

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - MINISTRIES COUNCIL
COUNCIL**

Augustine United Church, 41-43 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL

Wednesday 22 March 2017

MINUTE

PRESENT:

Convener: Rev Neil Glover

Vice-Conveners: Rev Colin Brough
Rev Dr Marjory MacLean
Rev Derek Pope

Members: 20 others recorded in the Register of Attendance

Staff in Attendance: Rev Jayne Scott plus 7 staff as recorded in the Register of Attendance

Also in Attendance: Rev Iain McFadzean, Chief Executive of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland and Rev Eleanor McMahon, Interim Minister at Glasgow Govan and Linthouse and incoming Vice-Convener of the Council

Apologies: Apologies were noted in the sederunt

ACTION

55 Opening Worship

The Convener welcomed those present and opened the meeting with worship. Apologies were noted along with the resignation from Council of Rev Gary McIntyre.

56 Matters Arising

56.1 Path of Renewal (54): Wording along with deliverance on Path of Renewal was included in the Ministries Council Report to the General Assembly. A review is planned for October 2017 and recommendations following that will be brought to General Assembly in 2018.

57 Minute of the Ministries Council Meeting held on 15 February 2017

The Minute of the Ministries Council meeting held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 was approved with minor amendment.

58 Convener Report

Council received the *Convener Report MC5 – 01* and discussed the following points:

58.1 Presbytery Conference Autumn 2017: The event will be jointly hosted by Ministries Council along with the Council of Assembly. The Council of Assembly will take the opportunity to follow up on their *On The Road* events and to share information on the vision for the Church. It was agreed that Ministries Council would discuss the vision for ministry.

58.2 Efficiency of Handling Council Meetings: At the June Council meeting the Rev Sarah Brown will conduct an observation exercise during discussions and will note things such as the gender and age balance in participation. The Convener and Council Secretary were also keen to do further work on efficiency in handling Council business, to look at induction processes for new members and how to support our group conveners and leaders. Council was supportive of this ongoing exercise.

58.3 Governance: A register of potential conflicts of interest will be presented at the June Council meeting.

58.4 Role and Remit of the Strategic Planning Group: The Group has discussed its remit and proposals for revisions were set out in the Convener's Report. The Convener highlighted that Council would have final say on all issues, except where a decision is non-controversial or has arisen to be taken quickly. In such situations there would be phone discussion with relevant Council members and decision would be taken by Convener and Depute Convener or relevant Vice-Convener together. The Group will shape discussion prior to Council and would not sit between a Committee and Council, except by request of a committee.

Council agreed to the revisions and also that Dr John Dent, as a General Assembly appointed Vice-Convener, be named Depute Convener. Dr Dent will deputise at meetings and also be part of consultation on matters which may arise between Council meetings. Mr Allan Sim will serve on the Special Arrangements Committee.

58.5 Council of Assembly and Call to Prayer: The Council of Assembly is seeking a focussed approach to prayer for the future of the Church. Many resources are available which could be highlighted and developed such as Starters for Sunday, Pray Now and existing prayer cycles. It was suggested that a prayer could be offered for others to use and that people could be asked to share what is happening for them. The Convener will share thoughts and ideas with the Council of Assembly.

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58.6 Hub-style Ministry Presentations to Presbyteries: The Convener has spoken at Abernethy and Hamilton Presbyteries on hub-style ministries. Mr Glover has an invitation to speak at Lanark Presbytery and would be happy to receive further requests.

59 Membership: The proposed Table of Committee and Group Membership *MC5 – 02* was received and it was noted that there will be discussion with the Nomination Committee to fill the 2 current vacancies on the Council. Representatives are still sought for the Safeguarding Committee, the Refugee Crisis Network and the Mission Forum.

Council agreed to the following co-options:

- Rev Brian Casey, Mr David Lynch and Rev Edith McMillan to the Priority Areas Committee;
- Rev Jamie Griggs to the Training Task Group;
- Rev Caryl Kyle and Rev Lyn Peden to the Pastoral & Vocational Care Task Group;
- Roberta Hutton to the Interim Ministries Task Group.

60 Staffing

Ms Karen Bass begins as *Go For It* Fund Training and Development Officer on 10 April. Miss Catherine McIntosh will provide a handover before beginning in her new role within the Department of the General Assembly as Senior Administration Officer & PA to the Moderator on 18 April.

The Worship Development Officer post within the Priority Areas team is due to be advertised soon.

Following a request from Council members it was agreed that details of new members of the Ministries Council staff team should be circulated and that a current full list of staff would be made available.

