

**The Church of Scotland  
World Mission Council  
First Draft Minute  
11-12 June 2019  
Newbattle Abbey College, Newbattle Road, Dalkeith**

**Present:**

**Members:** Susan Brown (Convener), Maureen Jack (Vice Convener), John Bradley, Richard Baxter, Tom Burnham, David Frame, Edmund Gatima, William Gray, Pamela Gordon, Alisa Macdonald, Alan Miller, Kleber Machado, Valerie Macniven, Janet Mathieson, Alison Murray, Steve Flower, Margaret Robinson (Guild), George Russell, Jim Sharp (Presbytery of International Charges), Ian Stirling, Lilly Stevenson, Barbara Ann Sweetin (Tuesday only), Gordon Strang, Lorna Tunstall, Chris Fett-Worsfold, Rosemary Johnston (Tuesday only).

**WMC Staff:** Ian Alexander (Council Secretary), Jennie Chinembiri (Africa and Caribbean Secretary), Carol Finlay (Twinning & Local Development Secretary), Kenny Roger (Middle East Secretary) (Tuesday only), Sandy Sneddon (Asia Secretary), Rebecca Erskine (Executive Assistant), Leanne Thompson (Finance Manager) (Wednesday only).

**Attending:** John McPake (Ecumenical Relations), John Chalmers (Convener for the opening session of Tuesday).

**Apologies:** Pete Chirnside, Robin McAlpine, Gigha Lennox, Irene McLellan, Monica Michelin-Salomon.

**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/19/21 Special Commission**

**WM/19/21.1 Convener**

John Chalmers, Convener, had accepted the position as Convener of the Assembly Trustees appointed by the General Assembly. He therefore had to resign as WMC Convener. The Very Rev Susan Brown had been suggested and approached by the Business Committee to take over as Convener. The Council welcomed the nomination and agreed to Susan becoming Convener. The Nomination Committee had also concurred. Susan took the chair and asked each member of the Council to email her one sentence describing what summed up World Mission for each person.

**WM/19/21.2 WM and Future Directions**

The Convener asked John Chalmers to share some thoughts on the present situation. John spoke to the decisions made at the General Assembly 2019 and how he saw things going forward. World Mission would be in a new entity with the Church and Society Council. Meetings were taking place over the next few months to find a suitable way forward. Within the Special Commission it had been agreed that 20-30% savings would need to be made in order to be more sustainable. The Assembly Trustees had assigned two liaison trustees (George Cowie and Sandra Carter) to link with both the World Mission Council and the Church and Society Council. They would be meeting with the Secretary and Convener next week. The Church office building was also to be looked at, as it needed significant repairs.

**WM/19/21.3 Aniko Scheutz Bradwell and John Chalmers**

It was noted that both Aniko and John had now left the World Mission Council, having both been appointed as Assembly Trustees. The Council thanked John and Aniko for all their engagement with the Council, and wished them well for their new responsibilities.

**WM/19/22 General Assembly**

**WM/19/22.1 General Feedback**

The Council Secretary and Convener highlighted the following points from the GA 2019:

- The World Mission Council report and events were well received by the Assembly.
- The contributions from the delegates were well received during the report.

- The Tabeetha event and the World Mission Fringe event scheduling had clashed.
- Those involved in the organisations of Heart and Soul were thanked by the Council; hard work had meant the day was engaging and an overall success.

#### **WM/19/22.2 WM Report – Deliverance**

The Council noted the deliverance and there would be staff and committee follow-up as necessary.

#### **WM/19/22.3 Middle East Report – Deliverance**

The Council noted the deliverance of the Special Report on Israel and Palestine and recognised there would be follow-up necessary to implement the various instructions.

#### **WM/19/22.4 GA 2020**

Plans for next year's GA were unclear at present. It was **agreed** to wait until the autumn before considering input to the 2020 GA report.

#### **WM/19/23. Approval of Minutes**

##### **WM/19/23.1 Draft Minute of Previous Meeting (23 April 2019)**

The Minute of the meeting held on 23 April 2019 was **approved**.

