

Synod Ministries Committee Report

Local church Leaders (LCLs): The Moderator and Training and Development Officer have revised the process of the selection and training of LCLs to make it easier. LCLs will also be encouraged to attend Minister's training days. The TDO will keep Pastoral Committees informed of approaches made by churches for LCL appointments and ensure Pastoral Committees see Terms of Settlement. Two people have recently been commissioned: Peter and Marie Jackson on August 20th, 2017.

Special Category Ministry: The committee had an update of SCMs in the Synod. It looked at current and past Strategic Ministries and portraits of current posts. Some concern was expressed about the length of some of the appointments and possible difficulties in placing some appointees after the appointment.

Synod Accredited Local Preachers: At the previous meeting the TDO had presented a paper outlining a new accreditation process which had been welcomed. Since then the Moderator and TDO had looked at what might be the process of study and equipping for these intending lay preachers since, for unexplained reasons, the TLS course had been abandoned before a new course had been devised. After discussion, the Committee agreed in principle that the TDO shall run 8 group sessions followed by the arrangement of an Assessed service. This will be launched in the New Year 2018.

Safeguarding Training: The Committee endorsed regular Safeguarding training for all ministers. Other denominations build on basic training over a period of years. There will be a Scheduled Discussion on this at the November meeting.

Walking the Way: The Synod Ministries Committee and TDO will be exploring the most appropriate ways to support this.

Spring School 2018. The Committee endorsed the taking up of 37 places offered for the national Spring School in April 2018. However, several ministers had expressed their dismay that there would be no Synod Spring School in 2018 and therefore the Moderator and TDO offered to hold an event for Synod Ministers in September 2018.

Next meeting is Wednesday 15th November 2017

Revd Bridget Banks (Convener)