
Report from Synod Ministries Committee

Special Category Minister (SCM) posts

The Moderator had reflected on the process currently used for SCM and strategic posts and wonders whether these sit more happily with the Synod's strategic thinking, i.e. Synod Council, rather than the Ministries Committee.

The Committee thought that new work should be encouraged, perhaps initiated by Synod Council, but applications should be dealt with by the Ministries Committee. It was thought that finance should never dictate the final decision on whether a project should go ahead.

Authorised Elders to preside at Holy Communion

The Moderator had written to all ministers in pastoral charge and church secretaries with a process for agreeing Authorised Elders. The Moderator will be writing a further paper on the process.

Compassionate Leave

The Moderator can authorise compassionate leave of up to two weeks; it is for her to determine whether compassionate leave should be granted. It cannot be granted when a minister is on sick leave. The Moderator will send a note to all ministers.

Training and Development

The Committee found it encouraging that 20 people from across the Synod have signed up for the daytime and 3 for the evening Lay Preachers course. A pilot Stepwise group has started; everyone on the course will have a Mentor.

Model 4 NSM (Non-Stipendiary Ministry)

Mission Council, acting on behalf of General Assembly, has authorised a model 4 NSM which will provide for locally ordained ministers.

Deployment

The annual deployment conversation will be held on 26th February 1-3 pm.

Revd Bridget Banks, Convenor