

PRESBYTERY OF GORDON

Presbytery met for ordinary business at Huntly Cairnie Glass Church on Tuesday 4th October 2011 and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator Rev Iain U Thomson. Present were 15 ministers, 1 deacon, 17 elders and 3 corresponding members. There were 21 apologies.

MINUTES OF 6TH SEPTEMBER 2011

The minutes of 6th September 2011 were read and approved.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE: MR DAVID HARVEY

The Convener presented his report. He reminded members that the closing date for nominations for the position of Moderator of the General Assembly of 2012 is the 7th October and if they wished to recommend someone with the necessary qualities, they should let him know without delay, so that their nomination could be progressed. The second meeting of the Nominating Committee will take on the 25th October at which time the Moderator-Designate will be announced.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS: THE CLERK

The Clerk presented the correspondence and intimations as printed (pages)

The Clerk in presenting the correspondence identified the correspondence from Rev Ellen Larson Davidson and offered the congratulations of Presbytery on the expected arrival of her first child in January.

There was one intimation.

1. A Scottish Songs of Praise evening will take place on Sunday 9th October at 6.30 pm in the Inch Leslie Premnay Oyne Church Hall featuring the Strathbogie Fiddlers.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY: REV ELLEN LARSON DAVIDSON

The Convener highlighted several items.

1. 'Prisoner's Week' will be from 20th – 27th November with the theme 'Welcome Home?: starting over after prison'. An information card is available.
2. Information on the Stevenson Prize for religious observance for schools is available on the Church of Scotland website as part of the Church and Society Newsletter
3. A 'Religious Observance at University' course is to commence in partnership with Glasgow University in January: details are available on the Church of Scotland website

The key remits from the General Assembly for the Committee were identified relating to Mental Health, Suicide among Young Men and Social Issues.

MINISTRIES COMMITTEE: REV TOMMY CALDER

The Convener presented his report.

There was one deliverance.

1. Presbytery appoints Rev Graeme Longmuir to be Interim Moderator at Fintray Kinellar Keithhall from the commencement of maternity leave of Rev Ellen Larson Davidson.

The Moderator on behalf of Presbytery wished Ellen well.

The Convener informed members that the remits under the Barrier Act from the General Assembly will be put in print and brought before Presbytery for the November meeting.

The Convener invited Rev Dr Alan Murray to speak on the pilot Presbytery Staffing Fund.

Rev Dr Murray explained that the question of whether to submit an application to participate in the pilot had been considered by the Business Committee, the Presbytery Plan Review Group and had also been referred to the Ministries Committee for consideration.

The conclusion reached was that they should recommend that Presbytery did not submit an application. He said that the basic idea was good but in our case, it was important that congregations focussed on ensuring the Ministries and Mission allocations were met and improved on. The question of whether we would qualify for the scheme with less than the suggested number of 30 charges was also identified. There was also a question of administrative capacity to manage the project and the belief that mission could best be developed at the present time by utilising fully our existing resources.

These views found acceptance by members.

MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE: REV DOUGLAS MCNAB: CONVENER

The Convener presented his report.

The Convener reported that no comments had been received on the questionnaire from the World Council of Reformed Churches survey relating to 'Women and girls in rural societies' and the roles they play, which had been posted on the web site and the questionnaire had now been returned.

Eight elders had attended the elder training evening organised by the Parish Education Committee at which the key areas of training needs were identified. The first of the training sessions to address key issues will be on 'Visiting and Pastoral Care' and will take place on Thursday 3rd November in the Kemnay Church Centre at 7.30pm.

The recent 'Stillness and Silence' evening had been very successful and well attended.

The Convener spoke of 'Good News' from congregations focussing on the successful commencement at Belhelvie Parish Church of a Summer Club; the appointment of Rev Stephen Emery as National Chaplain of the Boys Brigade; the

forthcoming events at Ellon Parish Church and the 'Alternativity' project at Kemnay. There will be a talk on the 'Alternativity' project at our November Presbytery meeting. He encouraged members to bring their 'Good News' to Presbytery and to use the 'Good News' spot in his report. Marion Stewart our Presbytery Prayer Co-ordinator will be issuing a Prayer leaflet for December.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: REV NEIL MACGREGOR

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

Huntly Cairnie Glass Parish Church

1. Presbytery approves the installation of a new central heating boiler at Huntly Church Building and removal of existing asbestos from the boilerhouse at a cost of £19,622, by the Congregation of Huntly Cairnie Glass.
2. Presbytery approves the release of funds held by the General Trustees on behalf of the Congregation of Huntly Cairnie Glass as follows:

Consolidated Fabric Fund	Capital account	£14,258
	Revenue account	£5,364

Insch Leslie Premnay Oyne Parish Church

Presbytery approves the Congregation of Insch Leslie Premnay Oyne's transfer of £23,482.84 to the Stipend Endowment Fund and the retention of £110,000 in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

Property Committee meeting

Date of next meeting to be Wednesday 20th October Inverurie West, Acorn Centre, at 7.30pm

SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: REV MATTHEW CANLIS, CONVENOR

Finance Committee

The Convener of the Finance Committee Rev Euan Glen presented his report (pages).

Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Parish Church

The Finance Committee acting on the authority of Presbytery has approved a reduction of £1200 in the Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch Parish Church Ministry and Mission 2011 payment, to help defray the cost of repairing roof damage incurred through the theft of lead from the roof of the vestry at Chapel of Garioch. The Stewardship & Finance Committee has been notified of the change

Attestation of Congregational Accounts 2010

The attestation form has been completed and returned to the Stewardship & Finance Committee in Edinburgh by the due date. Thanks to all congregational treasurers for their diligence and for the work of the Finance Committee past convener Malcolm Christie and the help offered by Alistair Kinnon Chartered Accountant from Skene.

Ministries and Mission Allocation 2011 and 2012

The Ministries and Mission allocation for 2012 (circulated at the September meeting of Presbytery) will be formally laid on the table and approved at the November meeting of Presbytery. Any congregation with a question or a request for a change in the allocation (upwards or downwards) should contact the Finance Convener with an extract minute of the financial court meeting of the congregation when the request for a reduction was approved. The Finance committee will meet during the second half of October (date formalised on the evening of presbytery) when any alterations will be discussed and recommendations brought to the floor of Presbytery.

There being no further business, Presbytery was adjourned to meet again for ordinary business at Insch Leslie Premnay Oyne Church Hall on Tuesday 1st November 2011 at 7.30pm

Presbytery closed with prayer.

Moderator.....

Clerk