

Presbytery Plan Review Committee

Following on from the consultation with Kirk Sessions and ministers in 2019, we are keen to encourage conversations between congregations. To this end we have created a number of new groupings for our Presbytery and we wish to explore whether these are suitable and what the best way is of taking these groupings forward.

During our meeting representatives from the congregations will be invited to work together in groups to answer questions specific to their situation. This will include talking about your current relationships and considering what the next steps should be. To help, you will find with this report a grid that helps us think about working collaboratively, and the Act which covers Presbytery Planning and has the toolkit we will be using as a Presbytery (Act 7 2003 Section 10).

We appreciate that some of the groupings may not completely match your expectations, but as you will understand, this is an opportunity to explore and address those concerns. We are grateful for the information that has been shared with us from the vast majority of congregations. However, to date, a small number of churches and ministers have not yet responded to the earlier deliverances. Therefore, we have had to make some assumptions. Our desire is to enable every congregation to participate in such a way as to have ownership over the redrafting of the Presbytery Plan. For some, that is about how they can work with others in their local setting. For others, it will be how they can help resource the Presbytery in different ways. The process is intended to help each congregation with where they are currently, acknowledging that some congregations are in very different situations at the moment.

Following through on this process, we are planning to make changes to our current Presbytery Plan and present a draft in June 2020. Therefore, we must consider what happens in the event that new vacancies arise in the period of review (the next five months). We propose sisting the current plan in relation to personnel (Full time equivalent ministers of word and sacrament and MDS posts). This suspension would not impact those charges that had been given permission to call within the last 2 years. This suspension would also not impact buildings.

Deliverances

1. Presbytery receives the report.
2. Presbytery agrees to sist the current Presbytery Plan in relation to personnel until the Presbytery meeting in June 2020 where a new draft Presbytery Plan will be presented. This suspension does not impact those charges that had been given permission to call within the last 2 years. Presbytery instructs the Presbytery Clerk to seek concurrence for the sisting from the Presbytery Planning Task Group.