

CARLOPS 5 SEPTEMBER 2017: At Carlops Parish Church on Tuesday the fifth day of September 2017, the Presbytery met at 7pm for the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and thereafter was constituted by the Moderator, Professor M Campbell.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 18 ministers and 27 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator welcomed Mr Tom Burnham, Miss Linda White, Mrs Mary McElroy, Miss Dorothy Small, Ms Susan McDonald and Miss Ella Muir as new members of Presbytery for 2017/18.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 27 June 2017 was submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed, with the re-ordering of reports so that the Governance Committee report would be presented after the report of the Moderator's Committee.

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

1. General Assembly Remits 2017:

- (a) Presbytery remitted to the Governance Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to review any agreed Bases of Union or Linking which have yet to be implemented (in terms of item 8 on page 3 of the Remits Booklet, Legal Questions Committee), the Governance Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
 - (b) Presbytery remitted to the Mission and Service Committee the instruction to Presbyteries (and Kirk Sessions) to consider how best to respond to the call to the Church of Scotland to pray that God will do a fresh work amongst us as God's people (page 3 of the Remits Booklet, Council of Assembly, item 2), the Mission and Service Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
 - (c) Presbytery remitted to the Governance Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to ensure that all Kirk Sessions within their bounds keep a record of the number of people who have undertaken all types of Safeguarding training and submit an annual return to the Safeguarding Office by January 31 each year indicating numbers who have done so in the preceding calendar year (page 6 of the Remits Booklet, Safeguarding Committee, item 3), the Governance Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
 - (d) Presbytery remitted to the Mission and Service Committee the instruction to Presbyteries to work with the Ministries Council in developing a planning framework which supports and enables a locally-focussed missional approach (in terms of item 26 on page 6 of the Remits Booklet, Ministries Council), the Mission and Service Committee to report to Presbytery by the December meeting.
 - (e) Presbytery noted the instruction to Presbyteries, when training Elders as moderators of their own Kirk Session, to use the training resource that has been developed specifically for this situation (page 3 of the Remits Booklet, Mission and Discipleship Council, item 18).
 - (f) Presbytery instructed all Committees to study other remits and bring relevant matters to Presbytery.
 - (g) Presbytery instructed all ministers and elders to bring relevant instructions and other matters to the notice of their Kirk Sessions (see pages 3-8 of the Remits Booklet).
2. Presbytery homologated the decision of the Moderator's Committee as follows: The Moderator's Committee, Rev Margaret Steele, Moderator, Rev Calum Macdougall, Business Committee Convener, Rev Julie Rennick, Assistant Presbytery Clerk and Mr Paul Faris, Member of Presbytery Property Group, noted that, significant repairs being needed to the manse for Stow and Heriot Church, the Congregational Board and the Kirk Session of Stow and Heriot Church have given approval for the purchase of 20 Wedale View, Stow (or other suitable house) to be the new manse for the church, such purchase to be financed by an interest-free loan of up to £350,000 from the General Trustees, repayable from the proceeds of sale of the existing manse. On behalf of Presbytery the Moderator's Committee approved (1) the purchase, as the new manse for Stow and Heriot Church, of 20 Wedale View, Stow for a price in the region of £350,000, or such other house within the parish as may be approved by the General Trustees; and (2) the sale of the existing manse (209 Galashiels Road, Stow) provided the purchase of the new manse has been agreed.
3. Presbytery noted the ongoing progress on the Presbytery website, which Mr John Henderson reported will hopefully go live at the end of September. On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked Mr Henderson for his work on the website.

