

COUNCIL FOR MISSION IN IRELAND

Convener: Very Rev Dr FRANK SELLAR

Acting Secretary: Rev JIM STOTHERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report covers the period from June 2020 to June 2021.
2. The Covid-19 pandemic, associated government restrictions, and decisions taken by the General Council impacted the work of the Council in various ways and by varying degrees. The General Assembly has already been informed of some of the details of that impact in the Supplementary Report delivered to the General Assembly Standing Commission at its meeting in June 2020 (Minutes of the General Assembly, 2020, pages 28–30).
3. The Council congratulates its Secretary, Rt Rev Dr David Bruce, on his appointment as Moderator from June 2020, and the subsequent extension of that appointment for a further year. It expresses deep appreciation for the leadership God has enabled him, along with the Clerk of Assembly, Rev Trevor Gribben, to give in what have been difficult days for Christ's church and all the people who live on the island of Ireland. The Revs Jim Stothers and Robert Bell have taken on part-time responsibilities as Acting Secretary and Chaplaincies Secretary respectively.
4. The Council has sought, under God, to continue to deliver the six components of the CMI remit:
 - (a) Developing PCI's strategic priorities in all-age mission in Ireland, and planning initiatives at General Assembly level where appropriate.
 - (b) Considering new church development and church planting.
 - (c) Overseeing all aspects of the Home and Irish Missions, including the Irish Mission Fund.
 - (d) Overseeing the deployment and ongoing support of Deaconesses.
 - (e) Supporting a chaplaincy service in the forces, hospitals and hospices, and prisons.
 - (f) Supporting mission and ministry in Universities and Colleges through chaplaincy services.
5. Most meetings in connection with the Council over the past year have been conducted online. In total, the Standing Committee authorised by the General Council met eleven times between April 2020 and April

2021. Physical meetings of the Council were able to take place in November and June. Meetings of Committees, Panels and Task Groups were authorised from mid-November onwards – all took place online until May, when physical meetings were able to resume. It is likely that, for the future, there will be a mixture of online and physical meetings. The former are useful for the conduct of routine or urgent non-controversial business, but matters which need thoughtful discussion where all can participate fully and the ‘temperature’ of a larger meeting can be gauged really only work where everyone is in the same room.

6. Use has been made of the UK Government’s Job Retention Scheme. Staff have been placed on furlough at varying times and by varying degrees. This includes deaconesses and staff in Assembly Buildings, the International Meeting Point and South Belfast Friendship House. For most of the period when government restrictions applied, all Assembly Buildings Mission Department staff worked from home, with members taking it in turns to be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
7. Proposals concerning the Council committee structure will again be delayed until the return of Dr Bruce from his time as Moderator of the General Assembly to his regular duties.
8. Last year’s Supplementary Report indicated that the implementation of the Home Mission Review was postponed until January 2021 at least. This postponement has been continued, but steps are being taken to resume implementation, most likely in autumn 2021.
9. Revised budgets were submitted to the Financial Secretary, taking account of changes necessitated by the Covid restrictions.
10. It was not possible to hold Mission in Ireland Evenings in presbyteries. However, online material was prepared and distributed to Clerks of Presbytery for use locally on or around St Patrick’s Day. The Council is grateful to the members of the Creative Production Department for their assistance in this at short notice.
11. Difficulties have arisen in connection with the Alternating Ministries Scheme (AMS). The Charities Regulator in the Republic of Ireland will not allow one entity – an AMS congregation – to be controlled by two charities – the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Methodist Church in Ireland (MCI). The congregations affected are Galway, Limerick and Sandymount (Christ Church), Dublin. Through the Mission Partnership Forum both denominations have been looking at the matter. See the General Council Report for further information, page 7.
12. Mrs Pip Florit went on maternity leave in January and the Council offers its congratulations to her on the birth of Jonah. Most of her work is being covered by Mr Neil Harrison.
13. The Council is grateful to the Rev Johnston Lambe for convening the Property Panel alongside his position as Finance Panel Convener. It

welcomes the Rev Alan McQuade as the new Property Panel Convener and notes that he has a very relevant professional background in its field of work.

