

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

St Andrew's and St George's West Church, 13-17 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

Wednesday 15 February 2017

MINUTE

PRESENT:

Convener: Rev Neil Glover

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

Members: 29 others recorded in the Register of Attendance

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

Also in Attendance: Rev Graham Duffin, Convener of the Panel on Review and Reform and Rev Eleanor McMahon, Interim Ministers at Glasgow Govan and Linthouse and incoming Vice-Convener of the Council

Apologies: Apologies were noted in the sederunt

ACTION

43 Opening Worship

The Convener welcomed those present and opened the meeting with worship. The Rev Eleanor McMahon was in attendance and introduced as the incoming Vice-Convener of the Council. Apologies were noted.

44 General Assembly Report

The Council considered the draft Report to the General Assembly *MC4-01 & 02* and amendments were noted. Members were asked to send a note of any corrections to grammar or typographical errors to the Council Secretary who will further edit the Report and submit by the given deadline.

JS

45 Path of Renewal

The Rev Graham Duffin, Convener of the Panel on Review and Reform, joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the Path of Renewal pilot project. Mr Duffin explained that the Panel has been working in partnership with the Ministries Council and the Mission and Discipleship Council to develop this piece of work with the budget sitting with Ministries Council. Support offered to the 43 Congregations and 1 parish grouping involved has included training for ministers, conferences, the creation of a learning community of ministers, coaching and mentoring. 23 of the congregations receive funding to allow for 1 day per week of support to free the minister to consider alternative approaches to ministry. Research was also being carried out by the Rev Neil Dougall.

The intention was that the initial group of churches involved would continue to receive support in 2017 and 2018. There was also a desire to include more congregations in the process. It was noted that the funding in 2016 had been a little under £100k which was an under spend during the early stages of the project. £260k was budgeted for in 2017 and it was anticipated that the 2018 budget would remain at £260k. The Panel invited Ministries

Council, as the funder, to conduct a review of the pilot to be completed by October 2017. Subject to this review the Panel would seek to extend the pilot, and its funding by the Ministries Council, into 2019 and 2020.

Council agreed that such a deliverance be constructed and a decision made on whether that instruction would appear under the Ministries Council Report to the General Assembly or from the Panel of Review and Reform.

NG

Members were asked to submit any questions or comments to the Convener who would then follow up on these with Mr Duffin. Mr Duffin was thanked for his update on the work of Path of Renewal and left the meeting.

46 Minute of the Ministries Council Meeting held on 7 December 2016

The Minute of the Ministries Council meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2016 was approved.

47 Convener Report

Council received the *Convener Report MC4-03* and noted that a policy document for how the Council would manage any potential conflicts of interests would be brought to the March Council meeting. Details for how this register of conflicts would be maintained and presented to Council in future would also be confirmed.

47.1 Tomorrow's Calling: The aims which have emerged out of the marketing work carried out by the Council as part of Tomorrow's Calling were: the promotion of recruitment to the Church's ministries and the promotion of the Church of Scotland.

With respect to the promotion of recruitment the Council would plan to retain the *Tomorrow's Calling* brand and to develop this, particularly using the Tomorrow's Calling microsite. Council noted the details contained in the Tomorrow's Calling 2016 Report (*MC4-04*) and that proposals for reviewing Tomorrow's Calling and its link to recruitment would be brought to a future Council meeting.

The Council was in conversations around how the Council of Assembly might carry forward the promotion of the Church of Scotland, and how much of the Tomorrow's Calling budget should be returned for that purpose. These conversations were ongoing and outcomes would be brought back to Council for agreement.

47.2 Strategic Planning and Presbytery Conferences: It was noted that there were ongoing discussions with the Council of Assembly regarding arrangements for future Presbytery Conferences.

47.3 Corresponding Member at General Assembly: Council agreed that Dr John Dent would act as Corresponding Member.

47.4 Hub-style Ministry: The Convener reported that a range of individuals had made enquiries about Hub-style ministry and several Congregations and Presbyteries had invited the Convener to speak with them. Council agreed that the Presbytery Planning Task Group be asked to maintain a list of congregations who have asked to experiment with hub-style ministry, ensuring that the relevant Presbytery is agreeable to this, and to coordinate how the Council would support this.

47.5 Partnership Development Review Group: The group had met to review the work of the Go For It Fund and the Presbytery Planning Task Group. The relevant reports will be presented at the June Council meeting. The work of the Group would continue in the meantime.

47.6 Strategic Planning Group: The Group has been discussing its remit and any proposals for revisions would be brought to the March Council meeting.

NG

48 Finance

48.1 Management Accounts December 2016: Mr Allan Sim, Ministries Finance Convener, reported that the Ministries Council Management Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 *MC4-05a & b* show a negative variance of £186k on the budgeted deficit. Mr Sim commended the accounts along with the competent commentary produced by the Ministries Finance Manager. The Council was moving towards a balanced budget over next 2 years.

