

SYNOD MINISTRIES COMMITTEE MATTERS

REPORT TO SYNOD TOGETHER OCTOBER 2016

PERSONALIA

We are delighted to welcome the Revd Andy Twilley as our new Synod Training and Development Officer and wish him every blessing in his ministry among us.

Revd Jennifer Millington will complete her six-year term as Convener of Synod Ministries Committee this year and Nominations Committee have appointed Revd Bridget Banks as her successor. Bridget is currently on sabbatical leave but will work with Jennifer through November and December, ready to lead the Committee from January.

Steve Allott has retired as Synod Co-ordinator for Local Mission and Ministry Review (LMMR). We wish to record our thanks to Steve for his enthusiastic advocacy of LMMR and his hard work in reviewing the system.

LOCAL MISSION AND MINISTRY REVIEW (LMMR)

The Moderator has worked with the review group in an attempt to make the LMMR process more understandable, less “people-hungry” and less time-consuming. Following a presentation to Synod Council in September and some discussion time there, more work still needs to be done but progress has been made. The Moderator will speak to this at Synod Together.

DEPLOYMENT

Ministries Committee remains in discussion regarding the Deployment of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The number of stipendiary ministers available to Southern Synod has been reduced from 51 to 45 and there will almost certainly be more cuts to follow as more ministers retire and fewer are trained.

Our Synod/United Area Pastoral Committees are now taking a more strategic approach to scoping and deployment rather than simply scoping each pastorate as it become vacant. Mr Nigel Macdonald is organising training for PC Deployment Advocates and the Moderator has agreed to explore training for our Pastoral Committees. Nigel Macdonald will speak to this at Synod Together.

MINISTERS ON THE ROLL

There is an ongoing discussion at national Ministries Committee regarding the issues of ministers presenting themselves as active ministers of the URC when in fact they had severed contact with the URC for some years. There is a need for some kind of nationally recognised designation of each minister’s “status” and we are hoping to address this.

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY has become a recent subject for discussion. The proposal is to put short-term ministry into a church in crisis or a church that has lost its way. This model of ministry might well prove to be effective in Southern Synod. It has been discussed by both Ministries Committee and Synod Council and Ministries Committee are hoping to firm up a job description at our meeting in November.

Jennifer Millington.
October 2016