

Presbytery Meeting Tuesday 6th September 2016 Summary

The September meeting of Presbytery was at Stockethill Church, the church of the Moderator, Rev Ian M Aitken, which meets within Cairncry Community Centre. The business included the following:

Tribute

The Rev Markus Aufferman, minister at Woodside Parish Church, led tribute to the life of Miss Moyra McCallum DCS an active leader at Woodside, a retired Church of Scotland Deaconess, commissioned in 1965 and a member of Aberdeen Presbytery. She died suddenly at 80 years of age on Friday 15th July 2016.

Moyra went to school in Aberdeen and amongst her many achievements obtained degrees from both Aberdeen University and St Andrew's. During the course of her working life she spent 4 years teaching at St Margaret's School for Girls, lectured at Aberdeen University and St Colm's College Edinburgh, served on a number of national panels and committees and was President of the Diaconate Council from 1983 to 1986.

Moyra touched the lives of many with her intelligence, kindness and understanding.

Presbytery also noted with sadness the death of the Rev John Anderson, former minister at Mannofield Church and former Moderator of the Presbytery of Aberdeen. The Moderator had expressed his condolences to the family.

Visit from Malawi

A delegation of 9 from Blantyre City Presbytery was due to visit Aberdeen from 1st to 13th September but because of travel difficulties at Frankfurt arrived 30 hours late on Friday the 2nd. Presbytery was addressed by the group leader Rev Mbolebole who brought greetings from Blantyre City Presbytery and spoke of how the partnership between Aberdeen Presbytery and Blantyre had gone from strength to strength in the 12 years of its existence with a passion for it to continue to grow. Assistance rendered when they were in need was acknowledged and not taken for granted.

With Malawi being part of the Commonwealth the visitors were delighted to have the opportunity to see the Queen at the Braemar Gathering.

As part of the programme of events, Ms Carol Findlay, Twinning Coordinator from 121, was due to meet with delegates and representatives from all partner churches on 8th September at Rubislaw Church Centre to discuss communications and relationships between partner churches as well as other matters which attendees would like to bring up. The Convenor of the Malawi Partnership Committee the Rev Dr Robert Smith invited as many as possible to attend the meeting.

Ministries and Mission Contributions

In 2016 the 5% of Ministries and Mission Contributions retained by Presbytery, and to be used at Presbytery's discretion, amounted to £83,000. Presbytery had already approved reductions of £41,256. The Presbytery Congregational Stewardship Committee recommended and Presbytery accepted, further reductions to 7 other churches of £33,500 leaving a balance of £8,244. Recent information had suggested that the amount available for 2017 would be about £84,000 but this was to be reduced by about £20,000 which was the contribution underpaid by some Aberdeen churches in 2015. Presbytery agreed that the £8,244 balance remaining for 2016 be used to offset part of the £20,000 meaning that about £72,000 would be available for Presbytery's discretion in 2017.

From next year, the Conveners of Business and Finance, Planning and Deployment, Congregational Support and Congregational Stewardship, along with the Presbytery Clerk, will meet annually to provide an agreed framework of priorities within which decisions about the use of the Presbytery's Ministry and Mission allowance are made.

Property Quinquennials

Presbytery agreed the Business and Finance Committee proposal that the Treasurer would draw up three groups of congregations based on congregational income, and assigned to each group would be a specified contribution payable by the congregation towards the cost of Property Quinquennials. This will possibly mean that one group would meet the full contribution, another would contribute £500 and another £250. The average cost of such reports is £900 - £1000.

Youth Work Contacts

The Congregational Support Committee reported that it would be extremely helpful for the committee to have a contact list for those in Presbytery's congregations who are working with young people, either employed youth workers or volunteers leading youth work, so that it could both make contact and get a better understanding of what congregations are doing and where there are needs.

Presbytery encouraged Kirk Sessions to forward contact details of a designated person working with youth in their congregation to the Presbytery Office.

