

INNERLEITHEN 3 MARCH 2020. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the third day of March 2020, the Presbytery met at 7pm for refreshments and at 7.30pm for Ordinary Business, and the meeting was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Dr Fiona Burnett.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 12 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 4 February 2020 was submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed, with the addition of an extra item of business from the Vacancy Procedure Committee.

FAREWELL TO REV RAE CLARK: The Moderator welcomed Mr Billy Anderson, Session Clerk of Channelkirk and Lauder, to the meeting. Mr Anderson spoke and paid tribute to the ministry of Rev Rae Clark. The Moderator thanked Mr Anderson and asked the Clerk, on behalf of Presbytery, to pass on Presbytery's good wishes to Mrs Clark in her new charge.

FAREWELL TO REV ELSPETH HARLEY: The Moderator welcomed representatives from the congregations of Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity to the meeting. Mr Ed Martin, Session Clerk of Galashiels: Trinity, and Mrs Anne Grieve, Session Clerk of Caddonfoot, spoke and paid tribute to the ministry of Mrs Harley. Mrs Harley spoke in her own interest. The Moderator paid tribute to Mrs Harley and on behalf of Presbytery wished her well in her retirement.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – CADDONFOOT L/W GALASHIELS: TRINITY; ETTRICK AND YARROW: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Miss Steele having declared an interest, Presbytery noted with approval the arrangements for the retiral of Rev Elspeth Harley, minister of Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity and the appointment of Rev David Donaldson as Interim Moderator, and the appointment of Rev Margaret Steele as Interim Moderator of Ettrick and Yarrow, both from 23 April 2020. Miss Steele undertook not to take part in any decisions of the Vacancy Procedure Committee relating to Ettrick and Yarrow.

TREASURER'S REPORT – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019: The Treasurer, Mr F Simm, presented the financial report for 2019. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the Report and Accounts to 31st December 2019. Presbytery thanked Mr Tom Fairbairn for examining the Accounts for 2019. Presbytery approved the proposed congregational assessments for 2020: congregations up to 170 - £350; congregations between 171 and 380 - £550; congregations over 380 - £850. Presbytery approved the charges for Study Leave for 2020: charges with up to 350 members - £95; charges between 351 and 650 members - £125; charges with over 651 and more members - £155.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE: The Clerk intimated to Presbytery that the Presbytery Planning Task Group of the Faith Nurture Forum had now given its approval to the new Presbytery Plan. Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, then presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee, outlining with the help of flowcharts the process required for implementing the Presbytery Plan.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Prof Murray Campbell, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery noted with approval the following commissioners for the General Assembly (16-23 May 2020): Rev Rosie Frew, Rev Stewart McPherson, Rev Sheila Moir, Rev Marion Dodd, Very Rev David Arnott, Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, Mr John Pollitt, Mrs Mary McElroy, Ms Susan McDonald, Dr Fiona Burnett and Mrs Isobel Hunter.
2. Reminder - Presbytery encouraged applications from young people aged 18-25 to attend the General Assembly 2020 as its Youth Representative; application forms and more details can be obtained from the Clerk.
3. Reminder - The Business Committee noted that after 12 years' service, Fraser Simm is looking to stand down as Treasurer of Presbytery. (It was planned for this to happen last year, but circumstances prevented that being followed through). The position does not have to be filled by a current member of Presbytery; further information can be provided to anyone interested and the plan is for a handover to take place during the summer.
4. Interim moderator training for elders – this has been rearranged and will now take place on Saturday 9 May 2020 from 10am-4pm in St Cuthbert's Parish Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. If you would like to attend, please contact the Clerk by 10 March 2020.
5. Presbytery noted with approval that Elizabeth Parker (from Peebles: Old Church) has taken over the role of Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator, and that the next prayer diary will be issued for June/July/August 2020. Presbytery appointed Elizabeth Parker as a Corresponding Member of Presbytery. Presbytery thanked Rev Winnie Munson for her valued contribution to Presbytery as its Prayer Co-ordinator over the past few years.
6. Prof Murray having declared an interest, Presbytery noted that a final report of the Transitional Support Group has been received in respect of the Interim Ministry of Rev Stewart McPherson in the charge of Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrews. The report commends the work of Mr McPherson and the congregations, and concludes that the objectives of the Interim Ministry have been achieved, although the situation has now altered with the planned linking with the Churches of Upper Tweeddale. Presbytery agreed that Mr McPherson remains in the charge until the end of May 2020, to assist the congregations with the move towards the new linking.

Mr McPherson spoke to Presbytery about interim ministry, encouraging all congregations to adopt reconciling ministry as a way of life. On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked Mr McPherson for his presentation and for his work at Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrews.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Rev Margaret Steele, Ministry Co-ordinator, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved Study Leave Funding of £200 for Mrs Isobel Hunter to cover the cost of attending the course “Leading Worship in a Local Context” run at New College, Edinburgh. Presbytery approved Study Leave Funding of £1,000 to enable Rev Sheila Moir to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play in Austria during September 2020.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to the proposal that the Adams Napier Partnership undertake this year’s quinquennial surveys.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – INNERLEITHEN, TRAQUAIR AND WALKERBURN: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented a further report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted with approval the appointment of the Advisory Committee for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn, namely Rev Pamela Strachan (Convener), Mr Tom Fairbairn and Mr John Henderson, subject to there being no appeal against the Presbytery Plan and to the Vacancy Procedure Committee granting permission to call a minister.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Children and Family Ministry Regional Gathering – Saturday 21 March 2020 at Melrose Parish Church from 10.30am-4.30pm. A day to explore creative ways to develop our vision and practice in nurturing faith with children, young people and families. Flyers available at Presbytery.
2. Kirk Sessions are asked to note the annual inspection of congregational records, which will take place on Friday 20 March 2020 from 10am – 12 noon in Innerleithen Church. The Clerk will issue a letter shortly with details of the records to be submitted.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 5 May 2020 in Innerleithen Church for refreshments at 7pm, followed by Ordinary Business at 7.30pm, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk