

December 2025

Colleagues,

Following the letter you received from the Moderator, Dr Murray, this is a follow-up with some detailed information about practical aspects of the Special General Assembly. You will know that the Special Assembly is planned for Thursday 18 December, beginning at 11.00am, with a morning session of worship until about 12.30pm. A business session will follow, starting at 1.30pm until the close of business.

It is important to note the following:

1. Representation

Kirk Sessions are asked to appoint a representative elder in the normal way. This may be the elder who represented the Kirk Session at the June 2025 General Assembly, or another elder.

The Kirk Session should decide who their representative elder will be, with the decision recorded in the Session Minutes.

It is not sufficient for an assumption to be made that the elder who served in June 2025 will do so again in December 2025. Even if the same elder is appointed, a further decision as outlined above, must be taken to enact this.

2. Registration

There will be no registration cards issued before the date of the Assembly. Ministers and representative elders should therefore come to the registration area in the downstairs conference area of Assembly Buildings, which will be open from 9.00am.

On registration, **ministers and representative elders** will be issued with a **hard copy of the report and a voting card.**

Non-voting members of Assembly should also register and will receive a **hard copy of the report** when they do so.

Those who are not members of the Assembly **do not need to register.**

Assembly members are asked to arrive in good time, as there is likely to be a large number of people to be registered.

3. Seating

Members of the Assembly are asked, as far as possible, to sit within the Assembly Hall. Seats on the ground floor should be filled first.

During the business session, the votes of members sitting both downstairs and in the gallery will be counted. Members of Assembly wishing to speak during debate should sit in the designated seats in the front row on the ground floor.

If necessary, overflow seating will be provided in the Minor Hall and, if it is full, in the downstairs conference area.

4. Reports

The business session of the Assembly will consist of the report of the General Council.

It is planned that this will be sent electronically as a PDF on 11 or 12 December, soon after the General Council meeting, and it will be available at the same time on the PCI website. Hard copies will be available on registration.

Hard copies of the report for non-members of Assembly will be available at the Information Point at the Carrickfergus window.

5. Debate

To facilitate debate, the General Council report may be divided into sections. Speeches will begin at the normal duration – seven minutes for the proposer and seconder, and four minutes for other speeches.

6. Questions

Some of the issues to be discussed may be sensitive. Consequently, Members of Assembly are asked to submit questions in advance of the meeting. This will allow considered answers to be given. Where no notice is given, it is more likely that answers will be brief and may not match the expectations of those asking the questions.

7. Amendments

The Business Committee is bringing a recommendation to the General Council at its meeting on 11 December, stating that all proposed amendments should be with the Clerk by **12 noon on Wednesday 17 December**.

The Business Committee plans to meet on the afternoon of that date to license business, including any amendments.

8. Livestreaming

It is planned that the entire Assembly will be in public and will be livestreamed. Access to the Hall will be given to the media. Members of congregations are warmly invited to attend, or to follow the livestream.

Recordings of the entire proceedings will be available on the PCI website as soon as is technically possible.

9. Prayer Meeting

The Moderator will lead a prayer meeting in the Minor Hall from 9-10am. This is open to all as we seek God for such a time as this. Members may come and go but attendance is encouraged as we keep the Lord always before us and seek Him together.

10. Parameters

Senior members of the PSNI Investigation Team and the Department of Health attended and addressed a meeting of the General Council on 19 November. At that meeting, it was stated that while members of PCI are not prevented from speaking about safeguarding matters, nothing should be said publicly that would compromise their investigation.

In practice, this means that no details of any specific past failings should be shared, beyond what is already in the public domain.

Assembly members must note this, as it is important that nothing is said that would either potentially defame an individual, nor impinge upon the Police investigation which is ongoing.



David Bruce
Convener of General Council



David Allen
Acting Clerk of
General Assembly