

7 November 2017

PRESBYTERY of MELROSE and PEEBLES

INNERLEITHEN 7 NOVEMBER 2017. At Innerleithen Church on Tuesday the seventh day of November 2017, the Presbytery met at 7pm and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Professor M Campbell.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 18 ministers and 34 elders whose names were recorded in the attendance book. Apologies were also recorded in the book. The Moderator also welcomed representatives from the congregation of Ettrick and Yarrow to the meeting of Presbytery.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 3 October 2017 was submitted and approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS: The order of business was approved as printed, with the deletion of the report from the Property and Stewardship Committee, and the addition of reports from the Moderator's Committee and the Governance Committee.

GUILD REPORT: Dr Margaret Habeshaw, Convener of the Melrose and Peebles Presbyterial Council, presented the Guild report. Some recent developments nationally have included improved communication links, an increase in Guild merchandising, and a Guild visit to Malawi. An impressive £510,000 has been raised by the Guild so far for its six chosen projects. Locally, Dr Habeshaw reported on the two roadshow meetings organised by the Presbytery with Ian White, the Guild General Secretary, as the speaker; disappointingly, all those who attended these two meetings were already Guild members. There are ten Guilds in the Presbytery, and Dr Habeshaw encouraged other congregations to consider forming one, and for Guilds to be actively supported by their Kirk Sessions. Guild Week in 2017 is from 19-26 November, and the theme for the new session is "Go in Love". The Moderator thanked Dr Habeshaw on behalf of Presbytery.

DEMISSION OF REV SAMUEL SIROKY: Rev Calum Macdougall, Convener of the Business Committee, reported that a request by Rev Samuel Siroky to demit his charge of Ettrick and Yarrow had been received. Presbytery agreed to the demission of Rev Samuel Siroky from the charge of Ettrick and Yarrow. Mrs Nora Hunter, Session Clerk at Ettrick and Yarrow, spoke and paid tribute to the ministry of Mr Siroky, and he made suitable reply. The Moderator also paid tribute to Mr Siroky and on behalf of Presbytery wished him well in the future.

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

1. Presbytery noted that its website is now live and can be accessed at the address: www.melrosepeeblespresbytery.org.uk. Congregations are asked to put a link to the Presbytery website on their congregational websites. On behalf of Presbytery the Moderator thanked Mr John Henderson for his work on the new website.
2. Presbytery thanked Mrs Susan White for her short written report on the Presbytery Away-Day held on 18 October 2017, led by Professor David Fergusson.
3. Presbytery thanked Rev Margaret Steele for attending on its behalf the Ministries Council Presbytery Conference held in Peebles on 1 and 2 November 2017. Miss Steele made a short report to Presbytery on the Conference, one of the main features of which had been a report by the Council of Assembly on the Church of Scotland Strategic Plan.
4. Presbytery noted that its current Presbytery Plan was adopted in 2013, that the last annual review of the Plan took place in May 2017 and that its five-year review is due in 2018. Out of the 14 charges within the Presbytery, there are currently six charges which are vacant or soon to be vacant, or in respect of which the Plan has been suspended or where the review period for the charge is complete, soon to be complete or may be brought forward. Presbytery further noted that it will therefore be moved at the December meeting of Presbytery that the current Presbytery Plan be suspended (under Act VII 2003, section 9(1)) and the five-year review of the Plan be brought forward a few months. This will allow a systematic review of the Plan to be undertaken by the Governance Committee (Parish Appraisal) rather than dealing on a piecemeal basis with the current vacancies and reviews. Congregations will be cited to attend the December meeting for their interests, and any review would not affect the status of ministers in unrestricted charges or charges which have already been given permission to call a minister under the existing Plan.
5. Presbytery agreed to suspend the Presbytery Plan for Ettrick and Yarrow in terms of Act VII 2003, section 9(1) and remitted consideration of that section of the Plan to the Governance Committee (Parish Appraisal). Presbytery instructed the Clerk to send intimation of this decision to Ministries Council.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE: Rev Margaret Steele, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery noted with approval the arrangements for the demission of Rev Samuel Siroky from 31 December 2017 and the appointment of Rev Elspeth Harley as Interim Moderator of Ettrick and Yarrow. Presbytery noted with approval the appointment of Rev Sheila Moir as Convener of the Advisory Committee for Ettrick and Yarrow and Mr Alistair Wilson and Mrs Winnie Milligan as members.

REGISTER OF MINISTRIES: The Clerk presented the revised Register of Ministries, which was as circulated with the papers with the additions under Category I of Rev Glyn Taverner and Rev Stan Kennon. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the Register of Ministries, effective from 1 January 2018, and instructed the Assistant Clerk to send the Register of Ministries to Ministries Council.