#### **WM/19/24. Deaths**

The following lives were given thanks for in prayer:

- Miss Isabell (Ishbel) Ritchie MBE, Teacher & Headmistress, Bombay & Gangtok, North India, 1955-1997.
- Miss Dorothy Wallace, Teacher & Headmistress, Darjeeling and Kalimpong, 1953-1991.
- Mrs Sheila Mitchell, Teacher at Tabeetha School, 1990-1993.

#### **WM/19/25 Role and Responsibilities of the Council**

Maureen Jack gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of members of the World Mission Council, highlighting opportunities for engagement with the work of the Council through presence, proclamation, and practical action as well as enjoying each other and sharing with local congregations and Presbyteries.

#### **WM/19/26 Christians in Minority Situations**

The Council heard from the World Mission Area Secretaries with regards to Christians in Minority situations across the World. The following points were highlighted:

- Pressure on the Christian Church around the world was still prevalent. Raising awareness of this amongst Churches in Scotland was an element in the work of World Mission.
- The Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren was an example of pressure in a secular situation.
- Christians in Asia often faced pressure across the continent. An example was Asia Bibi, who had been held in Pakistan for blasphemy. In Pakistan the Blasphemy law was a highly contentious issue that resulted often in the death penalty. World Mission Council had been critical, and there were resources available to support challenges to the blasphemy law.
- In Africa and Caribbean, pressure on Christians was still an everyday reality in parts. Despite being the majority religion in many countries, groups such as Boko Haram have displaced over 2 million people and killed over 20,000. This group targets Christians as well as Muslims. The Fukani group in Africa raid homes and persecute people of faith.
- The civil war Lebanon had led to a decrease in the numbers of Christians living there. Conflict had led to dramatic decreases in Syria and Iraq also. Some Christians from Palestine who go to the west to study do not return to their home country.

The Council was committed to sharing stories from partners to raise awareness of the daily reality for many Christians around the world.

#### **WM/19/27 Scottish Faiths Actions for Refugees**

The Council heard from David Bradwell, Refugee Coordinator. He updated the Council on recent projects that were being undertaken, and highlighted the following:

- Globally there are 68.5 million people who have been forcibly displaced. 25.4 million refugees, 3.1 million asylum seekers and 40m internally displaced. (UNHCR 2018).
- The refugee 'crisis' peaked in 2015/2016 however the issue was still prevalent and there were still many fatalities around the Mediterranean where people tried to cross to safety.
- Through the Vulnerable People Resettlement Scheme, Scotland had taken in 2,700 Syrian Refugees, which was 15% of the total number taken in by the UK (despite being less than

10% of total population). The 'New Scots' Strategy 2018-2022 ensured best practise for integration, humanitarian work and policy work.

- Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees was working with congregations and different faith groups in Scotland to help with integration for refugees. The project is currently in receipt of a European Union Asylum Migration and Integration Fund grant to deliver a refugee integration programme in partnership with the Scottish Refugee Council. There were many ways that Churches and congregations could do this; David encouraged anyone interested to get in touch.

## **WM/19/28 Committees/Groups**

### **WM/19/28.1 Business Committee**

#### **WM/19/28.1.1 Draft Minute of 14/05/2019**

The Minutes of the Business Committee meeting held on 14/05/2019 were **noted**.

### **WM/19/28.2 Budget and Finance**

#### **WM/19/28.2.1 Management Accounts to April 2019**

The Management accounts were **noted**. Leanne Thompson noted the following points:

- The accounts to April showed a net deficit after transfers of £414k which was £63k less than the budgeted deficit of £477k. This was due to underspends in most areas, which were mainly owing to timing differences.

#### **WM/19/28.2.2 Mission Partner Annual Salary Review**

A paper was circulated by Leanne Thompson to the Council detailing information of the Mission Partner Annual Salary Review. The following points were noted:

- Most salaries had increased as the cost of living in other places had increased. The Council members **agreed** the proposed increases in salary.
- There was an issue with one country where the exchange rate meant that there was a 30% increase in local purchasing power. The Council had agreed last year to adjust salaries when they varied by more than 10%. However, this would have a significant beneficial impact on the Mission Partner. The Council agreed to investigate this issue further and look at adjusting the policy.