61 General Assembly Supplementary Report

Following discussion the Draft Supplementary Report *MC5 – 04* was approved subject to amendments following further legal advice. Council had initial discussions with the Mission and Discipleship Council in considering the possibility of recognising Youth Ministry as a

strand of the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Proposals to create a group to focus on this will be brought to the June Council meeting. Details of a Capability process will be included in the Supplementary Report.

62 Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland

The Rev Iain McFadzean, Chief Executive of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland, offered a verbal report on the ongoing work and expressed gratitude to the Council for the support and relationships built.

The Convener thanked Mr McFadzean for attending and sharing the details and the Council will pray for this work.

The Convener offered thanks on behalf of Council to all departing Members before breaking for lunch.

63 Decade for Ministry

Council received paper *MC5 – 07 Decade for Ministry Change Programme (2017-2022)* along with a presentation from the Convener. The Decade for Ministry must offer a renewed vision for ministry with the Council investing in a diverse ministry.

64 Partnership Development

Written report *MC5 – 05* providing an overview of the work of the section was received along with a verbal report from the Rev Colin Brough, Partnership Development Vice-Convener.

64.1 Joint Emerging Church Group: The Group will restart following the General Assembly, following fruitful conversations with the Mission and Discipleship Council. Members asked for more information on the work of the Group to hear of what has been learned and to consider how Council can support and promote the work.

65 Finance

65.1 Indicative 2018 Budget: A highlights paper was offered alongside the draft budget *MC5 – 08a&b*. It was noted that no stipend increases have been built into the budget for 2018 at the request of the Council of Assembly. Any stipend increase for 2018, due to be negotiated later this year, would be funded through the ring-fence system from 2019 congregational income. Staff salary costs are now shown under the relevant areas of the Councils work instead of being grouped together under Administration. The draft budget was agreed and will be finalised in autumn.

65.2 Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland Funding: Mr Allan Sim, Ministries Finance Convener, reported that background details including a history of funding along with a proposal to decrease grant funding were set out in paper *MC5 – 09*. £267k of funding is shown in the draft Indicative Budget for 2018, being a reduction of £150k.

In addition to the core funding there is a separate arrangement in place in relation to an Internship Programme at £145k per year. The programme was due to finish in June 2018 however the WPCS Board has recently indicated that they intend to end this a year early and formal notification of this is awaited. Council gave a commitment to fund the programme for 3 years and therefore the Council Secretary will have discussions with Mr McFadzean around what funding may be offered in the time remaining.

65.3 Business Cases for Use of Restricted Funds in 2017: The Finance Committee considered the financial aspects of two business case. The costings for Postgraduate Fund Creation (*MC5 – 10*) were self-explanatory and as long as the restricted funds can be released then this can be done without affecting the unrestricted budget. Council approved the business case.

Council also approved the Business Case for Online Services Development (*MC5 – 11*) at a cost of £38k from restricted funds. Through the website tasks will become largely automated and therefore a saving in terms of staff time once this is established.

These cases were submitted outside of budgeting processes and the Committee asked that all cases be heard in the correct process.

Mr Sim also confirmed that work was being done to look at restricted funds and how these may be released for use. This has created additional work for the finance team and the Committee would like to make the case for staff support for future work. The Convener agreed to raise this with the Council of Assembly.

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65.4 Guidance for Ministers on Accepting Gifts: The Finance Manager noted comments and queries and agreed to finalise the guidance document (*MC5 – 12*) and make this available on the Church of Scotland website.

65.5 Housing and Loan Fund: Council gave permissions to the Convener and Mr Allan Sim to continue in discussions relating to the amount of money paid to the Housing & Loan Fund. £400k for the Fund has been included in the draft Indicative Budget for 2018.

NG/AS

66 Priority Areas

The Rev Derek Pope, finishes on Council in May with the Rev David McLachlan beginning as Priority Areas Vice-Convener. Mr Pope felt that the Priority Areas Committee had found ways to support Congregations in interesting ways making good use of limited funds.

67 Education & Support

The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, Education & Support Vice-Convener,

67.1 Ascend: Details of the core services were given in paper *MC5 – 03*. Council was pleased to note the various ways of supporting ministry and the preventative aspect of this initiative. Information will be shared in the e-newsletters and online.

67.2 Re-thinking Initial Training Phase 1 and Phase 2 Reports: Further to the Phase 1 Report *MC4 – 06* brought to the February Council meeting an update Report. *MC5 – 06* was presented. The Group has spoken with a large number of stakeholders to determine what the needs are for change. Continuous training and learning is the expectation now.

Council approved the move into phase 2 along with the proposed membership of the Group and thanked those involved for the thorough work done on this.

68 Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting of the Council will take place at 10.30am on Thursday 22 June 2017.

The Convener thanked those present for their contributions and the meeting closed with the Grace.

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Convener Date

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Secretary Date