Tomorrow's Calling

As part of ground-breaking Learn series of publications from the Church of Scotland, the Ministries and Mission & Discipleship Council have collaborated over their newest book "Tomorrow's Calling: Discerning A Call To Ministry". The Congregational Support Committee reported that this book would be ideal for passing on to folks that might be considering ministry. It is available with a discount of 35% via <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/learn/resources>.

CONSULTATION ON NEW DRAFT DISCIPLINE ACT

The Rev Barry Dunsmore, Convenor of the Presbytery Visitation and Oversight Committee, asked Presbyters to respond to the following which can be found on page 23 of the 2016 General Assembly Remits Booklet:

The Legal Questions Committee has been working on the consolidation and reform of the Church's four existing Disciplinary Acts, to produce a new draft Act containing one common disciplinary process for all types of Respondent, applicable to all types of alleged offences. The draft Discipline Act has been placed on the Church's website for comment from interested parties. There is a set of questions which can be answered, in whole or in part, or alternatively all and any comments on the draft Act are welcome. The consultation can be found here:

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/councils_committees_and_departments/committees/legal_questions_committee Comments should be sent by 12 noon on Monday 31 October 2016 to the following email address: lqcfedback@cofscotland.org.uk. Your comments will be much appreciated.

Transition Ministry Post Cove Application

As part of the agreed Presbytery Plan for South St Nicholas, Kincorth and Cove, in which exploration of "a fresh approach to ministry in the south side of Presbytery" was approved, an application had been compiled by Lorna Glen, Convenor of the Presbytery Planning and Deployment Committee (PDC) and the Rev Eddie McKenna for a Ministries Council Transition Ministry post to support this vision and its development.

With the vacancy in Cove Parish, maintaining ministry to Cove was the principal focus of the PDC. However the PDC, reflecting on the Ministries Council Report to the 2016 General Assembly, recognised an opportunity to develop a ministry partnership to the south of the city and

River Dee, consisting of the three parishes of Torry St Fittick's, South St Nicholas Kincorth and Cove. The appointment of a Transition Minister would enable and support the creation of a Hub of Ministry in this part of Presbytery, whilst also taking a lead role in leading the "shift of mind-set" that will be required to enable new models of ministry to be developed across Presbytery in future years. It was envisaged that part of this post would be to identify priorities, strategies, good practice and developing a vision for other parts of the Presbytery to be ministered to in similar ways.

Presbytery approved the submission of the application to the Ministries Council.

Presbytery also:

- Received and discussed the Report of the Visitation and Oversight Committee on the Local Church Review of Kingswells Parish Church.
- Warmly congratulated the Rev David Hutchison and the Rev George Cowie on the attainment of the semi jubilee of their Ordinations in 1991.
- Warmly congratulated the Rev Dr Norman Maciver on the attainment of the 40th Anniversary of his Ordination on 26th August 1976.
- Warmly congratulated the Rev Professor John Swinton on receiving the 2016 Michael Ramsey Prize for Theological Writing for his book 'Dementia: Living in the Memories of God'.

Amongst the Intimations were:

Council of Assembly "On the Road" Roadshow event "Listening, Sharing, Planning". Leaders from the Church of Scotland run a series of day and evening events across the country this autumn. The purpose of the roadshow is to listen to ideas and to share thinking about the future direction of the ministry and mission of the Church of Scotland. Day events will run from 11.00am-3.00pm and evening events from 6.30pm - 9.30pm on Saturday 22nd October at Queen's Cross Church.

An Intergenerational Working Group has been formed with staff and members of the National Youth Assembly and the Guild following an instruction from the General Assembly 2014. The group are to bring a final Report to the 2017 General Assembly and in order to do so they seek examples of intergenerational work and ministry in practice. Should a congregation have any examples of generations working and/or worshipping together then a request has been made that a survey is completed to help the group gather information which will inform the Assembly. The survey may be accessed at <http://mobilize/s3/fe357298c1f2>.