

INNERLEITHEN 5 MARCH 2019. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the fifth day of March 2019, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Rev Julie Rennick.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 14 ministers and 34 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: The Moderator welcomed new members of Presbytery, Atholl Innes (Caddonfoot Church) and Frances Heafield (Ashkirk Church).

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 5 February 2019 was submitted and approved.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer, Mr F Simm, presented the financial report for 2018. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the Report and Accounts to 31 December 2018. Presbytery thanked Grahame Henderson for examining the Accounts. Presbytery approved the congregational assessments for 2019: congregations up to 170 members - £340; congregations between 171 and 380 members - £540; congregations over 380 members - £845. Presbytery approved the charges for Study Leave for 2019: charges with up to 350 members - £105; charges between 351 and 650 members - £135; charges with 651 and more members - £165.

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

1. Presbytery appointed as Commissioners to the General Assembly (18-24 May 2019): Rev Calum Macdougall and Jane Gillham (Upper Tweeddale); Rev Jim Wallace and Lindsay Wilson (Etrick and Yarrow); Rev Malcolm Jefferson and John Dimmock (Lyne and Manor l/w Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie); Rev Victoria Linford and an elder to be confirmed (Stow and Heriot); Very Rev David Arnott and Nora Hunter; Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald and Isobel Hunter.
2. Presbytery appointed Mary Hall (Channelkirk and Lauder Church) as its Youth Representative to attend the General Assembly of 2019.
3. Presbytery appointed Rev Tony Foley as a corresponding member of Presbytery for the duration of his familiarisation placement with Rev Calum Macdougall.
4. Presbytery approved the appointment of Timothy Linford as locum at Channelkirk and Lauder for a period of up to three months or, if sooner, until Rev Rae Clark returns from sick leave, on terms to be agreed between Channelkirk and Lauder Church, Mr Linford and Ministries Council, and subject to supervision by Rev Sheila Moir, Interim Moderator.
5. Presbytery noted that a speaker from Crossreach will address Presbytery at its meeting in October 2019, and that a speaker from the SRT (Science, Religion and Technology) Project will address Presbytery at its meeting in May 2020.

AFTER A BREAK FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY RESUMED ITS MEETING.

PRESBYTERY MET IN PRIVATE:

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PRESBYTERY RESUMED IN OPEN COURT:

PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP: Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented a report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted that Session Clerks are asked for an update from their congregation - what they have been doing, who they have been meeting with, whether they have any questions and whether they would appreciate a meeting with the Task Group. Responses should be sent to RFrew@churchofscotland.org.uk.

GOVERNANCE: Rev Marion Dodd, Superintendence Vice-Convener, presented a report of the Governance Committee regarding local review visits and the annual inspection of records. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted that the annual inspection of congregational records will take place on Thursday 21 March 2019 from 10am – 12 noon in Innerleithen Church. Presbytery noted the details of the Local Reviews and Interim Reviews to be carried out in 2019:

LOCAL REVIEWS: Bowden and Melrose - Rev Jim Wallace, Rev Julie Rennick, Robert Turnbull, Fran Selkirk; Etrick and Yarrow - Rev Calum Macdougall, Rev Miller Milloy, Tom Burnham, Andrew Bramhall; Eddleston l/w Peebles: Old - Rev Marion Dodd, Rev Tom Hogg, John Henderson, Ros Pyatt.

INTERIM REVIEW: Lyne and Manor l/w Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie - Rev Margaret Steele, Keith Simpson.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee.

1. Presbytery received the report.
2. Presbytery urged School Chaplains and Ministers to indicate to the Mission and Service Convener where schools are making use of 'The God Question' resource and thoughts on a celebratory event for young people associated with the church.

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3. Presbytery welcomed progress on the preparation of a three year education and Training Programme and encouraged presbyters to seek out those interested in the planning or delivery of courses and make names known to the Convener.

