

INNERLEITHEN 7 MAY 2019. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the seventh day of May 2019, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Rev Julie Rennick.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 18 ministers and 29 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book.

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

COMMISSIONING OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019: Those appointed by Presbytery to be members of the forthcoming General Assembly were commissioned in prayer and charged by the Moderator to be diligent in fulfilling their duties as Commissioners. The Moderator then led Presbytery in prayer for the Commissioners and for the work of the Assembly.

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

SPEAKER – JOANNA SMITH, SCOTTISH BORDERS EMERGENCY FAITH RESPONSE PLAN: The Moderator welcomed Ms Joanna Smith, who gave a presentation to Presbytery on the Scottish Borders Emergency Faith Response Plan. As part of her role as the Work Place Chaplain to Scottish Borders Council, Ms Smith was asked to reinstate this plan, which involves people of faith being available in case of a local emergency, whether due to bad weather, accident or attack. Having a plan in place allows local faith groups to assist the emergency services by providing spiritual or practical care. The Emergency Faith Response Plan is operated in conjunction with other groups, such as Borders Street Pastors and Resilient Communities. Ms Smith encouraged congregations within Presbytery to register with Scottish Borders Council to take part in the Scottish Borders Emergency Faith Response Plan. Further information can be obtained from: joannasmithselkirk@gmail.com.

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

1. Presbytery nominated Rev Malcolm Jefferson and Dr John Dimmock for the Commission of Assembly for 2019-2020.
2. Presbytery invited Mary Hall, General Assembly Youth Representative, to address the June meeting of Presbytery.
3. Presbytery noted that Elders' Commissions for 2019-2020 should be returned to the Clerk by 1 June 2019.
4. Presbytery noted the Business Committee's nomination of Dr Fiona Burnett as the next Moderator of Presbytery.
5. Presbytery approved the continuation of the appointment of Timothy Linford as locum at Channelkirk and Lauder for a further period of three months (until 31 August 2019) or, if sooner, until Rev Rae Clark returns from sick leave.
6. Presbytery noted that the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale have appointed Rev John Smith as locum minister, with effect from 1 April 2019.
7. Presbytery agreed that its June meeting should be held in Galashiels: Trinity Church.

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

FORUM DISCUSSION: Following an introduction by Mr David Brackenridge, Presbytery broke into small groups to discuss General Assembly reports, in particular the Council of Assembly Radical Action Plan and the Special Commission on Structural Change. Rev Milton Cashman also urged Commissioners to bring to the attention of the General Assembly the recent interim report from the Bishop of Truro on the global persecution of Christians.

PRESBYTERY RESUMED WITH ALL MEETING TOGETHER:

GOVERNANCE: Rev Marion Dodd, Superintendence Vice-Convener, reported on the annual inspection of congregational records which had taken place on 21 March 2019. In general all records were in good order with only minor irregularities. This year, a letter would not be sent out to each congregation, but all congregations were asked to ensure that blank pages in minute books were ruled with a line to prevent insertions, and that all pages were signed or initialled. To achieve greater standardisation of record keeping, congregations were asked if loose-leaf minute books could be maintained with pages running from back to front, and that coloured dividers could be inserted to mark each calendar year. Ms Dodd also reported that the Presbytery records had been inspected on 21 March 2019 and were found to be in good order.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the application for Study Leave (22 August - 4 September 2019) from Rev Margaret Steele, at a cost of £335.50 from the Presbytery Study Leave fund. Presbytery urged presbyters to identify persons willing to tutor courses and to pass names to the Convener as soon as possible. Presbytery urged presbyters to ensure that numbers likely to attend the June Away Day conference are sent to the Convener by 20 May 2019. Presbytery requested names of contributors to the Away Day conference to be confirmed to the convener by 20 May 2019.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Re-generate - Rural Ministries Day Conference: Berwick Baptist Church, Berwick on Tweed, 8 June 2019. Tickets £20. Details and tickets available on the website: www.ruralministries.org.uk/regionalconferences2019.

2. Presbytery noted that Rev Bob Milne had sent to Presbytery an update on his work in Zomba Presbytery, which included providing practical help to those affected by the recent Cyclone Idai.
3. Presbytery noted that Rev Charles Duncan, former minister within the Presbytery and Presbytery Clerk for many years, had died on 1 May 2019; a service would be held in the Borders Crematorium on Tuesday 14 May 2019 at 3pm, and tribute would be paid to Mr Duncan at the June meeting of Presbytery.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Borders Street Pastors – April 2019 and May 2019 newsletters were enclosed with Presbytery papers.
2. From Christian Aid – the annual Book Sale would be held at St Andrew's and St George's West Church, Edinburgh, from Saturday 11-Friday 17 May 2019. Flyers were available at the Presbytery meeting with times and further information.
3. From Jim Tennant – posters for a Christian Aid quiz night at Kingsknowes Hotel on 23 May 2019 were available at Presbytery.
4. From the Churches of Upper Tweeddale – Presbytery granted permission to the Churches of Upper Tweeddale to hold a joint service in Tweedsmuir Church on Sunday 16 June 2019.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 25 June 2019 at 7pm in Galashiels: Trinity Church, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk