

INNERLEITHEN 4 FEBRUARY 2020. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the fourth day of February 2020, the Presbytery met at 7pm for refreshments and Committee meetings 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 13 ministers and 31 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 3 December 2019 was submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed, with the addition of items under Business Committee and Intimations.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – CHANNELKIRK AND LAUDER: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted with approval the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee to release Rev Rae Clark from the charge of Channelkirk and Lauder to allow her to move to a new charge on 27 February 2020, upon which date the charge will become vacant, subject to a formal request for such release being received from the Presbytery of Stirling.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: In the absence of the Convener, the Clerk presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. The following commissioners for the General Assembly (16-23 May 2020) are still to be appointed: one minister and two elders. Anyone interested in attending should contact the Clerk.
2. 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. Presbytery homologated the decision of the Moderator's Committee (the Moderator, Clerk, Business Convener and Property and Stewardship Convener) on 23 December 2019 allowing Earlston Parish Church to grant a caretaker lease of its manse to a family in Earlston (members of the church) whose home was destroyed by fire on 22 December 2019, all under the advice and input of the General Trustees and Law Department of the Church of Scotland.
4. Congregational Statistics forms are now due – please could Kirk Sessions submit all remaining forms to the Assistant Clerk, Peter Sandison, as soon as possible.
5. Committees and Kirk Sessions were reminded to monitor compliance with the General Assembly Remits referred to them by Presbytery in its meeting of September 2019.
6. Presbytery 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 from happening). 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.
7. Presbytery noted with approval the decisions by the congregations of Carllops, Kirkurd and Newlands and West Linton: St Andrew's to move to a Unitary Constitution and instructed the Clerk to send extract minutes to the Church of Scotland Law Department of the decisions made by each congregation and of the Presbytery's approval.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee. Mr Brackenridge reminded members of Presbytery of the seven adjustments which would be required under the new Presbytery Plan. Presbytery noted that members of the Committee had been allocated to the specific linkings and unions required under the Plan, and that several meetings had already been arranged by the Committee with congregational office bearers.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to ask the General Trustees to commission an architectural feasibility study on the buildings of the three Galashiels congregations. Presbytery instructed the Clerk to convey this request to the General Trustees.

WEBSITE: Mr John Henderson presented a report on the Presbytery website. It had been launched in 2017 and the last update to Presbytery was in November 2018. Since then, Mr Henderson has updated the website regularly, and he encouraged members of Presbytery and its Committees to send information and pictures for inclusion in the website. He suggested that more use could be made of the private members' area, which is accessed with a password. Presbytery agreed to move to a new hosting company, Easyspace (as the previous hosting company, Easily, had relocated overseas) with an additional annual cost in the region of £17.50. Presbytery also agreed to introduce SSL encryption with an additional annual cost of approximately £25.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Annual World Mission Group Meeting with Church Representatives will be held on Sunday 1 March 2020 from 2-4 pm in Innerleithen Church. It will focus on the work carried out by the local group.
2. The Assembly Business Committee has organised a gathering of Presbytery Clerks and others on 5 March 2020 in order to discuss the proposed restructuring of Presbyteries; if any individual would like to comment on the proposals, they are invited to send in questions, responses or comments to Rev Donald McCorkindale, Interim Convener, by the end of February.

3. Children and Family Ministry Regional Gathering – Saturday 21 March 2020 at Melrose Parish Church. A day to explore creative ways to develop our vision and practice in nurturing faith with children, young people and families. Further information from Isobel Booth-Clibborn, Children's Development Worker, Faith Nurture Forum (ibooth-clibborn@churchofscotland.org.uk).
4. Visit to Lebanon – 4-13 May 2020, with Cynthia Tours; there may be a few places still available on this tour, which is a similar to the one made by Rev Pamela Strachan a couple of years ago and is highly recommended by her.
5. From Rev Marion Dodd – she is leading a group, The Borders Pilgrims, on a concert tour of the Holy Land in March 2020. There will be two preliminary concerts of the programme, including one on Friday 28 February 2020 in Holy Trinity Church, Melrose at 7pm, to raise money for Musicians Without Borders, which works through music education with children in three Bethlehem refugee camps.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From the Kirk Sessions of Selkirk Parish Church regarding the funding of an extra 0.25 post for the proposed Selkirk High School Cluster, with letters of support from the Kirk Sessions of Ashkirk and Etrick and Yarrow.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 3 March 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