 mentor. We are delighted that Andy has agreed to join the tutorial team as *locum* tutor to cover Fiona Bennett's reduced availability during her moderatorial year. We have valued his contribution to College life and are grateful indeed to him for agreeing to support the College in this way.

The Revd Dr Jack Dyce is our Emeritus Research Professor of Nordic Studies, working in Nordic regional studies and their contribution to theology and interdisciplinary dialogue. In past years Jack has had a very full schedule speaking at conferences and writing articles for journals and book chapters. We know of and share his sadness that the current public health situation has put paid to many of his plans for the last couple of years. We were grateful to have him join us when we met for a College training event at Greenock during the year.

Trustees and Officers

The ongoing contribution of **Myra Rose, the Revd John Bremner** and **Mark Kirkbride** as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the College cannot be overestimated. We are grateful to them for their steady leadership. Special thanks are due to Mark for his attention to detail and to managing our finances with care and flair.

During the past year the Officers completed plans to change our governance, which – as noted - involved the College becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. A reconvened Annual Meeting agreed the necessary constitutional changes to allow the transfer to a new structure. The 'new college' became operational on 1 October 2021.

Good governance is important for our body and we are grateful to all who continue to serve as Trustees. Their forbearance from time to time when meeting arrangements have needed to be altered is noted and appreciated.

ECUMENICAL and ACADEMIC PARTNERS

The Scottish Episcopal Institute has for many years been a significant partner with us in theological education. The partnership continues in initial ministerial education for those ordinands for whom this is the most appropriate pathway, but the collaboration has been diverse and continues to develop beyond the scope of EM1. In particular, the principal has been very happy to be involved in joint training of placement supervisors and theological dialogues. He also offered a United Reformed Church option for one of the Common Awards courses in the last academic year. The Principal of SEI, the **Revd Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson**, as well as **Revd Dr Mike Hull**, **Revd Dr Richard Tiplady** and **Mrs Linda Harrison**, are all valued colleagues, whose support we gratefully acknowledge. We look forward to future co-operation on a number of fronts.

Our other primary partner is the University of Glasgow where the principal is an Affiliated Staff member with Theology and Religious Studies and we are fortunate to enjoy the dual involvement of **Professor Scott Spurlock** in both College and University.

Following the advent of NSM Model 4 a further training partnership is developing with the University of Aberdeen through **Revd Dr Ken Jeffrey** and **Professor Philip Ziegler**.

URC EDUCATION AND LEARNING

As a Resource Centre for Learning recognised by the United Reformed Church, the College participates in the networks of learning support in the denomination. These include areas such as Stepwise, the URC Research Network, and the funding and programming for EM2 and 3. We are also involved with those in other parts of Great Britain who hold a local training and development brief, notably in the Synod Training and Development Network.

We work with Westminster College in Cambridge and Northern College in Manchester. Discussion with these other RCLs increasingly focus on ways of serving the whole people of God in more integrated and co-ordinated ways. We greatly value the collegiality of staff at the other colleges that serve the United Reformed Church. In particular we have appreciated our engagement with the **Revd Dr Robert Pope** (Acting Principal at Westminster) and the Principal of Northern College, the **Revd Dr Rosalind Selby**, as we work together on strategic matters. This includes ongoing discussions, involving also other members of RCL staff and stakeholders, concerning integration and efficiencies in our service to the denomination.

As Secretary for Education and Learning for the United Reformed Church the **Revd Jenny Mills** has been a great support to the Principal and the College. Jenny is an interested and welcome observer at our College Trustee Meetings. Jenny works

closely with the **Revd Nicola Furley-Smith**, the Secretary for Ministries. The College is grateful for their collegueship and the close working that we increasingly enjoy. We were delighted to welcome Jenny and Nicola to Glasgow in February 2022 for a time together with the Trustees, staff and ordinand students. It is through this kind of personal extended contact that we are able to deepen our understanding of the constraints, needs, hopes and ways of working that each has. We hope they enjoyed their visit as much as we did.

COLLEGE ACCOMMODATION and SYNOD PARTNERSHIP

We thank the Moderator of the National Synod of Scotland the **Revd Paul Whittle** for his engagement with the College. He is a valued and supportive colleague at our shared and jointly owned offices in Atlantic Chambers in central Glasgow. We appreciate also the friendly co-operation that we share with the **Revd Jan Adamson** as Synod Clerk. Jan is no stranger to close working with the College and it is good to be working together again.