14. Due to the overlap between business conducted through the normal Council Committees and the special Standing Committee, this year's report is set out by the nature of the work, rather than reports from Committees. For the record, though, it should be noted that the Council Committees are convened as follows:
 - Home Mission, Irish Mission and Deaconess Committee: Rev Ian Carton – the Council expresses thanks to Mr Carton for his work on this committee, and for CMI in general, and wishes him well as he steps down from this position.
 - Healthcare, Prisons and Forces Chaplaincy Committee – Rev Robert Bell
 - Universities and Colleges Chaplaincy Committee – Rev Craig Lynn
 - Strategy for Mission Coordination Committee – Rev Ben Walker

WORK RELATING TO HOME MISSION, IRISH MISSION AND DEACONESSES

Home Mission

15. A request concerning the dissolution, or amalgamation with Tullamore, of Mountmellick congregation was considered. The Council is supportive in principle and referred the matter to the Linkage Commission.
16. Following the departure of the Rev Vicki Lynch, MCI appointed the Rev Stephen Hancock in August 2020 as Minister of Limerick under the AMS.
17. Both denominations agreed to transfer governance of Braniel to MCI and of Taughmonagh to PCI, as agreed by the 2020 General Assembly Standing Commission (Minutes page 10).
18. Directory of Home and Urban Mission charges. Linked Congregations (in brackets) are not in the Home Mission. Ministers marked * are called by the Council, as at June 2021.

MINISTER	CHARGE
HOME MISSION	
Rev Michael Anderson*	Arklow
Rev Gunther Andrich*	Irvinestown, Pettigo and Tempo
Rev Rodney Beacom*	Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge and Newtownbutler
Rev Damien Burke*	Drogheda
Rev Andy Carroll*	Donabate
Rev David Clarke*	Sligo
Rev David Conkey*	Enniscorthy and Wexford
Rev Richie Cronin*	Trinity Cork and Aghada
Rev Al Dunlop*	Howth and Malahide
Rev Daryl Edwards*	Drum, Cootehill and Kilmount
Rev Helen Freeburn*	Galway (Alternating Scheme)
Rev Andrew Gill*	Blackrock and Bray
Rev John Hanson*	Ballyhobridge, Clones, Newbliss and Stonebridge (part-time)
Rev William Hayes*	Tullamore and Mountmellick
Rev Jean Mackarel*	Drumkeeran, Killeshandra, Cavan and Bellasis
Rev Dr Keith McCrory*	Maynooth
Rev Gary McDowell*	Greystones
Rev Roger McElnea	(Aughnacloy) and Ballymagrane
Rev Colin McKibben	(Convoy, Carnone, Donoughmore) and Alt
Rev Alan McQuade	(First Monaghan) and Smithborough
Rev Katherine P. Meyer*	Sandymount (Alternating Scheme)
Rev Alan Moore	(Cavanaleck) and Aughtentaine
Rev Susan Moore	(Kerrykeel, Milford) and Rathmullan
Rev William Montgomery*	Fermoy and Cahir

Rev John O'Donnell*	(Trinity Bailieborough) First Bailieborough, Corranearny , and Ervey
Rev Philip Poots*	Carndonagh, Greenbank, Malin, and Moville
Rev Jonathan Porter*	Dundalk
Rev Mark Proctor*	Naas (part-time) with chaplaincy at Tallaght Hospital
Rev Stephen Rea*	Carlow and Athy
Rev David Reid	(Ardstraw) and Douglas
Rev Daniel Reyes Martin*	Corboy and Mullingar
Rev Stephen Richmond*	Donegal and Stranorlar
Rev Rodney Thompson	(Badoney, Corrick) and Glenelly
Alternating Scheme	Christ Church, Limerick
Vacant	Ballina, Killala and Ballymote
Vacant	Carrigart and Dunfanaghy
Vacant	(1st Castleblayney, Frankford) and Corvalley
Vacant	(Waterside) and Fahan
Vacant	Inch
Vacant	Kells
Vacant	Kilkenny (Call issued to Rev Jonathan Currie on 15 June 2021)
URBAN MISSION	
Rev Rodney Cameron*	St Columba's, Lisburn
Rev Mervyn Gibson*	Westbourne
Rev William Harkness*	Great Victoria Street (part-time) with additional missional duties
Rev Robert Love*	Taughmonagh Church Extension
Rev Danny Rankin*	Strand, Belfast
Rev Lachlan Webster*	Craigavon
Vacant	Belvoir