4. Presbytery approved the content of the June 'Away Day' programme.
5. Presbytery noted that the Worship Leaders' Course has been postponed until September.
6. Presbytery invited Ministers in Charges, and interested members and assessors from the 2018 Worship Leaders' Course, to attend a meeting with the Mission and Service Committee to consider the content and delivery of a Melrose and Peebles based Worship Leaders' course. The meeting will be held twice; on Tuesday 26 March 2019 and Tuesday 2 April 2019, both at 1.30pm in Innerleithen Church – those interested in designing or leading the course can go to either meeting.
7. Presbytery approved the theme for the October Conference as 'The God Question'.
8. Presbytery agreed to enter into another 5 year Memorandum of Understanding with Zomba Presbytery.
9. In order to take the Memorandum of Understanding process forward Presbytery agreed that:
 - a. The Presbytery Clerk inform Zomba Presbytery that the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles would like to enter into another Memorandum of Understanding and receive assurance that they are of the same opinion;
 - b. The letter from the Clerk to include a copy of the full report (Appendix B), emphasising our desire to have a more local to local focus throughout the partnership, with a request that Zomba Presbytery send their input to drafting the next Memorandum of Understanding as soon as possible;
 - c. The Mission and Service Committee present the final draft Memorandum to the September meeting of Presbytery in Scotland and the equivalent in Zomba;
 - d. In September 2019 Presbytery approves plans for signing the Memorandum of Understanding, probably in Zomba in October 2019.
10. Presbytery noted that the World Mission Group intends to explore the possibility of a partnership, formal or informal, with the Presbytery of Northern Lebanon.
11. Presbytery approved the Study Leave application (£575) from Rev Julie Rennick to attend the Earlston Church twinning visit to Tripoli from 24-30 April 2019.
12. Presbytery invited the Business Committee to consider the introduction of an E-Newsletter.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery commended the Edinburgh Presbytery Treasurers' Evening (14 March 2019) to Congregational Treasurers. Presbytery approved the acceptance of the quotation for quinquennial visits, from Andrew Isherwood Ltd in the sum of £5,118.00 inclusive of VAT. Presbytery noted that Kirk Sessions and Presbytery should consider where funds from the 5% rebate might be best used in promoting mission within the Presbytery. Presbytery congratulated the Girls Brigade at Galashiels: St John's on their 40th anniversary. Presbytery agreed to award £2,085 from the Presbytery rebate to the Girls Brigade at Galashiels: St John's to help them celebrate their 40th anniversary, including the costs of Brigadier Camp for which they have already raised £500 themselves.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Updates to Presbytery Year Book:
 - a. Please add Presbytery elder for Caddonfoot Church: Mr Atholl Innes, 8 Yarrow Terrace, Selkirk TD7 5AR; athollp.innes@gmail.com.
 - b. Please add Presbytery elder for Ashkirk Church: Mrs Frances (Fan) Heafield, Top House, Minto, Hawick; heafield.fan@gmail.com.
2. Completed Congregational Office Bearers Forms should be returned to the Assistant Clerk by 14 March 2019.
3. Thank you to all congregations who have submitted the annual Congregational Statistics forms – please could remaining forms be sent to the Assistant Clerk as a matter of urgency.
4. Kirk Sessions are reminded about the annual inspection of congregational records, on Thursday 21 March 2019 from 10am – 12 noon in Innerleithen Church. The Clerk will issue a letter shortly with details of the records to be submitted. Please note that the Data Protection Form has been updated to take account of the GDPR.
5. The Presbytery Prayer Diary (March-May 2019) has been emailed to Presbytery members; some printed copies were available at Presbytery.
6. Link to Rev Bob Milne's blog, as he prepares to travel to Zomba: <https://cofswmc.wordpress.com/2019/02/25/preparations/>
7. From Rev Rachel Dobie – some copies of The Record, the newsletter of the Church Service Society, which supports the development of liturgy and worship resources, were available at Presbytery for anyone interested.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Selkirk Parish Church – advert for Children and Families Worker.

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

Moderator

Clerk