4. Presbytery noted that the 7 year period for the reviewable charge of Stow and Heriot had ended in August 2017 and remitted this matter to the Governance Committee to take forward and report to Presbytery as soon as reasonably practicable.
5. Presbytery noted that Rev Christine Clark has transferred back to Edinburgh Presbytery.
6. Presbytery appointed Rev Margaret Steele to be its representative on the Council of Assembly and Ministries Council Presbytery Conference, to be held at Macdonald Cardrona Hotel on 1 and 2 November 2017.
7. Presbytery approved the membership of its Committees for 2017/18 as set out in the Presbytery Year Book.
8. Presbytery noted that at its meeting in March 2018, instead of having an outside speaker, there will be a review of the current pilot of the Presbytery meetings and committee structure.
9. Following a verbal report from Rev Julie Rennick, Presbytery homologated the decision of the Moderator's Committee agreeing that Presbytery participates in a pilot of the proposed new Church of Scotland Presbytery review programme.
10. Presbytery noted that the areas of responsibility for the Assistant Clerk are as follows – Register of Ministries; Practising Certificates, Monthly Returns, PIMS, Statistical Returns, Presbytery Year Book, General Assembly Commissioners, and Prayer Diary editing. The Clerk will be responsible for all other matters and will be the main point of contact.

REGISTER OF MINISTRIES: Rev Julie Rennick, Assistant Clerk, presented a report on the Register of Ministries. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved as a draft the Register of Ministries circulated to presbyters and agreed that the Assistant Clerk should contact retired ministers residing outside the bounds of Presbytery regarding their categorisation within the Register.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted that the rebate to Presbytery in relation to Ministries and Mission contributions for 2018 was in the region of £35,000. Presbytery homologated the decision of the Moderator's Committee to release to Bowden and Melrose Church an amount of approximately £18,000 from the Consolidated Fabric Fund in respect of urgent building work. Presbytery agreed to make the following payments from the Ministries and Mission rebate fund for 2017: to Old Parish and St Paul's Church, £425 being around 50% of the costs of replacing tents used by the Boys Brigade; to each of the four churches in the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale, £500 (i.e. a total of £2,000) towards the services of a locum during the vacancy.

INTIMATIONS:

1. The General Assembly 2017 Remits Booklet was sent out to Presbytery members on email; printed copies were available at the Presbytery meeting or can be obtained from the Clerk.
2. The Presbytery Year Book 2017/18 has also been sent out by email, with printed copies available at the Presbytery meeting or from the Clerk.
3. Copies of the new Presbytery Prayer Guide have sent out by email, and were available to collect at the Presbytery meeting.
4. There is still some outstanding information needed for PIMS (Presbytery Information Management System) – if you have not yet responded to the Assistant Clerk's request for information, please could you do so as soon as possible.
5. Practising Certificates were available to collect at the meeting; any remaining Certificates will be sent out by post.
6. Copies of the "Guide to Presbytery" were available at the meeting for collection by new members of Presbytery.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Rev Milton Cashman: As part of a World Mission Weekend at Old Parish and St. Paul's and St. John's Churches in Galashiels, a Missionary Dinner is being held in St. Paul's Hall, Scott Crescent, Galashiels at 6.00pm for 6.30pm on Saturday, 16th September. There will be a three course meal followed by a talk from Jane Fucella of Interserve on 'The Changing Face of Mission today'. Jane and her husband served in Thailand for many years, originally with the Church of Scotland. Tickets priced £7.00 for Adults and £3.00 for young people are available from Milton Cashman (01896 xxxxxxx) who should also be notified of any dietary requirements. We should be grateful if Ministers would announce this event to their congregations.
2. From Rev Julie Rennick, Minister of Earlston Church: Rev Rola Sleiman, our mission partner in Lebanon, will be visiting Earlston from Saturday 16 - Tuesday 19 September 2017. Anyone who would like to meet her is invited to Earlston Manse on Monday 18 September, from 7.30pm. This will be an informal

reception with light refreshments. Please confirm to me if you are able to join us (RSVP by Tuesday 5 September).

3. From Rev Victoria Linford: As part of the Scottish Borders Heritage Festival, Stow Church will be open to the public on Saturday 23 September 2017 from 10am-3.30pm and on Sunday 24 September 2017 from 1pm-3.30pm. Free entry; light refreshments will be provided and there will be an exhibition about the life of the church in the parish.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 3 October at 7pm in Innerleithen Church for Ordinary Business, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.