

INNERLEITHEN 6 FEBRUARY 2018. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the sixth day of February 2018, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Prof Murray Campbell.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 18 ministers and 25 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 5 December 2017 was submitted and approved.

SPEAKER – VERY REV DR FINLAY MACDONALD: Dr Macdonald made a presentation to Presbytery, suggesting that it would be appropriate for the Church of Scotland to review once again the role of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and presenting to Presbytery a draft Overture on that matter. Presbytery received the report and thanked the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald for his presentation. After discussion, Presbytery agreed (on a vote of 33: FOR and 6: AGAINST) that the draft Overture anent the Westminster Confession of Faith be presented to the General Assembly of 2018 in the name of Presbytery. Presbytery agreed to nominate representatives to speak on this matter in the General Assembly of 2018, and asked that if anyone would like to do so, please could they contact the Clerk.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed with the addition of an extra item in the Business Committee report.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Mr Fraser Simm, Treasurer, presented a report. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery appointed Mr Grahame Henderson as Independent Examiner for the accounts of Presbytery for 2017.

REGISTER OF MINISTRIES: The Clerk presented the revised Register of Ministries as at 1 January 2018. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the initial Register of Ministries with effect from 1 January 2018.

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

1. Presbytery resolved to appoint Commissioners to the General Assembly (19-25 May 2018). Presbytery noted that its allocation of ministers for 2018 is four (plus an equal number of elders). The ministers of the following charges are asked to confirm to the Clerk by 26 February 2018 their willingness to accept commission, and submit the name of an elder to accompany them: Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn; Galashiels: Old and St Paul's l/w Galashiels: St John's; Channelkirk and Lauder; Earlston. Presbytery noted that the Very Rev David Arnott and the Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald also plan to attend the General Assembly of 2018; names of two possible additional accompanying elders should be submitted to the Clerk by 26 February 2018.
2. Presbytery noted that the national Presbytery Planning Conference scheduled for 18 January 2018 was postponed due to bad weather and is rescheduled for 8 March 2018. The Governance Committee has therefore requested that it may delay reporting on its review of the Presbytery Plan (remitted to it in December 2017); Presbytery agreed that the Governance Committee may bring its report to the May (rather than the March) meeting of Presbytery.
3. Presbytery granted permission for the recording of Melrose Parish Church by the Borders Church Recording Group, subject to approval of such recording by the Kirk Session.
4. Presbytery received the report of the Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator and agreed to invite the National Co-ordinator for 24/7 Prayer for Scotland to address the March meeting of Presbytery, with a view to organising an ecumenical prayer event around Pentecost 2018.
5. In advance of the March meeting, at which the Presbytery pilot structure will be reviewed, members of Presbytery were asked to complete the questionnaire sent out with Presbytery papers, and return it to the Clerk, if possible by 23 February 2018 (by email or hard copy).
6. Presbytery homologated the appointed by the Moderator's Committee of Rev Bruce Lawrie as interim moderator of Earlston Church, during the absence on sick leave of Rev Julie Rennick.

AFTER A BREAK IN THE MEETING FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY MET IN ITS STANDING COMMITTEES. PRESBYTERY RESUMED WITH ALL MEETING TOGETHER.

GOVERNANCE: Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented a report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed that the annual inspection of congregational records will take place on Thursday 15 March 2018, in Innerleithen Church from 10am-12noon, and instructed the Clerk to send out details of the records to be submitted. Presbytery noted changes to the visiting teams for the following Local Church Reviews in 2018, as follows:

EARLSTON:

Ministers: Rev Rosie Frew and Rev Milton Cashman

Elders: Mr John Henderson and Mrs Margaret Cashman

EDDLESTON l/w PEEBLES OLD:

Ministers: Rev Bruce Lawrie and Rev Winnie Munson

Elders: Mrs Fran Selkirk and Ms Susan McDonald

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PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery granted authority to the Business Committee to call on up to £1,000 from the Presbytery 5% rebate in order to provide administrative assistance without delay to the Presbytery Clerk; recognising that this will be subject to regular review.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Kirk Sessions are requested to submit all remaining Congregational Statistics forms to the Clerk as soon as possible.
2. The Presbytery website (www.melrosepeeblespresbytery.org.uk) has been updated, including with the addition of the latest Presbytery prayer diary, past minutes and a list of the books required by Zomba Presbytery.
3. Borders Street Pastors – the latest update was enclosed with Presbytery papers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Presbytery noted that, due to bad weather, services were not held at Tweedsmuir, or at Ettrick and Yarrow, on Sunday 21 January 2018.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 7pm in Innerleithen Church for Ordinary Business, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk