

**The Church of Scotland  
World Mission Council  
First Draft Minute  
7 February 2018  
121 George Street, Edinburgh**

**Present:**

**Members:** Richard Baxter, Susan Brown (Vice-Convener), Tom Burnham, Pete Chirnside, Iain Cunningham (Convener), David Frame, Pamela Gordon, Maureen Jack, Rosemary Johnston, Kleber Machado, Valerie Macniven, Irene McLellan, Alan Miller, Miller Milloy, Charles Munn, Peter Murdoch, Roy Nelson, Fay Platt (Guild, AM only), Jim Sharp (Presbytery of International Charges), Gordon Strang, Lorna Tunstall, Margaret Lance, Monica Michelin-Salomon.

**WMC Staff:** Ian Alexander (Council Secretary), Jennie Chinembiri (Africa and Caribbean Secretary), Rebecca Erskine (Executive Assistant), Kenny Roger (Middle East Secretary), Sandy Sneddon (Asia Secretary), Anne Macintosh (Finance).

**Attending:** John McCulloch (Mission Partner)

**Apologies:** Lilly Stevenson, Janet Mathieson, Barbara Ann Sweetin, John McPake (Ecumenical Relations), Ian Macaulay, Gigha Lennox, Ian Stirling, Carol Finlay (Twinning & Local Development Secretary)

**Welcome:** The Convener welcomed those present.

**Constitution:** The Convener led the Council in worship and the meeting was constituted with prayer.

**Declarations of Interest:** There were none.

**WM/18/01. Deaths:** There were no deaths to note.

**WM/18/02. Approval of Minutes**

**WM/18/02.1 Draft Minute of Previous Meeting (14-15 November 2017)**

The Minute of the meeting held on 14-15 November 2017 was **approved** after an edit was made.

**WM/18/03. HR Update**

The paper submitted by HR was summarised and **noted**.

**WM/18/04. General Assembly**

**WM/18/04.1 General Assembly Report**

A draft of the General Assembly 2018 Report was received by the Council, and discussed. General comments from the Council included that the report could state why the Council was supporting partners in building interfaith relationships, and why the Council was reporting on this. There was a desire to have something at the beginning which would draw the reader into the report more easily than at present, with some development on the global perspective of interfaith relations. The Convener asked the Council to let him know of title suggestions for the report.

**WM/18/04.2 General Assembly Report Deliverance**

The Council discussed the sections for the Deliverance and agreed a number and also agreed that the final deliverance would be agreed by the Convener and Secretary.

**WM/18/04.3 Christianity in Africa Report**

The Council received the Christianity in Africa Report and discussed its content and suggestions. There was a feeling it was too long, but had some good and useful detail. There was some unease with the uncritical approach to those supporting the prosperity gospel, and a feeling that there was little in the way of critique of some of the practices of the church in Africa. The Council noted that the main purpose of the report was to identify where the church in Scotland might find learning opportunities from Christianity as practised in Africa. Overall the Council was content to allow the report to go to the General Assembly. The Convener invited any further comments to be made as soon as possible to the Secretary who would tidy up the report ready for submission.

**WM/18/04.4 Christianity in Africa Report Deliverance**

The Council discussed the sections for the Deliverance and agreed that the deliverance would be finalised by the Convener and Secretary. It was noted that other Councils mentioned had been approached and were in agreement, except the Council of Assembly which was yet to be consulted.

#### **WM/18/04.5 Heart and Soul: Peace be with You!**

The Council noted that the theme for Heart and Soul this year was 'Peace be with You!'. Local Development was working on ideas which would be further developed in the coming weeks. Cooperation from all Council members who could participate would be appreciated.

#### **WM/18/04.6 Events – and Ceilidh**

The Council was informed of the various events planned for General Assembly week. The Council also discussed the idea of a ceilidh. Each guest might bring something from their own culture to contribute to the evening. It was **agreed** that this would be pursued.

#### **WM/18/05. Committees/Groups**

##### **WM/18/05.1 Local Development Committee**

##### **WM/18/05.1.1 Draft Minute of 1 November 2017**

The Minute of the Local Development Committee meeting held on 1 November 2017 was **noted**.

Gordon Strang, in place of Barbara Ann Sweetin, highlighted the following points:

- The Ministers Conference: Your Parish – Your World. Arrangements for meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh had been put in place.
- Is was announced that Rebecca McGonigle was expecting her second child; the Council expressed their good wishes.
- Stephanie was heading to Zambia on Monday to take part in research for the World Mission project chosen by the Guild, the 'Mother and Child' project.
- Gordon reminded the Council about the Presbytery Conveners' Conference on the 15 March 2018, and noted concern that there had not been many people signing up to this so far.
- The LD Committee was renewing the Faithshare Grant forms. This was to encourage more sharing of faith, and a more 'two way' approach.
- The arrangements for Let Us Build a House Nepal Trip 7-17 April 2018 were taking place – all applicants were to attend the Prepare to Go Event on the 24 February 2018.
- Resources Day Update – new materials were being developed for school assemblies, which would be discussed at the Your Parish – Your World event. A new holiday club resource was also being produced with the theme of 'WM Airways'.

#### **WM/18/05.2 Budget and Finance**

##### **WM/18/05.2.1 Management Accounts to December 2017**

The Management accounts were **noted**. Charles Munn and Anne Macintosh noted the following points:

- The accounts for the year to 31 December 2017 showed a deficit of £394k; this was mainly due to Restricted Funds being expended, the majority from the Salvesen Trust. It was noted that whenever the Council chose to use accumulated reserves, it would show as a deficit because of the way the Church budgets were compiled.
- The Council noted Anne Macintosh's plan to introduce a different way of reporting to Councils which would involve a clearer and more comprehensive summary instead of the excel spreadsheets.
- The members of the Finance Department were thanked for their ongoing support, particularly Gosia Fulton and Elizabeth White, in the absence of a World Mission Finance Manager.
- Concern was expressed about the impact on WMC decision making and planning of staffing shortages in finance, specifically in relation to the Jerusalem guesthouse.

#### **WM/18/05.3 Africa and Caribbean Committee**

##### **WM/18/05.3.1 Draft Minute of Meeting of 23 January 2018**

The Minute of the Africa and Caribbean Committee meeting held on 23 January 2018 was **noted**.

Valerie Macniven highlighted the following points:

- The Committee was deeply concerned about obtaining visas for the South-Sudanese who were due to visit Scotland in March for the ongoing work on mediation. So far three visas had been given, but six were needed to go ahead with the programme. The Council noted its frustration and again asked the staff to take this forward with the other Councils with appropriate remits.
- Jennie reminded the Council that on Monday 19 March, 11:30-12:30, an open event was to be held with the South-Sudanese at St Andrew's and St George's West. This was to give opportunity for a wider group to engage with them and their stories of reconciliation – more details would follow separately.
- Conversations with the Nkhoma Synod were continuing; David Morton was continuing to work until the end of the year.
- Stephanie Thomson, World Mission Outreach Officer, was to begin her visit to Zambia on Monday.

### **WM/18/05.3.2 Visit Reports**

- The reports on the visit to Kenya in November 2017 by WMC staff, John Chalmers, Place for Hope and Core Solutions to develop the mediation work with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and the South Sudan Council of Churches was **noted**.

### **WM/18/05.4 Middle East Committee**

#### **WM/18/05.4.1 Draft Minute of Meeting of 31 January 2018**

The Minute of the Middle East Committee meeting held on 31 January 2018 was **noted**.

Maureen Jack highlighted the following points:

- Jamal Shehade, from the House of Grace, would be coming to the General Assembly.
- The Moderator's visit in January was useful and good visits had been made to partners.
- The congregation in Tiberias had worshipped in the newly renovated church on Christmas Eve. A rededication service took place on 24 January 2018.
- The two congregations were to be united as one; the Presbytery of Jerusalem would take this forward.
- Robert Brack would conclude his work at the end of February.
- John McCulloch was to have his commissioning service, at Lochgoilhead Parish Church, on Tuesday, 20 February at 7pm.
- The World Council of Churches seemed to have withdrawn from advocacy work in Israel and Palestine, which was of great concern. The Committee Convener had drafted a letter on behalf of the Council which the Council **agreed** was appropriate to send.

#### **WM/18/05.4.2 John McCulloch School Fees**

The Council received the application for the school fees for the three children of John McCulloch, Mission Partner in Jerusalem. The Council **agreed** the three applications.

