

3 NOVEMBER 2020. On Tuesday the third day of November 2020, the Presbytery met by ZOOM at 7pm for Ordinary Business, and the Moderator constituted the meeting in prayer.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 11 ministers and 26 elders whose names were recorded by the Clerk in the attendance book. The names of corresponding members in attendance were also recorded, as were apologies.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 6 October 2020 was submitted and approved as circulated.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as circulated.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Prof Murray Campbell, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report. Rev Rosie Frew and Mrs Mary McElroy each gave a short presentation on their experience at the General Assembly of October 2020 which for the first time (due to the Covid situation) had been held largely online.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – INNERLEITHEN, TRAQUAIR AND WALKERBURN: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee that a sole nominee for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn would preach on 29 November 2020 under the interim procedures agreed by the Commission of Assembly meeting in July 2020, due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. Presbytery noted that arrangements are in place for the necessary work on the Manse to commence once the tenants leave the premises and that the new Minister, if elected, may be inducted to the charge before the work begins.

COMMITTEE ON THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS: Mr Keith Simpson, Convener, presented the report of the Committee on the Re-opening of Church Buildings. Mr Simpson explained that a further 5 congregations have been given permission to re-open buildings for worship services or private prayer.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION GROUP: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Group. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the recommendations mentioned in the report with regard to the protocol on congregational voting on an adjustment, namely: Completed voting slips are sent to the Presbytery representative; The Questions and Answers document is to reference questions raised by the congregation subsequent to the initial intimation of the voting process; An accompanying note may be sent out with the initial intimation addressing specific issues that may be raised; No separate congregational vote is required for de-linking.

GOVERNANCE: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted that the Inspection of Records and Local Reviews would be postponed until 2021.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Dr Fiona Burnett, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Members of Presbytery were reminded of the Committee's request to each congregation to submit a brief note (by post, email or video) to the Convener, summarising how the congregation has worshipped during and since lockdown. Dr Peter Worthington (Broughton), Prof Murray Campbell (Carlops) and Mr Peter Sandison (Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's) then each gave a brief presentation on how their congregation had worshipped during lockdown, what had been learned, and how this would shape worship in the future; each congregation had continued to offer worship services during lockdown (whether through a website, on a CD/DVD, by Zoom meeting, or on YouTube) and all hoped to continue some form of online worship going forward.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to the charge of Channelkirk and Lauder letting their manse during their vacancy. Presbytery approved the creation of a Presbytery "Good Ideas Fund" of £10,000 from available M&M rebate, to be allocated in grants of up to £500 to congregations or charges to support outreach. Presbytery encouraged Treasurers who are concerned over their church's financial position to contact the Convener, the Presbytery Treasurer or the Presbytery Clerk before a problem becomes too large. Presbytery will offer advice and help in any way it can. Presbytery approved the congregational M&M contributions and instructed that they be sent out to congregational Treasurers along with an offer of support from Presbytery.

INTIMATIONS:

1. The updated Presbytery Yearbook is now available in electronic format.
2. Congregations are reminded that regularly updated information about Coronavirus rules and regulations can be found on the Church of Scotland website.
3. There is an opportunity for church members to serve on the various committees and agencies of the Church of Scotland; more information can be obtained from the Clerk, and applications must be made by 30 November 2020.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 7pm by Zoom, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.