### **WM/19/28.3 Local Development**

#### **WM/19/28.3.1 Overview of Work**

An overview of the work of the Committee was given to the Council.

#### **WM/19/28.3.2 Draft Minute of 28/03/2019**

The Draft Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28/03/2019 were **noted**. Carol Finlay noted:

- Heart and Soul went very well, and was extremely engaging.
- The work of the committee should be highlighted in the ongoing discussions as it was very much engaging with local church life.
- Lesley-Ann Calvert was thanked for her hard work whilst she carried out maternity cover for Rebecca McGonigle. Rebecca was now back in the office.

### **WM/19/28.4 Africa and Caribbean Committee**

#### **WM/19/28.4.1 Overview of Work**

An overview of the work of the Committee was given to the Council.

#### **WM/19/28.4.2 Draft Minute of Meeting of 25/04/2019**

The Minutes of the Africa and Caribbean Committee meeting held on 25/04/2019 were **noted**.

### **WM/19/28.5 Middle East Committee**

#### **WM/19/28.5.1 Overview of Work**

An overview of the work of the Committee was given to the Council.

#### **WM/19/28.5.2 Draft Minute of Meeting of 30/05/2019**

The Draft Minute of the Middle East Committee meeting held on 30/05/2019 was **noted**.

Maureen Jack highlighted the following points:

- John McCulloch and his family were well. He has been raising awareness, which has brought financial support from various places, for the work of partners.
- The Council **agreed** to forgive the 2019 rental payment from the Scots Hotel. These reductions were agreed last November Council meeting.

- The Council agreed to the Directors recommendation to reduce the lease payments to 140,000 Shekels a year for the Guesthouse.
- Maureen noted that a palm tree had fallen on the Church in Tiberias. It damaged the balcony but would be covered by insurance.

#### **WM/19/28.5.3 Israel Property Group Update**

The Council received an update on the work of the Israel Property group. It was noted that the group was in place, and was working towards decisions on the properties which would be actioned in the next 9-12 months.

#### **WM/19/28.5.4 Tabeetha Future Group Update and Draft Minutes of 29/05/2019**

The Council received a paper detailing an update from the Tabeetha School Group, and minutes of the previous meeting. Both were **noted**.

#### **WM/19/28.5.5 Tabeetha Director**

A paper was received that noted the job description for the new Tabeetha School Director. The Council **agreed** this. The Council also **agreed** that the Tabeetha Future Group be given authority to appoint a new Director when interviewing.

It was also noted that Margaret MacDonald would end her contract with the Council in July. She would continue until the end of the year as a direct employee of the School. The Council agreed that the School could pay an increased salary.

#### **WM/19/28.5.6 Guesthouse renovation**

The issues around the renovation of the Guesthouse were presented. It was noted that a funding plan needed to be put in place. The Council **agreed** that the Business Committee should review this over the summer and agree a planned way forward.

#### **WM/19/28.6 Asia Committee**

An update of the work of the Asia Committee was given by David Frame and Sandy Sneddon.

#### **WM/19/28.7 Europe & Americas Committee**

##### **WM/19/28.7.1 Overview of Work**

An update of the work of the Europe and America's Committee was given by Alan Miller.

##### **WM/19/28.7.2 Zwingli Film**

The Council Secretary updated the Council on the success of the Zwingli movie shown during the General Assembly. The event was held at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh and was well attended.

#### **WM/19/29 Ecumenical Relations**

##### **WM/19/29.1 Update**

The Council **noted** the verbal Ecumenical Update from John McPake. John also noted that Aniko would be stepping down from her role as Ecumenical Relation's World Mission representative as she undertook the responsibilities of being a trustee on the new Special Commission Trustee Body.

#### **WM/19/30 HR update**

The HR update was **noted** by the Council.

#### **WM/19/31 Travel Plan**

The Council Travel Plan was **noted** by the Council.

#### **WM/19/32 Council Meetings**

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

Council Meetings 2019

- 11 Sept – 121 George Street, Edinburgh
- 12-13 Nov – Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline

Very Rev. Susan Brown, Convener

Rev. Ian Alexander, Secretary

Date