

3 October 2017

**PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES**

**INNERLEITHEN 3 OCTOBER 2017.** At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the third day of October 2017, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Professor M Campbell.

**SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES:** There were present 16 ministers and 29 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

**ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER:** An application having been received from Very Rev Finlay Macdonald to transfer from the Presbytery of Edinburgh, the Moderator put to him the appointed question to which he gave satisfactory answer and, after signing the Formula, he was welcomed to Presbytery.

**MINUTES:** The minute of the meeting of 5 September 2017 was submitted and approved.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The order of business was approved.

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

1. Presbytery noted with approval the decision taken on 1 October 2017 by a vote of the congregation of Innerleithen Traquair and Walkerburn Church to move from a Model Deed to a Unitary Constitution, and instructed the Clerk to send an extract minute to the Delegation of Assembly of the decision made by the congregation and of the Presbytery's approval.
2. Presbytery agreed to issue practising certificates to Very Rev Finlay Macdonald and Rev Winnie Munson.
3. Presbytery noted that Rev Samuel Siroky was standing down as Convener of the Governance Committee and of the Vacancy Procedure Committee with immediate effect.
4. Presbytery appointed Rev Rosie Frew as Convener of the Governance Committee for the remainder of the 2017/2018 session of Presbytery.
5. Presbytery appointed Rev Margaret Steele as Convener of the Vacancy Procedure Committee.
6. Presbytery appointed Mr Keith Simpson as Vice-Convener (Property) within the Property and Stewardship Committee.
7. Presbytery thanked Mr Robert Turnbull for attending as its representative the Stewardship and Finance Presbytery Conference on 20 September 2017. Mr Turnbull made a short report to Presbytery on the conference, which had included helpful presentations on Stewardship, Data Protection and on Ministries and Mission contributions.
8. Presbytery agreed that Pastor Tony Foley of the Assemblies of God Church, currently locum at the Churches of Upper Tweeddale, may celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in church and at home, as part of and for the duration of his locumship at the Churches of Upper Tweeddale, always in the presence of an elder of the charge, and only in accordance with the orders for Holy Communion set out in the Church of Scotland's Book of Common Order (1994).
9. Presbytery noted the following arrangements for the Away-Day on Wednesday 18 October 2017, urged all members of Presbytery to attend, and asked for names of those attending to be given to the Clerk by Friday 13 October. The Away Day will be held at Tweed Horizons Conference Centre, from 10am – 3pm, and lunch will be provided. The conference sessions will be led by Professor David Fergusson, of New College, Edinburgh. Presbytery was also asked to choose two of the following topics to be addressed by Professor Fergusson:

*Theology of Creation Today*

*The Providence of God Reconsidered*

*The Spirit of Protestantism (this could be one or two sessions)*

*Faith in Contemporary Scotland*

*What is it to be Reformed?*

*Science and faith*

*New atheism - some responses*

*Theology of the cross*

**PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR:** Rev Winnie Munson presented her report to Presbytery as its Prayer Co-ordinator. There are now 10 congregational prayer promoters within the Presbytery, who meet together twice a year in Innerleithen Church for worship, fellowship and encouragement. They also have a prayer chain for urgent prayer needs. The Presbytery Prayer Diary, produced quarterly, was also commended for use within Presbytery, as a way of encouraging prayer for each other's congregations and a sharing of our joys and

concerns. Presbytery received the report and expressed its thanks for the work of the Prayer Co-ordinator and congregational prayer promoters.

AFTER A BREAK IN THE MEETING FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY MET IN ITS COMMITTEES.

PRESBYTERY RESUMED WITH ALL MEETING TOGETHER.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Rev Julie Rennick, Ministry Co-ordinator within the Mission and Service Committee, presented a report. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery accepted the resignation of Ministry Candidate Mrs Lindsay Knott. Presbytery granted study leave to Rev Samuel Siroky from Wednesday 8 November 2017 for four weeks.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Updates to Presbytery Year Book:
  - a. The email address for Mr Alistair Wilson is: gawilson142@gmail.com
  - b. With effect from 28 September 2017, the address for Rev Victoria Linford (Stow and Heriot Minister and Presbytery Clerk) is: The Manse, 20 Wedale View, Stow TD1 2SJ.
  - c. The address for Rev Rosie Frew (Bowden and Melrose Church) is: The Manse, Tweedmount Road, Melrose TD6 9ST.
  - d. Please add Very Rev Finlay Macdonald as a member of Presbytery - contact details: 8 St Ronan's Way, Innerleithen EH44 6RG; 01896 831631; finlay\_macdonald@btinternet.com.
2. Duns Presbytery has invited the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles to participate in its conference day on Saturday 3 February 2018, at which the speaker will be Rev Peter Neilson. Further details will be provided in due course.
3. Resourcing the Rural Church: One of the forthcoming Rural Resourcing Roadshows will be held at Melrose Parish Church on Saturday 18 November 2017, from 10.30am – 3.30pm. To register please contact wmorris@churchofscotland.org.uk.
4. Presbytery website: Please could those congregations who have still to provide photographs/details for their church(es) give the requested information to Mr John Henderson as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Selkirk Parish Church, Ashkirk Church and Etrick and Yarrow Church: Presbytery granted permission to these churches not to hold their regular services of worship on Sunday 5 November 2017, in order to take part in the joint service in Victoria Hall, Selkirk, for the Churches Together Selkirk and Valleys.

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