The most obvious change to our expected pattern of operation in the office was the continuation of hybrid working, where staff divide their time between working at home and being in the office. The pattern has varied as public health requirements have changed but there is still a degree of working away from base that would not have been imagined a few years ago.

The time since our last report has been challenging in many different ways and we acknowledge the commitment, good humour and forbearance of all our colleagues in Synod and College.

Little would have happened this year without **Jackie Kyle** and **Patsi Dickie**, who went far beyond the necessary tasks of their posts in adapting to the needs of the time. We thank them warmly for the support and friendship that both show to the College – Principal, officers, trustees, tutors and students. It does not go unnoticed and is not taken for granted.

John McNeil Scott, Principal

**Myra Rose, Chairperson
John Bremner, Secretary
Mark Kirkbride, Treasurer**



**The Scottish College (Congregational and United Reformed) SCIO SC051195
Annual General Meeting – 2022
Election of Trustees**

Mr. Mark Kirkbride and Revd. John Bremner have come to the end of their current term as Trustees and are willing to be re-elected.

Mr. Mark Kirkbride

Mark Kirkbride has served for several years as College Treasurer. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Bankers and a member of Peedie Kirk United Reformed Church in Kirkwall.

Proposed: Miss Myra Rose, Barrhead United Reformed Church

Seconded: Mr. Ray Kemp, Peedie Kirk United Reformed Church, Kirkwall

Revd. John S. Bremner

John Bremner has served as College Secretary since the autumn of 2019. He is the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Officer of the United Reformed Synod of Scotland.

Proposed: Miss Myra Rose, Barrhead United Reformed Church

Seconded:

Revd. Thomas Wilson is also standing for election as a Trustee.

Tom Wilson is minister of Knightswood Congregational Church and is currently Chair of the Scotland Area of the Congregational Federation.

Proposed: Revd. John Bremner, Grahamston United Church

Seconded:

It would be helpful if any further candidatures were to be notified to the College Secretary prior to the commencement of the Meeting

John S. Bremner
College Secretary
March 7th, 2022

john.bremner@scottishcollege.org



Change to the Constitution of

The Scottish College (Congregational and United Reformed) SCIO

Introduction

It may seem very strange that an organisation less than a year old should need to change its Constitution, but whilst preparing for the College's Annual General Meeting it became apparent that there is no clarity in the Constitution regarding the rights of Trustees to vote at that meeting.

Our Treasurer, Mark Kirkbride, agreed to contact the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator for a ruling on this matter. He reported back as follows:

Regarding members and trustees voting at AGM, I have spoken to OSCR who have had to take legal advice. Both their model SCIO constitution and the Act of Parliament (fail to be) clear (indeed are totally) silent on voting by Trustees at an AGM when it is a two-tier organisation (members and board) as we are.

The advice from OSCR is that, for the sake of clarity, we should consider amending the constitution if we wish trustees to be able to vote. This would be to add to our constitution that Trustees are members for the period of their office. Also, we should add a constraint that the Trustees cannot swing a vote by themselves at an AGM, as this could otherwise risk undermining the role of the AGM.

The Trustees considered this matter at their meeting in February and used also the opportunity to consider two minor clarifications concerning the role of Trustees. The Trustees propose the following **Resolution**:

Following advice from OSCR, the Annual General Meeting agrees to make the following changes to the Constitution of the College

1. Add to clause 14: "Each Trustee shall also have the status of 'Full Member' during that Trustee's term of office."

2. Add to clause 66: "For the avoidance of doubt, Trustees are entitled to vote at an AGM and an EGM. However, the Trustees exercising a vote must not constitute more than 49% of those present and entitled to vote at an AGM or EGM. If such a situation arises, the Trustees must agree among themselves as to which of them shall be entitled to vote at that meeting"

3. Add to clause 69 the words "at the end of" prior to "each Annual General Meeting"

4. Add to clause 70 the words "at the end of" prior to "the AGM"

In order to make these changes to the Constitution, 75% of those present and entitled to vote must be in agreement.

John S. Bremner
College Secretary
March 5th, 2022