

INNERLEITHEN 5 NOVEMBER 2019. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the fifth day of November 2019, the Presbytery met at 7pm for refreshments 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 9 ministers and 29 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book. Presbytery noted with sadness the death of Rev Milton Cashman and that a service of thanksgiving would be held on 12 November 2019 at 12.30pm in Galashiels: Old and St Paul's Church.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 1 October 2019 was submitted and approved.

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

PRESENTATION OF READER AND CANDIDATES: Rev M Steele, Training and Supervision Co-ordinator, presented Mrs Frances Selkirk, Reader, and Mrs Pamela Kennedy and Mr Tim Linford, Candidates for the national ordained Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The Moderator, in the name of Presbytery, thanked Mrs Selkirk for her invaluable service as a Reader, and wished Mrs Kennedy and Mr Linford well in their ministry training.

GUILD REPORT: Dr Margaret Habeshaw, Convener of the Upper Tweed Guilds Together, presented the Guild Report. Nationally the Guild is now in the second year of its three year programme: "One Journey, Many Roads", the theme this year being: "Companions on the Way". The Guild also continues to support its six projects; three in Scotland and three overseas. Locally, there are 10 Guilds in the Presbytery, although numbers of members are falling and the Upper Tweed Guilds Together has lost two of its members. In Presbytery there have been two events over the past year: the June picnic at Newlands, and the Autumn rally. Dr Habeshaw urged Kirk Sessions to continue to support their Guilds in prayer and by including space in their agendas for a Guild report.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Prof Murray Campbell, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery agreed the rota for the setting up and putting away of tables/chairs and washing up for Presbytery meetings held at Innerleithen Church.
2. Presbytery noted that the Business Committee has been considering ways to support the Kirk Session and congregation of Channelkirk and Lauder during the sick leave of their minister, and agreed to the appointment of up to two assessor elders for a period of 6 months.
3. Presbytery agreed to set up a new Presbytery Planning Implementation Committee and approved the remit for this committee.
4. Presbytery resolved to appoint Commissioners to the General Assembly (16-22 May 2020). Presbytery noted that its allocation of ministers for 2020 is four (plus an equal number of elders). The ministers of the following charges are asked to confirm to the Clerk by 21 November 2019 their willingness to accept commission, and submit the name of an elder to accompany them: Bowden and Melrose; Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity; Carlops l/w Kirkurd and Newlands l/w West Linton: St Andrew's; Maxton and Mertoun l/w Newtown l/w St Boswells. Presbytery noted that the Very Rev David Arnott and the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald are also able to attend the General Assembly of 2020; names of two possible additional accompanying elders should be submitted to the Clerk by 21 November 2019.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING TASK GROUP: In the absence of the Convener, the Clerk presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Task Group. Presbytery noted that the draft Presbytery Plan has been circulated to all members of Presbytery, and that congregations will be cited to attend the December meeting when the Plan is considered.

GOVERNANCE: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to hold the Inspection of Records on Friday 20 March 2020 at 10am in Innerleithen Church. Presbytery agreed that next year's local and interim reviews will be held in the second half of 2020.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery broke into small groups for a discussion of the proposal for the appointment of a Learning and Development Officer and/or for the creation of a Learning Centre within Presbytery.

1. Presbytery received the report.
2. Presbytery confirmed the benefits of meeting in local conversation and through the use of the resource material encouraged ministers to facilitate conversations in discipleship which lead to active local mission.
3. Presbytery reaffirmed the central theme of the June 2020 "Away Day" as "Creating and Developing Discipleship".
4. Presbytery agreed to support the Mission and Service Committee in developing plans and projects to promote participation by children and young adults in the life of the church.
5. Presbytery noted that the Presbytery "Guide to Learning Opportunities" will be available at the December meeting.
6. Presbytery agreed (a) that the criteria for access to the Presbytery Study Leave Fund be extended to accommodate those who are not Ordained Ministers; (b) that the Property and Stewardship Committee consider the need or otherwise to increase the funds currently available through the Study Fund to accommodate any additional costs arising from the proposal to extend the criteria; and (c) the Mission and Service Committee determine the criteria for application and review these arrangements in 2022.

7. Presbytery noted progress made in meeting specific remits.
8. Presbytery approved the absence from her parish from 24 February 2020 until 1 March 2020 to facilitate Rev. Margaret Steele's successful application for National Study Leave.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: In the absence of the Convener, Mr Fraser Simm presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to continue into 2020 rebates of £5,500 to St Boswells and £5,000 to Selkirk. Presbytery agreed a rebate of £430 to Galashiels: Old and St Paul's. Presbytery agreed a rebate of £350 to Skirling Parish Kirk. Presbytery agreed a rebate of £3,000 to Peebles: St Andrew's Leckie. Presbytery encouraged congregations to consider applying for Ministry and Mission rebates to further their mission.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr Fraser Simm, Treasurer, presented a report regarding the updating of bank/cheque signatories. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed to remove Mr Grahame Henderson's name from the list of alternate signatories for the purposes of operating the Presbytery bank account and the signing of cheques. Presbytery agreed to allow the Treasurer or the Clerk to sign cheques or make bank transfers up to the value of £2,500; for amounts above that limit, both signatures will be required.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Change to Presbytery Year Book: Please note that Rev Rachel Dobie has a new email address - revracheldobie@gmail.com.
2. "Church as a Healing Community": This is an afternoon hosted by the Church of Scotland and the Guild of Health and St Raphael, with an opportunity to hear a little about the work of various resources which promote health, healing and well-being in local communities, and ideas for developing Healthy Healing Hubs in our churches. This will take place in St Andrews and St George's West Church, Edinburgh on 21 November 2019 from 2-5pm, preceding the Dennis Duncan Lecture at 7pm, with a drinks reception at 6.30pm. Michael Harvey will be giving the lecture entitled "The Invitation to Heal".

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Church of Scotland Stewardship Department: details of a Money Conference in November 2019 to be held at the Church of Scotland offices.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 3 December 2019 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