

1 DECEMBER 2020. On Tuesday the first day of December 2020, the Presbytery met by ZOOM at 7pm for Ordinary Business, and the Moderator constituted the meeting in prayer.

SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES: There were present 8 ministers and 28 elders whose names were recorded by the Clerk in the attendance book. The names of corresponding members in attendance were also recorded, as were apologies.

MINUTES: The minute of the meeting of 3 November 2020 was submitted and approved as circulated.

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES: Rev Margaret Steele, Training and Supervision Co-ordinator, presented Mrs Pamela Kennedy and Mr Tim Linford, Candidates for the national ordained Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Mrs Kennedy and Mr Linford each gave a brief description of the highlights and challenges of their training in the past year, particularly during the ongoing Covid situation. On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator wished them both well in their ministry training.

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

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Prof Murray Campbell, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee. Presbytery received the report. Presbytery approved the rota for the initial selection of commissioners to the General Assembly of 2021 and following years, noting that this may be affected by future Presbytery planning and reform. Presbytery remitted to the Business Committee the task of appointing commissioners to the General Assembly of 2021, to be completed by the end of January 2021.

COMMITTEE ON THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS: Mr Keith Simpson, Convener, presented the report of the Committee on the Re-opening of Church Buildings. Mr Simpson explained that a further three congregations have been given permission to re-open buildings for worship services or private prayer, with a further application being considered.

PRESBYTERY PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION GROUP: Mr David Brackenridge, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Planning Implementation Group. Presbytery received the report. Mr Brackenridge reported that there had been substantial progress on almost all of the adjustments to be implemented under the Presbytery Plan, and it was likely that some of these would come before Presbytery in February 2021.

PROPERTY AND STEWARDSHIP: Mrs Isobel Hunter, Convener, presented the report of the Property and Stewardship Committee. Presbytery received the report.

1. Presbytery encouraged Congregations to share with Presbytery their 2020 experiences in dealing with their finances.
2. Presbytery approved the formation of a sub-committee under the Property and Stewardship Committee to administer the Good Ideas Fund; the sub-committee may award grants and these will be reported to the next meeting of Presbytery.
3. Presbytery approved the following grants from the Good Ideas Fund:
 - a. £500 to Selkirk Parish Church to help them towards restarting their Open Door project with a meal delivery service;
 - b. Around £450 to St John's Galashiels to enable them to provide a home delivery of afternoon tea and a devotional book to isolated parishioners;
 - c. £250 to the Parishes of Upper Tweeddale towards their drive-in Christmas Concerts;
 - d. £500 to St Andrews Leckie, Peebles, to support their youth worker bringing around 20 young people together in a safe socially-distanced way at Broomlee Outdoor Education Centre in West Linton.

INTIMATIONS:

1. Meeting of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles World Mission Congregational Representatives: by Zoom on Sunday 6 December 2020 at 2.00 pm.
2. Edinburgh University School of Divinity: Introduction to Pioneer Ministry and Church Planting – a flyer with details of this course is available from the Clerk.
3. The Presbytery Prayer Diary for December/January/February has been sent out to Presbytery members.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7pm by Zoom, of which public intimation was made, and the *sederunt* was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk