

**INNERLEITHEN 1 MAY 2018.** At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the first day of May 2018, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Prof Murray Campbell.

**SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES:** There were present 18 ministers and 32 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book. The Moderator welcomed all to Presbytery and thanked Mr Paul Faris for his technical support at Presbytery meetings over recent years.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the meetings of 6 March 2018 and 17 April 2018 were submitted and approved.

**ADMISSION OF REV DAVID DONALDSON:** The Moderator welcomed Rev David Donaldson, formerly of the Presbytery of Uist. Following declaration of adherence to his ordination vows, Mr Donaldson signed the Formula and was offered the right hand of fellowship.

**COMMISSIONING OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018:** Those appointed by Presbytery to be members of the forthcoming General Assembly were commissioned in prayer and charged by the Moderator to be diligent in fulfilling their duties as Commissioners. The Moderator then led Presbytery in prayer for the Commissioners and for the work of the Assembly.

**SPEAKER – CRYSTAL CRYER, 24-7 PRAYER SCOTLAND:** Rev Winnie Munson introduced Ms Crystal Cryer, National Co-ordinator for 24-7 Prayer Scotland, who gave a presentation to Presbytery on the history of the 24-7 prayer movement and its current operation in Scotland. The movement began in 1998 with a vision given to Pete Greig of waves of young people praying across Europe, and this spread rapidly into a global prayer movement with a focus on prayer and justice. The movement is active in Scotland through 24-7 Prayer Scotland, which also covers Prayer Spaces in Schools. This year, 24-7 Prayer Scotland is joining with the “Thy Kingdom Come” prayer initiative around Pentecost. The Moderator thanked Ms Cryer for her inspiring and informative presentation.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business was approved as printed with the addition of a statement by Rev J Wallace.

**BUSINESS COMMITTEE:** Rev Calum Macdougall, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery nominated Rev Julie Rennick and Mr Mark Wands for the Commission of Assembly for 2018-19.
2. Presbytery noted that Elders’ Commissions for 2018-19 should be returned to the Clerk by 1 June 2018.
3. Presbytery invited nominations for Presbytery-appointed elders for 2018-19; nominations should be made to the Clerk by 1 June 2018.
4. Presbytery noted the Business Committee’s nomination of Rev Julie Rennick as the next Moderator of Presbytery.
5. Further to the report of the Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator in February 2018, Presbytery noted that there will be an ecumenical prayer event for the church, to be held in Galashiels: Old and St Paul’s Church on Friday 18 May 2018 from 6-9pm. Members of churches within Presbytery are required to welcome people and act as ushers at the prayer event, and anyone able to help should speak to the Clerk. Leaflets were available at Presbytery and members of Presbytery were asked to promote this event.
6. Presbytery noted the proposal that a Middle East event be held within Presbytery on Wednesday 24 October 2018 as the theme for our autumn “Away Day”. The programme would run from 3–8pm with the afternoon session led by a key speaker on Israel-Palestine relations, followed by worship including prayer for our sisters and brothers in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory who have called for an ecumenical prayer vigil across the globe on the 24th of every month.
7. Presbytery approved the following as Presbytery Worship Leader Assessors: Rev John Hunter from Ormiston, a retired minister, Rev Milton Cashman, Rev Rachel Dobie, Rev Dr Miller Milloy, and Mrs Marie White, an elder from Channelkirk and Lauder Church.

**AFTER A BREAK IN THE MEETING FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY MET IN SMALL GROUPS:**

**FORUM DISCUSSION:** Presbytery broke into small groups to discuss General Assembly reports, in particular the Council of Assembly Strategic Plan, introduced by Mrs Isobel Hunter, and the Presbytery Overture on the Westminster Confession of Faith, introduced by the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald.

**PRESBYTERY RESUMED WITH ALL MEETING TOGETHER:**

**STATEMENT BY REV J WALLACE:** Rev Jim Wallace made a brief vision statement to Presbytery in the light of General Assembly reports on rapidly reducing numbers of ministers, urging church leaders to express regret for having failed the people of Scotland over recent years, and not simply to plan to keep going in the same way for as long as possible, but rather to steer a new course with the focus on prayer and mission in order to bring the gospel to those in our parishes.

**GOVERNANCE:** Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented a report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted that a 20% reduction in ministry numbers is 11 full time equivalent ministries. Presbytery invited congregations to send representatives to the meeting on 2 June 2018 in Galashiels: Trinity Church (1.30-3.30pm).

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**MISSION AND SERVICE:** Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the attendance by Rev Sheila Moir at The Centre of Ministry Studies Summer School in August 2018, and noted that national study leave funding has been approved by Ministries Council. Presbytery approved an application for Presbytery Study Leave costs of £298.90 for Rev Sheila Moir in respect of her attendance at the Spring Harvest Conference in April 2018. Presbytery nominated Pamela Kennedy as a candidate in training for the Full Time Ministry of Word and Sacrament (Ordained National Ministry) and instructed the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to Ministries Council.

**PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP:** Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the use of funds from the Ministries and Mission rebate to meet expenses of £7,250 in support of the Presbytery arranged visit of young people from Malawi and the Lebanon. Presbytery approved the decision of the Ettrick and Yarrow Kirk Session to sell the current Manse building.

**INTIMATIONS:**

1. From Rev Michael Scoular: “The BGH Chaplaincy possesses a Yamaha Electric Organ which it would be happy to “give to a good home”, for perhaps a token donation. Any congregation that might be interested would be welcome to come and look at it for themselves, not least because transportation may be a slight challenge!”.
2. Heart and Soul events: Please can Presbytery members note the following Heart and Soul 2018 events and encourage interested people in their congregations to attend – details were sent out by email and some flyers were available at Presbytery:
  - a. **Made for More** – Youth Concert, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. Saturday 19 May, 7-9pm. (Free).
  - b. **Heart and Soul** – in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. With family picnic area and lots of Year of Young People activities. Sunday 20 May, 12.30–6pm.
  - c. **Walking Together** – a Youth-led evening of Celebration and Inspiration. Monday 21 May, 6–7.30pm. Assembly Hall, The Mound, Edinburgh.
  - d. YoYP Social Media campaign in May – young people and church members can share their “**Dream for my church #YOYPchurchdream**”.
3. General Assembly events: This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women; the actual anniversary occurs on Tuesday 22 May; on this day there will be a rally and march up the mound (starting at 1.30pm) to the Assembly Hall, where there will be a special service to celebrate this significant date. On Assembly Sunday at Heart and Soul (see 2b. above), the worship will be led by women in ministry including Rev Julie Rennick; worship begins at 5pm.
4. The Very Rev Sheila Kesting will lead a service at Drumelzier Church on 27 May 2018 at 5pm to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Christian Aid Book Sale: the annual book sale is to be held at St Andrew’s and St George’s West Church, Edinburgh from Saturday 12 May until Friday 18 May 2018. Flyers were available at the Presbytery meeting with times and further information.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 26 June 2018 at 7pm in Broughton Church for Ordinary Business, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk