

GALASHIELS 25 JUNE 2019. At Galashiels: Trinity Church on Tuesday the twenty-fifth day of June 2019, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Rev Julie Rennick.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 17 ministers and 28 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 7 May 2019 was submitted and approved.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR: Presbytery unanimously elected Dr Fiona Burnett as the next Moderator of Presbytery. The appointment was intimated to Dr Burnett, and the Moderator outlined some of the highlights from her year as Moderator, including the visit in August 2018 of young people from Malawi and Lebanon and the more recent visit to Lebanon. The Moderator also warmly thanked Presbytery for the support she had received during her year in the Chair and, after the Prayer of Consecration, Dr Burnett took the Chair. Dr Burnett expressed thanks on behalf of Presbytery to Mrs Rennick for her year as Moderator.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV CHARLES DUNCAN: With the court standing, Rev Elspeth Harley paid tribute to Rev Charles Duncan who died on 1 May 2019. Presbytery instructed the Clerk to send a copy of the tribute to the family of Mr Duncan.

CONGREGATIONAL SHOWCASE – GALASHIELS: TRINITY CHURCH: Mr Ed Martin made a presentation on one of the recent positive developments within the congregation, namely that CrossReach had opened its 9th Heart for Art project in Galashiels: Trinity Church. The project is aimed at those with dementia, although all are welcome, and offers a free weekly art class in the church hall. The tutors and volunteers provide support, encouragement and refreshments, and this celebration of art and creativity is enjoyed by all who attend.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed, save that there would be no report from the Governance Committee.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DILIGENCE: Rev Jim Wallace reported diligence on behalf of himself and the Presbytery's other Commissioners at what had been a significant General Assembly. Mr Wallace reported on the positive reception of the Radical Action Plan and the focus on mission throughout the General Assembly. Mr Wallace also reported that, in response to a request by a member of Presbytery, he had asked the World Mission Council about their interest in the Bishop of Truro's recent interim report on persecuted Christians. The Council had confirmed their involvement in the report, and a time of prayer was held during the General Assembly for persecuted Christians throughout the world. The Moderator thanked Mr Wallace on behalf of Presbytery.

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

1. Presbytery approved the Business Committee's recommended changes to the structure of Presbytery and Committee meetings for 2019-2020.
2. Presbytery approved the following calendar of meetings for 2019-20:
 - 3 September 2019 - Broughton Church at 7pm (tea/coffee served from 6.30pm); service of Holy Communion followed by Presbytery Business Meeting;
 - 1 October 2019 - 7pm tea/coffee and Committee meetings, plus induction for new members; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Speaker from CrossReach; also Remits from General Assembly 2019);
 - 5 November 2019 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report from each Committee);
 - 3 December 2019 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report on October visit to Zomba, Malawi; also appointment of General Assembly Commissioners 2020);
 - 4 February 2020 - 7pm tea/coffee and Committee meetings; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting.
 - 3 March 2020 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including report from each Committee);
 - 5 May 2020 - 7pm tea/coffee; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Speaker from the SRT Project; also discussion on General Assembly reports 2020).
 - 23 June 2020 - Venue tbc; 7.30pm Presbytery Business Meeting (including Congregational Showcase).
3. Presbytery appointed the following Conveners to the Presbytery's Standing Committees for 2019-20:
 - Business Committee - Prof Murray Campbell (Rev Calum Macdougall until 30 September 2019);
 - Governance Committee - To be confirmed;
 - Mission and Service Committee - Mr Graeme Donald (till end December 2019);
 - Property and Stewardship Committee - Mrs Isobel Hunter.
4. Presbytery noted that Mary Hall (Presbytery Youth Representative) was able to attend only part of the General Assembly 2019 due to illness in the family; Presbytery thanked her for her willingness to represent Presbytery and expressed the hope that she will be able to attend another time.

AFTER A BREAK IN THE MEETING FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY RESUMED.

STATISTICAL RETURN: The Clerk submitted the statistical return for the year ended 31 December 2018 as follows:

Number of Communicants:	5353 (2017: 5592)
Removals:	
By Death	177
By Certificate	23
Otherwise	98
Admissions:	
By Profession	9
By Certificate	25
By Restoration	25
Supplementary Roll:	601
Children under 17:	288
Over 18 involved in life of congregation:	321
Elders:	413
Baptisms:	43 (including 2 adult baptisms)
Blessings:	7
Weddings:	36
Funerals:	248

Presbytery received the report.