#### **WM/18/05.4.3 Presbytery of Jerusalem**

As part of the ongoing review of the work in Israel and Palestine, the functions of the Presbytery of Jerusalem were being reviewed. The Presbytery of International Charges had made comments on the proposed restructuring of the Presbytery of Jerusalem. The Council Secretary and the Middle East Secretary would undertake further consultation with the Principal Clerk to follow up.

As the Presbytery had only one minister member, and needed two to be quorate, the Presbytery was approaching the Principal Clerk to appoint assessor minister/s. The Council put forward the names of Very Rev Dr John P Chalmers and Rev Ian Alexander as suitable assessor ministers for the Presbytery.

#### **WM/18/05.4.4 DSG Group Meeting**

The Designated Supervisory Group met on the 5 February. The DSG had heard that the project to renovate the Church was expected to be around £2000 over budget once the final reconciliation was completed. Thanks were expressed to the DSG, to all the staff, and to Ann MacLean of Thomas and Adamson for managing the project. The Council agreed that the DSG would be disbanded from March 1, 2018.

#### **WM/18/05.4.5 Visit Reports**

The Report of the visit by Tom Burnham and Kenny Roger to Cairo during November 2017 was **noted**.

### **WM/18/05.5 Asia Committee**

#### **WM/18/05.5.1 Minute of Meeting of 3 November 2017**

The Minute of the Asia Committee meeting held on 3 November 2017 was **noted**

#### **WM/18/05.5.2 Draft Minute of Meeting of 31 January 2018**

The Minute of the Asia Committee meeting held on 31 January 2018 was **noted**. Alan Miller highlighted the following points:

- The Committee had welcomed the Rev. Biyanwilage Leslie Dareeju from the Theological College of Lanka to its recent meeting. He was undertaking post-graduate study at Queens Foundation in Birmingham, and was preparing to embark on a PhD later this year. He had spoken to the Committee about the work of the Theological College of Lanka and the challenges facing the church in Sri Lanka.
- The National Council of Churches in Korea would be visiting Japan in June. David Frame and Andrew Macpherson, former Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, would participate in this event.
- The Pakistan Strategy Group had discussed the situation at Sialkot. The Convener reported that the group saw no real viable alternative option to the creation of a succession trust, but that things were, as ever, moving very slowly and there were continuing vexatious court cases being filed against the Church of Scotland.

### **WM/18/05.6 Europe & Americas Committee**

#### **WM/18/05.6.1 Minute of 14 November 2017**

The Minute of the Europe and Americas Committee meeting held on 14 November 2017 was **noted**.

**WM/18/05.6.2 Visit Reports**

- The Report of the visit by the Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning and the Council Secretary to Germany and Sweden during October and November 2017 was **noted**.
- The Report of the visit by Euan Robb to the Reformation Youth Festival, Geneva was **noted**.

**WM/18/05.7 Business Committee**

**WM/18/05.7.1 Draft Minute of 10 January 2018**

The Draft Minute of the Business Committee meeting held on 10 January 2018 was **noted** after a spelling correction was made.

**WM/18/05.7.2 Tartan**

The Convener reported that some tartan items were available to be sold. The price of each item would be set and made available by the end of the month.

**WM/18/06. Review Group – Israel and Occupied Palestine**

**WM/18/06.1 Review Group Minutes**

The Council **noted** the various notes from the meetings of the Review Group – Israel and Palestine. Following the Review Group visit in March this year, there would be further reflection and a wider discussion with the Council.

**WM/18/07. Ecumenical Relations**

**WM/18/07.1 Update**

The Council **noted** the Ecumenical Update submitted by John McPake.

**WM/18/07.2 ACTS Review**

A summary of the Review of Action of Churches Together Scotland was submitted to the Council by John McPake. John was attending an ACTS meeting at the same time as the Council, so would update the Council on developments at the next meeting.

**WM/18/08. Council Meetings**

The Council **noted** the following dates and venues:

**Council Meetings 2018**

- 18 April – St Andrew's and St George's West, Edinburgh
- 12/13 June – Station Hotel, Perth
- 5 Sept – 121 George Street
- 7/8 Nov – Conforti Institute, Coatbridge

The meeting closed with the blessing.

Approved by

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Rev. Iain Cunningham, Convener

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Rev. Ian Alexander, Council Secretary

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Date