48.2 Supporting Shetland Presbytery: The Council Secretary reported on recent conversations with representatives from Shetland Presbytery. Arrangements have been made for 3 people from the Interim Ministries Team to be appointed as Assessor Ministers over a period of 9 months from March 2017. The team will consist of the 3 Interim Ministers: Rev Eleanor McMahon, Rev David Denniston and Rev Ian Murray; Rev Dr John McPake, Ecumenical Officer, and in addition someone from Place for Hope will work alongside the team. On investigation of the Trusts and Funds available for use by the Council it was noted that the J B Athol Gordon Fund would be a suitable Trust to fund this team. Council agreed to this funding arrangement.

48.3 Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland Funding: It was noted that discussions were ongoing and that a report would be brought to March Council.

Council thanked the Ministries Finance Committee for their work in 2016.

49 Priority Areas

The Rev Derek Pope, Priority Areas Vice-Convener, was pleased that the Priority Areas Committee had the opportunity to meet at Priority Area Congregation for recent meetings: Dundee: Camperdown in September and Edinburgh: The Old Kirk and Muirhouse in January. It was noted that the Committee has been working on Asset-Based Community Development.

Mr Pope had noted with interest the reference made by the Rev Dr Doug Gay, to the Priority Areas weighting during one of the series of *2017 Chalmers Lectures: Reforming the Kirk - the Future of the Church of Scotland*.

Members were asked to contact Mr Pope or Ms Shirley Grieve, Priority Areas Secretary, with suggestions of who may be contacted to join the Committee as a co-opt.

50 Education & Support

The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean, Education & Support Vice-Convener, reported that the Committee will discuss funding for Supervision, Coaching and Spiritual Accompaniment and look to include details in the 2018 budget under Education & Support. It was noted that a survey of ministers is being carried out looking at leadership roles and exploration of training needs. Details will be reported to Council in due course. Dr MacLean reminded members of the previous request to promote the Resilience in Ministry questionnaire and to encourage others to complete it. The Renewing Ministry Conference, 20-24 February, is fully-booked.

50.1 Funding of Candidates Who Attract International or RUK (Rest of UK) Fees: A paper will be brought to the Committee for consideration and then to June Council.

50.2 Ascend: Education & Training will work with Vocations & Support on Ascend with a full outline brought to March Council.

50.3 Appeals Against Transfer: The Principal Clerk's Office has drafted some Acts and a decision was required as whether these would appear as part of Ministries Council Report to the General Assembly or elsewhere.

50.4 Re-thinking Initial Training Report (RIT): Council received the RIT Interim

Report *MC4-06* and noted that this would be discussed at the March Council meeting.

51 Partnership Development

Written report *MC4 – 07* 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.

51.1 Application for Full Status: Glasgow: Robroyston: Council noted the details contained in paper *MC4-08* and resolved, subject to concurrence from Glasgow Presbytery, to raise Glasgow: Robroyston to Full Status under section 30 of Act XIII 2000, as amended. The name of the charge shall be Robroyston Church of Scotland: Glasgow, and it shall operate under the Unitary Constitution, as part of the Presbytery of Glasgow. This resolution shall take effect from 1 April 2017, subject to the receipt of a minute of concurrence on the adoption of the Manse and Church by the General Trustees.

51.2 Application for Full Status: Dunfermline: East: As the Minister of Dunfermline: East, council member Rev Andrew Morrice was asked to leave the room. Council noted the details contained in paper *MC4-09* and resolved to raise Dunfermline: East to Full Status under section 30 of Act XIII 2000, as amended. The name of the charge shall be Dunfermline East Church of Scotland, and it shall operate under the Unitary Constitution, as part of the Presbytery of Dunfermline. This resolution shall take effect from 1 May 2017, subject to the receipt of a minute of concurrence on the adoption of the Manse and Church by the General Trustees.

51.3 Property Sale: Council previously agreed to dispose of the redundant Church building in Barmulloch, currently on rent to Barmulloch Community Development Corporation. That body has expressed an interest in buying the property. Council agreed to affirm its decisions of March 2014 and June 2015, and to sell the property. The required consents from the General Trustees and Council of Assembly would be sought. It was noted that this sits within the New Charge Development area of the Council's Property Portfolio.

51.4 Co-option to NCD Task Group: Council approved the co-option of Mrs Dorothy Getliffe DCS to the NCD Task Group.

52 Strategic Projects

53.1 Church of Scotland Email: On a couple of occasions since the start of the year there have been issues which have resulted in a large number of those with Church of Scotland email addresses be unable to access their account. This has highlighted the need for a point of contact outwith office hours in particular during weekends. A handbook has been prepared by the Rev Colin Brough to offer guidance on the set-up and use of Church email accounts.

The Council Secretary was grateful to Mr Brough for all of the work done on this project. Mrs Scott explained that issues around systems provision and support for those who are not Central Services Committee staff had been raised with the Church's Senior Management Team. Ministries Council has responsibility for administering the process for allocation of Church email addresses to those who fall under the auspices of the Ministries Council. As Council has become a point of contact for technical support queries which staff are not equipped to handle. It was recognised that the current provision of this type of support was not satisfactory and there were ongoing discussions looking to establish an interim support method to compliment the handbook which would be communicated to users once confirmed. Council agreed to offer financial support for this interim measure.

The Convener agreed to raise with the Council of Assembly the suggestion of outsourcing IT support with the Council of Assembly taking responsibility for identifying a longer-term solution.