ACCOUNTS INSPECTION COMMITTEE: Mr Fraser Simm, Treasurer, presented the report of the Accounts Inspection Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery thanked the Accounts Inspection Committee for its work in examining the 2018 accounts for all congregations. Presbytery approved the financial analysis of congregations' finances being noted by the Presbytery Planning Task Group and in future Local Reviews.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Following intimation by Rev Calum Macdougall that he would retire from the charge of Eddleston l/w Peebles: Old on 30 September 2019, Presbytery noted with approval the appointment of the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald as Interim Moderator of that charge, with effect from a date to be agreed.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP: Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group. Presbytery received the draft Presbytery Plan. Presbytery approved the "direction of travel" proposed in the draft Presbytery Plan, namely clusters around High Schools in the Presbytery. Presbytery instructed the Presbytery Planning Task Group to meet with representatives of congregations in the different cluster groups to discuss the various options available and to bring an update to the October 2019 meeting of Presbytery. Presbytery encouraged congregations to continue engaging with those in their cluster group in order to finalise the Presbytery Plan by December 2019.

MISSION AND SERVICE: With Rev Julie Rennick taking the Moderatorial Chair, Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, and Dr Fiona Burnett, Chair of the World Mission Group, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery nominated Mr Timothy Linford as a Candidate for the full-time ministry of word and sacrament and appointed Mr Linford to be a Corresponding Member of Presbytery. Presbytery thanked the minister, elders and congregation of Tripoli Church, Lebanon, for the hospitality and friendship accorded to the group during their recent visit. Presbytery encouraged Earlston Church in their developing relationship with Tripoli Church. Presbytery urged churches within the Bounds of Presbytery to consider the opportunities which present themselves through a relationship with a church in Syria. Presbytery thanked Rev Bob Milne for all his work in Zomba Presbytery during the crisis resulting from Cyclone Idai and encouraged members of Presbytery to pray for our sister church in Zomba in these challenging times. Presbytery noted the ongoing work in revising the Memorandum of Understanding with Zomba Presbytery and instructed the Mission and Service Committee to bring the final draft to the September meeting for approval. Presbyter noted the preparations for a visit to Zomba in October 2019 and that the names of interested travellers should be intimated to the Chair of the World Mission Group. Presbytery agreed to ask congregations or individuals within Presbytery to pledge a monthly amount of money to fund Geoffrey Matias for the coming year. Presbytery noted and approved progress in designing a three-year learning programme, with mission as a central feature, to meet the expressed needs of churches within the Bounds of Presbytery. Presbytery instructed the Business Committee to seek the necessary funding to meet the costs of the programme. Presbytery instructed the Business Committee to make all arrangements for the appointment of a part-time Learning and Discipleship Officer, if possible in partnership with neighbouring Presbyteries. Presbytery instructed the Business Committee to appoint a Learning and Discipleship Reference Group to support the Learning and Discipleship Officer. Presbytery approved inclusion in the programme of a combined trustee-mission and discipleship module for study by all elders, tutored locally in charges or church groupings, wherever possible, by the parish minister.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to M&M rebates of £700 to Galashiels: St John's, £700 to Galashiels: Trinity, and £700 to Galashiels: Old and St Paul's. Presbytery agreed to an M&M rebate of £3,000 to Stow and Heriot. Presbytery agreed to an M&M rebate of £3,000 to Peebles: Old. Presbytery urged congregations considering applications

for a rebate of Ministries and Mission payments to submit application forms by 13 September 2019. Those in receipt of an M&M rebate were reminded of the need for a report to Presbytery on the use of the rebate.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Fliers were available at Presbytery with details of two conferences organised by Place for Hope – a Gathering in Glasgow on Conflict and Faith, from 31 October 2019 – 2 November 2019; and Advanced Training for faith leaders: 'Faith in Change and Conflict' – a 6 day course running in Perth on 14-16 January 2020 and 18-20 February 2020.
2. Presbytery noted that Rev Sheila Moir had stepped down as Safeguarding Co-ordinator. Anyone interested in taking on this role should contact the Clerk.
3. All members of Presbytery willing to serve on a Presbytery Committee, who have not yet filled in the sign-up sheet for that Committee, should contact the Clerk with details of the Committee on which they would like to serve.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Presbytery granted permission to the churches in Galashiels to hold joint Sunday services in August 2019 to assist with the congregations' getting to know each other as part of Presbytery Planning, as follows:
 - a. 4 August 2019 at 11.15am - Joint Service in Galashiels: Trinity. No morning service at Galashiels: Old and St Paul's;
 - b. 11 August 2019 at 11.30am - Joint Service in Galashiels: Old and St. Paul's. No service at Galashiels: Trinity
 - c. 18 August 2019 at 9.45am - Joint Service in Galashiels: St. John's. No morning service at Galashiels: Old and St Paul's or Galashiels: Trinity.

APPRECIATION OF RETIRING MEMBERS: On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked Mr Atholl Innes, Mrs Susan White and Mrs Nettie Maxwell for their contribution to Presbytery during their time as representative elders of their congregations.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 3 September 2019 at 7pm in Broughton Church for the Sacrament of Holy Communion followed by Ordinary Business, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk