

# OneKirk Press Release

OneKirk Working Group  
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## **An Invitation to Dialogue**

*The Assembly seeks to encourage consultation and dialogue*

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland decided on Monday 25 May 2009 to create a Special Commission in order to present a report to the General Assembly of 2011 on Ordination and Induction to the Ministry of the Church of Scotland. The Special Commission will build on the work of the report received by the General Assembly in 2007, "A challenge to unity: same-sex relationships as an issue in theology and human sexuality" in consultation with Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions in light of the case of *Aitken and Others vs the Presbytery of Aberdeen* (involving the call of Rev Scott Rennie).

OneKirk welcome the Special Commission. We pray that Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions will, in the spirit of the call to further dialogue and conversation within the church, take the opportunity to reflect on the issues that have been raised.

Rev Peter Johnston, Convenor of OneKirk Working Group, says,

"The Church of Scotland has been encouraged by the General Assembly to talk to one another, not just those with whom we might agree, but to talk and listen with people from different backgrounds and traditions. This is always to be welcomed."

We commend to the Church the study materials produced by the Mission and Discipleship Council, "Seeing the world as others see it", to assist reflection on some of the contentious issues that have been raised. We encourage a prayerful and respectful dialogue among those within the church who sincerely come to different conclusions from both the Biblical witness and experience of the Spirit's moving. We believe such a dialogue, while inevitably difficult, will be a blessing to the church as a whole.

Ends

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