

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

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 16 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 6 February 2018 was submitted and approved.

SPEAKER – CRYSTAL CRYER, 24-7 PRAYER SCOTLAND: Due to bad weather, Ms Cryer was unable to be at Presbytery; she will instead be invited to address a future meeting of Presbytery.

THE BAIRD TRUST - PRESENTATION OF BOOK TOKEN: On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator presented to Rev Barry Hughes a book token gifted by the Baird Trust to ministers on probationary placement.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed with the addition of two further intimations.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer, Mr F Simm, presented the financial report for 2017. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the Report and Accounts to 31 December 2017. Presbytery thanked Mr Grahame Henderson for examining the Accounts. Presbytery approved the proposed congregational assessments for 2018: congregations up to 175 members - £330; congregations between 176 and 400 members - £520; congregations over 400 members - £820. Presbytery approved the charges for Study Leave for 2018: charges with up to 350 members - £105; charges between 351 and 650 members - £135; charges with 651 and more members - £165.

PRESBYTERY MET IN PRIVATE:

PRESBYTERY RESUMED IN OPEN COURT:

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

1. Presbytery appointed as Commissioners to the General Assembly (19-25 May 2018): Rev Janice Faris and Mr Jim Borthwick; Rev Dr Leon Keller and Mr Peter Sandison; Rev Rae Clark and an elder to be appointed; Rev Julie Rennick and Mr Mark Wands; Very Rev David Arnott and Mrs Susan White; Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald and an elder to be appointed.
2. Presbytery seeks to appoint a Youth Representative to attend the General Assembly of 2018; applications should be made to the Clerk.
3. Presbytery noted that it is planned to meet in Broughton Church in June 2018.
4. Presbytery appointed Rev Julie Rennick as the Alternate Contact Person for the purposes of its complaints process.
5. Presbytery granted approval, as requested by the Kirk Sessions of Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucho l/w Skirling l/w Stobo and Drumelzier l/w Tweedsmuir, for the continued appointment of Rev Thomas A Foley as locum for that linked charge with effect from April 2018, for a further period of two years or until the vacancy comes to an end, whichever is sooner.
6. Following the decision by Presbytery to present an Overture on the Westminster Confession of Faith to the General Assembly of 2018, Presbytery seeks representatives to speak on this matter at the General Assembly; if anyone is interested in doing this, please could they contact the Clerk.
7. Presbytery noted the appointment of Rev Rosie Frew to provide cover for Rev Julie Rennick as Assistant Clerk during her absence on sick leave.
8. Presbytery noted that a successful conference was held in Duns Presbytery on 3 February 2018, which was also attended by members of Melrose and Peebles Presbytery; the speaker was Rev Peter Neilson and the topic of the conference was "Revisiting the Church Without Walls report". Rev Milton Cashman gave a short report on the conference.
9. Presbytery noted that a new Data Protection regime will come into place in the UK as a result of the European Data Protection Regulation, and that it is planned to hold a training day later in 2018.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE – INNERLEITHEN TRAQUAIR AND WALKERBURN: Rev M Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Following intimation by Rev Janice Faris of her intention to retire from full-time parish ministry at the end of July 2018, Presbytery noted with approval the appointment of Rev Dr Miller Milloy as Interim Moderator in the charge of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn, with effect from the end of July 2018 or the date when permission to call a new minister is granted, whichever is earlier.

[...permission to call a new minister is granted, whichever is earlier.]

AFTER A BREAK IN THE MEETING FOR TEA/COFFEE, PRESBYTERY MET IN SMALL GROUPS FOR THE DISCUSSION TOPIC:

DISCUSSION TOPIC: In small groups, members of Presbytery discussed the questionnaire that had been circulated on the operation of the two year Presbytery pilot structure.

PRESBYTERY RESUMED WITH ALL MEETING TOGETHER:

GOVERNANCE: Rev Rosie Frew, Convener, presented a report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery was reminded that the annual inspection of congregational records would take place on Thursday 15 March 2018, in Innerleithen Church from 10am-12noon.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr G Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee, with Dr F Burnett presenting that part of the report relating to World Mission. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted the need for Worship Leader Assessors and asked those interested to contact the Clerk. Presbytery noted the need for further thinking on a locally focussed missionary approach and welcomed a co-ordinated radical approach to reviewing and planning any adjustment of congregations within the bounds through Parish Appraisal and the Presbytery Plan. Presbytery approved progress in the implementation of the Year of Young People programme. Presbytery welcomed plans for hosting visitors from Malawi and Lebanon and urged churches to offer practical support to the organising group as required. Presbytery invited the Property and Stewardship Committee to secure the necessary finding to make the visit a success. Presbytery invited the Business Committee to consider a Middle East event within Presbytery.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the sale of part of the Glebe at Glenholm for a garden extension. Presbytery approved a Ministries and Mission rebate of £1,000 for Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn as they follow the Path of Renewal programme. Presbytery approved a Ministries and Mission rebate of £1,500 for Stow and Heriot towards expenses for their 'Year of Promise'. Presbytery approved the appointment of consultants to carry out the 2018 Principal and Interim reports.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Kirk Sessions are requested to submit all remaining Congregational Statistics forms to the Clerk as soon as possible.
2. Members of Presbytery are reminded that the Presbytery website can be viewed at www.melrosepeeblespresbytery.org.uk.
3. The Presbytery Prayer Diary for March/April/May 2018 has been sent out by email and some printed copies were available to collect at the Presbytery meeting.
4. Presbytery noted that, due to the bad weather, services were not held in the following churches on Sunday 4 March 2018: Caddonfoot, Ettrick and Yarrow, Channelkirk and Lauder, Stobo and Drumelzier, Tweedsmuir, Kirkurd and Newlands, Maxton and Mertoun, Newtown, Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's, Galashiels: St John's, Ashkirk, Lyne and Manor; services were also cancelled at Bowden and Heriot churches, although worship was held elsewhere in those parishes.
5. Helpers are sought for the Boys Brigade Company at Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul's Church; anyone interested can contact the Clerk in the first instance.
6. Copies of a fundraising quiz for Tearfund's 50th anniversary were available at Presbytery; price £1 each.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Borders Street Pastors – the latest update, for February 2018, had been circulated with the Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 7pm in Innerleithen Church for Ordinary Business, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk