

INNERLEITHEN 4 DECEMBER 2018. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the fourth day of December 2018, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted by the Moderator, Rev Julie Rennick.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 17 ministers and 27 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 6 November 2018 was submitted and approved. It was noted that the payment in respect of the M&M rebate for Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown l/w St Boswells should in fact be payable to St Boswells.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as circulated, with one additional item under the Business Committee report.

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

1. Presbytery noted the appointment of Rev Neil Combe as locum for Galashiels: Old and St Paul's linked with Galashiels: St John's with effect from 1 December 2018.
2. Presbytery approved the appointment of Rev Ann Purdie (United Free Church of Scotland) as locum for the Churches of Upper Tweeddale with immediate effect; and agreed to appoint her as a corresponding member of Presbytery.
3. Presbytery noted that Rev Tony Foley has been accepted as a Candidate under the Admissions Procedure (which allows ministers from other denominations to transfer to the Church of Scotland); he will be undertaking a nine-month familiarisation placement with Rev Calum Macdougall.
4. Presbytery noted that a complaint was referred to a Complaints Committee under the Presbytery Complaints Procedure; the complaint has been investigated by the Committee and no further action is required.
5. Presbytery agreed to amend the Presbytery's Standing Orders as follows: at the end of 8.1, Business Committee membership, add "If the membership of the Business Committee falls below nine, for example as a result of a member of the Business Committee fulfilling more than one role within Presbytery, the Business Committee may co-opt an additional member or members until the Business Committee membership is restored to nine members".
6. Presbytery Review pilot: Presbytery noted the report following the review visit by Angus Presbytery.
7. Presbytery noted that Mr John Butcher, Reader Emeritus, has retired from Presbytery after 34 years as a member of Presbytery; Presbytery instructed the Clerk to write to Mr Butcher in appreciation of his many years of faithful service.

AUTHORISATION OF PRESBYTERY WORSHIP LEADERS: Presbytery noted that ten people from congregations within Presbytery had participated in the Presbytery Scheme for Worship Leaders course held for the first time in 2018, and led by Rev Linda Walker of Hamilton Presbytery. Seven participants had now passed the assessment for the course, and the remaining three were to be assessed early in 2019. On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked the assessors who had given generously of their time and expertise under the Scheme: Rachel Dobie, Marie White, Milton Cashman, Miller Milloy, John Hunter and Marion Dodd. The Moderator presented certificates of successful completion of the course to: Fiona Burnett, Claire Guthrie, Isobel Hunter, Tim Linford, Kevin Scott, Peter Worthington and Caron Young, and prayed for God's blessing in their future service to the church.

AFTER A BREAK FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY RESUMED:

PRESBYTERY MET IN PRIVATE:

GOVERNANCE: Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented the report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Further to the decision of Presbytery in June 2018 to appoint a Special Committee under Act I, 2010 in respect of an elder within the Presbytery, and to grant to a sub-committee of Presbytery all powers necessary to deal with the matters referred to the Special Committee, Presbytery noted and agreed as follows: Whereas the complaint originally referred to the Special Committee has been withdrawn, but a complaint on the same subject matter has been received from another person, the Special Committee has now been asked to investigate the second complaint rather than the first. Presbytery continued to grant to the same sub-Committee of Presbytery, comprising Rev Rosie Frew, Rev Margaret Steele, Rev Calum Macdougall and Rev Victoria Linford, all powers necessary to deal with the matters referred to the Special Committee while they are ongoing and in relation to its final disposal, all subject to and in terms of Act I, 2010.

PRESBYTERY RESUMED IN OPEN COURT:

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the request from Rev Julie Rennick for Study Leave from 6-19 March 2019. Presbytery approved the request including funding for Rev Elspeth Harley's Study Leave from 4-18 February 2019. Presbytery noted the actual costs and the balance of funding for the Year of Young People programme. Presbytery requested that the Property and Stewardship Committee confirms the funds set aside for the continuation of the Year of Young People events into 2019. Presbytery invited Kirk Sessions to consider a Presbytery 'celebration' event for young people around Easter 2019 and to forward ideas to the Mission and Service Convener.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Place for Hope are holding two one-day courses in Edinburgh: “Growing Through Change and Conflict – Foundation” on Saturday 8 December 2018 and “Growing Through Change and Conflict – Further Skills” on Saturday 19 January 2019. Further information on these and other courses can be found on the website www.placeforhope.org.uk/training/set-programmes.
2. Reminder: Treasurers and other interested parties are encouraged to attend a Treasurer’s Conference on 6 December 2018 at 2pm in Penicuik North Church.
3. Induction of Rev Barry Hughes to St Mark’s Church, Stirling: Thursday 13 December 2018 at 7pm. Places are available on a bus going from Peebles, cost £10 return; for details please contact the office at Peebles: St Andrew’s Leckie Church.
4. From Dr Fiona Burnett, World Mission Group:
 - a. If anyone gives or receives a new smartphone this Christmas, our friends in Malawi would be very happy to receive the old handsets as long as they are in good working condition, have been released from their network carrier and reset to factory setting so they have no password requirement. Just let me know and I can collect.
 - b. We have been asked for clerical shirts by our ministerial friends in Malawi. If you have any that are no longer required and again in good condition, I’ll be happy to receive them and send them on.
 - c. The World Mission Group are planning a get together of church representatives and everyone interested to receive and discuss ideas of what we would like to have included in the next Memorandum of Understanding with Zomba Presbytery. To reflect the continuing development of our relationship, we’d like to include more local and individual church aims from both Presbyteries. We will be meeting on Sunday 3 February 2019 at 2.30pm in Innerleithen church hall and everyone is invited.
5. The General Assembly of 2018 commended Presbyteries to appoint an Armed Forces Champion, to provide information about resources available to serving and former members of the Armed Forces within the bounds of Presbytery, and their families, and to support ministers in their pastoral care of those involved in the Armed Forces. It may be possible to arrange for a speaker at a future meeting of Presbytery; in the meantime, if any member of Presbytery or its congregations is interested in being an Armed Forces Champion, please could they contact the Clerk.
6. The Presbytery Prayer Diary for December 2018 – February 2019 is now available; this has been emailed to members of Presbytery and some printed copies were available at Presbytery.
7. A copy of Grant Barclay’s Middle East DVD, which was shown in part at Presbytery’s Middle East Conference in October 2018, is now available from Graeme Donald.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 5 February 2019 at 7pm in Innerleithen Church, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk