

PRESBYTERY OF GORDON

Presbytery met for ordinary business at Midmar Church on Tuesday 5th April 2011 and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator Mr David Harvey. Present were 17 ministers, 1 deacon, 18 elders and 1 corresponding member. There were 15 apologies.

MINUTES OF 1ST MARCH 2011

The minutes of 1st March was read and approved.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: REV ALAN GREIG

The Convener presented his report and two deliverances which were approved.

1. Presbytery thanks and discharges the Presbytery Plan Implementation Committee on the completion of their remit.
2. Subject to the agreement of this year's General Assembly to launch a National Stewardship Programme, Presbytery approves the holding of a National Stewardship Programme Conference on the evening of either Thursday 15th, or Tuesday 20th, or Wednesday 28th September at Inverurie West Church.

The Convener assured members that the programme being presented would be flexible.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS: THE CLERK

The Clerk presented the correspondence and intimations as printed (pages) and there was one additional letter:-

1. Change in legislation relating to the Public Entertainments Licence supplied by the Solicitor of the Church of Scotland.

Rev Euan Glen corrected and clarified the impression given by the Clerk and stated that where events are to be held in church buildings, the local authority should be contacted where any doubt existed on the application of the act.

There were two additional intimations from members.

1. Howe Trinity's After 8's Group will have Peter Chirside of the Scottish Bible Society to speak on '400 Years later' (King James VI Bible) on 25th April at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.
2. A service of Praise and Thanksgiving at Kildrummy Church to mark its hand over to the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust on Sunday the 17th of April at 2.30pm.

COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Clerk reported that the Presbytery's allocation of Commissioners for the 2011 General Assembly had been filled and presented one deliverance which was approved.

1. Presbytery homologates the appointment of the following Commissioners to attend the 2011 General Assembly.
Elders: Ruth Greig, Lesley Michie and Leslie Moffat.

THE GUILD, NATIONAL AND LOCAL: LESLEY MICHIE

The Convener of Gordon Presbyterial Council, Mrs Lesley Michie, presented her report (see pages) focussing on the second year of the Guild's current three year strategy entitled 'What does the Lord require of you?'

Several Guild members from congregations in Presbytery attended the Annual Meeting in the Caird Hall, Dundee hearing a range of inspiring speakers including the Christian writer Lesley Bilinda, Elaine Duncan of the Scottish Bible Society and the Moderator Rt. Rev John Christie on the theme 'Called to love mercy'. 'Can we forgive and forget' was the Discussion Topic for the session.

The issue of Violence against Women was addressed through the Guild's participation in '16days of Action on Violence against Women'. A Service of Thanksgiving was held in Perth marking the end of the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence.

The Guild has continued to support a range of projects under the title 'What does the Lord require of you?' using the resource material provided. A sum of over £325,000 has been raised.

Guild Week provides an opportunity for members to highlight the work of the Guild through services of worship. The Guild works with other national organisations offering opportunities to contribute a distinctively Christian voice to debate. Within our own Presbyterial Council members have enjoyed fellowship through the Annual Rally. A training day was held in relation to the third year of the 2009-12 'What does the Lord require of us/?' strategy which was also attended by members of the Banff area.

The Convener expressed her thanks for the opportunity to address Presbytery on this year's work of the Guild.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE: REV JOHN RENTON, CONVENER

The Convener presented his report.

Resources Day

This event will be held before the end of June to showcase good ideas which congregations can learn from in developing initiatives with children and young people. Congregations are asked to return their questionnaires to the Convener to facilitate in the planning of the event.

Home Mission Committee

The 'Back to Church Sunday' training events led by Michael Harvey and held at Noth Parish Church were well attended and well received with figures of over 40 and over 20 people attending the afternoon and evening events.

'Equip' is a resource offered by Mission and Discipleship Council to equip and inspire congregations, information is available on the Church of Scotland website.

The Convener informed members of the 'Stillness and Silence' event in Inverurie West Chapel on 4th May at 7.30pm.

Ecumenical Affairs Committee

The Convener thanked Anne Campbell on the production of the Ecumenical Survey report (see pages) and commended the findings which had been circulated with the Presbytery papers to members.

Education Committee

This year's Youth Assembly theme of 'Love Life' was highlighted. Members should encourage applications from young people of their congregations to be made as soon as possible.

Vision Day

The Convener reported on the Mission – Shaped Ministry Vision Day which was held in Aberdeen which had been attended by members of 6 congregations from our Presbytery. The aim is to encourage congregations to connect with their communities through different approaches and outreach.

A Mission Shaped Intro consisting of 6 training sessions will take place at Kemnay Church Centre in May and June. These training sessions are an introduction to a year long Mission Shaped Ministry course which Aberdeen Presbytery is commencing in the autumn. He encouraged each congregation to send a number of people to the Intro course and asked for help from people who would be willing to act as facilitators for the course.

Information flyers have been distributed and information is also available on the Presbytery website.

WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE: REV ISABEL BUCHAN

The Convener reported that congregations had raised a sum of £7,614.50 in response to the appeal from our Missionary partners Dr David and Mrs Rebecca Morton for assistance with their work at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi.

A number of responses to the Presbytery Twinning Profile questionnaire have been received and used in the compiling of a presbytery profile which is required for the matching up Gordon Presbytery with a presbytery in Southern Sudan. Further congregational information and photographs would be much appreciated so that the profile can be submitted.

Southern Sudan will be established as an independent country in July. The Convener asked for that congregations to place the people of Sudan in their prayers as the country had gone through a period of much suffering and many deaths.

At the end of the report Rev Alan Greig reported that Kintore parish Church had raised a sum of £1,900 to donate to the Missionary Partners appeal for Nkhoma Hospital.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: REV NEIL MACGREGOR

The Convener presented his report (see page) and two deliverances which were approved.

Report of Diligence inspecting Congregational Property Registers.

1. Presbytery receives the report.

New Machar Parish Church

1. Presbytery approves the transfer of funds from the Consolidated Stipend Fund to The Consolidated Fabric Fund to the sum of £341,500, subject to the approval of The General Trustees and the Ministries Council.

SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: REV MATTHEW CANLIS

The Convener asked the Finance sub Committee Convener to present his report.

Finance

Mr Malcolm Christie, Vice Convener of the Finance Committee presented his report (see pages) and four deliverances which were approved.

1. Presbytery approves the Presbytery accounts for 2010 and invites the Moderator and Presbytery Clerk to sign them on behalf of the Presbytery.

2. Presbytery instructs the Presbytery Clerk to forward copies of the signed accounts and a copy of the 2010 Presbytery Yearbook to the Stewardship and Finance Department and OSCR.
3. Presbytery approves the Presbytery budget for 2011.
4. Presbytery agrees the income assessment for each congregation for both the General Fund and Property fund and requires that payments be made by congregations to the Presbytery Treasurer on separate cheques by 31st May 2011

MINISTRIES COMMITTEE: REV EUAN GLEN

The Convener presented his report which contained one deliverance.

Education for Ministry Study Leave

An application for study leave has been received from Rev John Cook. The question of whether Presbytery was required to approve the leave or note it had been discussed at the Business Committee meeting and no clear conclusion arrived at. The aim and conditions were outlined and explained by the Convener and the condition that ‘Final arrangements to be agreed with an appropriate Presbytery Committee at as early a date as possible prior to, and at least three months in advance of, the period of leave’ was highlighted. He explained that it would seem that Presbytery does have a role to play in granting study leave and that Presbytery has to agree to the application rather than just noting it. The Convener apologised to Presbytery for not looking it out earlier and moved an amended deliverance.

1. Presbytery approves the application for study leave from Rev John Cook for the period of 15th August to 26th August 2011 and for similar periods in 2012 and 2013.

The deliverance was approved.

Enquiry and Assessment Process

Any ministers who would like to assist in this process should submit their names to Rev Paul McKeown who would forward these to the Ministries Council.

National Assessors

The Convener outlined the role of a National Assessor and the training process stating that anyone wishing to be considered should submit his or her name to the Clerk. Presbytery is responsible for formally nominating anyone who would like to carry out this role. Anyone requiring further information should contact the Convener or the Clerk.

A Place for Hope

This body seeks to help in the mediation process where conflict exists in the Church. They are looking to increase their number of mediators and anyone interested in this role should contact the Convener or the Clerk. Initial expressions of interest are required by 15th April.

There being no further business Presbytery was adjourned to meet again for ordinary business at Upper Donside Parish Church (Lumsden) on Tuesday 3rd May 2011.

Presbytery closed with prayer.

Moderator.....

Clerk