MISSION AND SERVICE: Mr Graeme Donald, Convener, presented the report of the Mission and Service Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery approved the Deliverance associated with Appendix A, as follows:
 - a. Presbytery agreed to the provision of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles Scheme for the Selection, Training and Authorisation of Worship Leaders as detailed in Appendix 1(A) on the Selection, Training and Authorisation of Worship Leaders, in terms of the Ministry Act (Act II, 2000), s22(10).
 - b. Presbytery noted that such a scheme does not replace or diminish the right of the Minister of any charge to approve local worship leaders conducting worship under the supervision of the Minister.
 - c. Presbytery noted that those authorised to lead worship, having successfully completed the approved scheme for the Selection, Training and Authorisation of Worship Leaders, may make themselves available to charges within the bounds but are not required to do so.
 - d. Presbytery approved the staging of a course on “Leading Worship” to be held in Innerleithen Church, on three Saturdays – 17 March, 21 April and 12 May 2018 and agreed to invite Rev Linda Walker to tutor the course.
 - e. Presbytery approved the Tutor’s fee and travel costs plus facility expenses of £680.00.
 - f. Presbytery further approved that the “Away Day” on 2 June 2018 be devoted to an informal “pick and mix” from a selection of the eight module topics as part of professional learning for those already leading worship and to offer an indication of the need or otherwise for another course leading to formal authorisation in 2019.
 - g. Presbytery remitted the training and appointment of Assessors and Presbytery based Course Tutors to the Business Committee.
2. Presbytery approved the Deliverance associated with Appendix B, as follows:
 - a. Presbytery encouraged churches within the bounds to consider responding to the monthly themes and the Sundays as identified in paragraphs B2.4 and B2.5 of the report.
 - b. Presbytery agreed to explore further, through the Mission and Service Committee, the options as set out in section B3 of the report.
 - c. Presbytery agreed to set aside £4,470 in support of the “Year of Young People” together with a contribution to costs associated with hosting young people from Malawi and Lebanon.
 - d. Presbytery agreed to work in partnership with Scottish Borders Council as their programme for the year is finalised.
 - e. Presbytery agreed to consider a detailed report on the final programme and funding arrangements at the December meeting.
 - f. Presbytery noted that a programme of YoYP events and other information is to be published early in 2018.
3. Presbytery agreed to the formation of a joint working group between the Mission and Service Committee and the Governance Committee to progress the General Assembly Remit within the bounds of the Presbytery, the joint working group to collaborate with any other group(s) within Presbytery formed to consider Presbytery Planning.
4. Presbytery appointed the Vice-Convener of the Mission and Service Committee to chair the joint group between the Mission and Service and the Governance Committees.

5. Presbytery agreed to the topic “Encouraging Local Mission” as the theme of the programme for a Presbyteries joint “Away Day” in November 2018 using “Fresh Expressions” and the report from the 2017 “Away Day” on Local Mission as reference points.
6. Presbytery invited the Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator to pursue “Encouraging Prayer” as part of work with local Prayer Co-ordinators.
7. Presbytery noted the ongoing work of the Mission and Service Committee associated with Key Tasks as recorded in section 2.2 of the report.
8. Presbytery approved in principle of plans to host a group of Young People from Malawi and the Lebanon and invited the Property and Stewardship Committee to identify Presbytery funds which could be used by the World Mission group in order to seek matched funding from other sources.
9. Presbytery agreed that the Mission and Service Committee is to report to Presbytery as soon as possible seeking final approval on the plans referred to in section 8; the report to include the numbers involved from Malawi/Lebanon and Scotland/Scottish Borders; the detailed programme, and information on costings including application to funding sources outwith Presbytery.

GOVERNANCE: Rev Marion Dodd, Superintendence Vice-Convener, presented the report of the Governance Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery agreed that Local Reviews would take place in 2017/18 for Earlston, Eddleston l/w Peebles: Old and Galashiels: Old Parish and St Paul’s l/w Galashiels: St John’s, and that an Interim Review would take place in 2017/18 for Caddonfoot l/w Galashiels: Trinity. Presbytery remitted to the Governance Committee the question of whether Local and Interim Reviews should take place during a vacancy or be postponed till the vacancy is filled.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Updates to Presbytery Year Book: (Private to members only)
2. Reminder - Duns Presbytery has invited the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles to participate in its conference day on Saturday 3 February 2018, at which the speaker will be Rev Peter Neilson. Further details will be provided in due course.
3. Reminder - Resourcing the Rural Church: One of the forthcoming Rural Resourcing Roadshows will be held at Melrose Parish Church on Saturday 18 November 2017, from 10.30am – 3.30pm. To register please contact wmorris@churchofscotland.org.uk.
4. The latest update on Borders Street Pastors has been sent out by email and printed copies were available to collect at Presbytery.
5. The latest Crossreach Information Sheet has been sent out by email and printed copies were available to collect at Presbytery.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From Rev Bill Taylor, Scottish Prison Service Chaplaincy Adviser – information about Prisoners Week, 19-26 November 2017. The theme this year is “Hope Within”, and leaflets were available at Presbytery for anyone who would like to know more.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday 5 December at 7pm in Innerleithen Church for Ordinary Business, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.