



Church of Scotland Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian

Resources Committee Deployment Group

Dear Presbyter,

12 October 2022

Please find with this note the latest draft of the Working Document for our Presbytery Mission Plan.

A few comments may be helpful because some changes can be found in this draft.

Unions/Team Ministry

In the last draft of the Working Document there were many references to Unions with 2 or more Full Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

In discussion with the Presbytery Planning Implementation Group, the national group which oversees the creation of Presbytery Plans, it was emphasised that Team Ministries are a form of Union. Please see the Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Act (PMPA; Act VIII, 2021 (https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/95987/2021-Act-8-Presbytery-Mission-Plan-Act.pdf)).

We have therefore used a phraseology that reflects this relationship: '*...Union, structured as a Team Ministry as found in the Presbytery Mission Plan Act*'. This wording was mentioned at our meeting of Presbytery on 4 October and it provides the clarity preferred by Presbytery Planning Implementation Group. Yet the essentials of the proposed Unions remain.

Tables

At the suggestion of our liaisons from Presbytery Planning Implementation Group, slight adjustments have been made to the tables. There is information on total population and total number of nationally paid posts at the end of each Mission District section. A table has also been provided at the end of the Working Document summarising population and nationally paid posts.

Proposals and Wording

For many congregations and collaborations, the wording found in the Working Document remains the same.

For others, there have been changes. Some mission narratives have been adjusted in order to reflect recent correspondence. In some instances, the description of the proposed framework for cooperation has been honed according to local input. There are similarly occasions where alterations have been made for buildings as a result of recent conversations.

Where discussions continue, we have retained the wording from the previous draft and will, if needed, integrate the results of these conversations into the next draft. This may especially be the case as the General Trustees and Presbytery Planning Implementation Group offer their comments.

Next Steps

This draft is offered as an opportunity for Sessions and Congregations once again to engage with the proposals put forward. We would therefore encourage Sessions to meet and discuss this draft plan.

The Deployment Group would be most grateful if any considered comments or questions could be shared with us by Friday 28 October 2022. This timing would allow time for final changes prior to the distribution of the final draft on Tuesday 8 November. Congregations will be made aware of any changes that have been integrated into this version. It will then be discussed at the Presbytery meeting on 15 November, to which all congregations will be cited. Presbytery will then vote on this plan. Presbytery was advised at its October meeting that it would be helpful if each congregation was represented by its Minister/Interim Moderator, Presbytery elder and one other, to ensure fair and equal representation. Further advice will be given again in the next set of Presbytery papers.

Should you have any comments, questions or thoughts about any of the information provided above, please do get in touch with your Deployment Group representatives or me.

Meantime, thank you again for your contributions to this collective effort.

Sincerely yours,

Stewart G. Weaver

*Rev. Dr. Stewart G. Weaver
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