Irish Mission and Deaconesses

19. William Workman resigned as an Irish Mission Worker after thirty-four years of service, most recently in Athy and Carlow. The Council took the opportunity at the June meeting to express personally to him its deep appreciation of his long commitment to the work of the Irish Mission.
20. Eileen Black retired as a deaconess after eight years of service, most recently in South Belfast Friendship House and Great Victoria Street congregation. The Council took the opportunity at the June meeting to express personally to her its profound sense of gratitude to her for her work as a deaconess over those years.
21. It had been agreed previously that three women would commence training as deaconesses at Union Theological College from September 2020. In the event only two suitable candidates were identified and the commencement of training had to be postponed for a year because of the pandemic. Further information may be found in the report of the Council for Training in Ministry on page 288.
22. Applications from congregations for the service of a deaconess continue to be received.
23. Three deaconesses have been commissioned and inducted: Paula Burrows in Ballygrainey, Louise Davidson in Bangor West, and Heidi England in Railway Street, Lisburn.
24. A number of deaconesses have been furloughed by varying amounts using the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme.
25. The 'normal retirement date' of the PCI Pension Scheme 2009 is now 66. The 'normal retirement from active service age' for ministers has also become 66. Irish Mission workers and deaconesses are enrolled in the PCI Pension Scheme (although they can then opt out) and so have the same 'normal retirement date' used in the calculation of their pensions. The Council agrees that it is appropriate that the 'normal retirement from active service age' for IMWs and deaconesses should increase to 66 in line with that for ministers. This does not mean that they cannot retire before that age, but that they will need permission from the Council. There are also some anomalies in the wording in the Code in respect of IMW and deaconess pensions and retirement. A relevant resolution is submitted with this report: relevant overtures may be found in the General Council report on page 303.

**Directory of Irish mission workers and the location of their service
(June 2021)**

NAME	LOCATION
David Boyd	Adelaide Road, Dublin
Tom Dowling	Kilkenny
Keith Preston	International Meeting Point, Belfast
Philip Whelton	Arklow

**Directory of deaconesses and the location of their service
(June 2021)**

NAME	LOCATION
Sonya Anderson	Shore Street, Donaghadee
Paula Burrows	Ballygrainey
Rachel Cubitt	Whiteabbey
Louise Davidson	Bangor West
Eleanor Drysdale	Wellington, Ballymena
Joanne Dunlop	Chaplaincy Team – Antrim and Craigavon Hospitals
Heidi England	Railway Street, Lisburn
Sharon Heron	International Meeting Point, Belfast
Roberta Irvine	Greystone Road, Antrim
Heather McCracken	Chaplaincy Team – Royal Victoria and Belfast City Hospitals
Tracey Nicholl	St James', Ballymoney
Michelle Purdy	Ballyclare
Hazel Reid	First Broughshane
Margaret Robertson	Elmwood, Lisburn
Rosemary Spiers	Greenwell Street, Newtownards

International Meeting Point and South Belfast Friendship House

26. See below, pars 74–76 and 77–79 respectively.

Nightlight

27. It had been intended to have a meeting with the Nightlight staff and volunteers shortly after the decision was taken last year to close the work. Due to the Covid restrictions this was postponed several times but eventually took place in June 2021. The Council places on record its gratitude to those who started this work many years ago, and who were part of it over the years.

WORK RELATING TO HEALTHCARE, PRISONS AND FORCES CHAPLAINCY

Healthcare chaplaincy

28. Liaison continues with the five Health and Social Service Trusts in Northern Ireland, and with the Health Service Executive in the Republic of Ireland, concerning the provision of Presbyterian chaplaincy in hospitals across Ireland. Every possible opportunity is sought, in conjunction with the relevant authorities, to make this work as effective as possible, both within the hospital contexts themselves, as well as in terms of facilitating the pastoral ministry of parish ministers.
29. The Council places on record its most sincere appreciation of the work being done by those who serve as hospital chaplains – most of whom are serving as part time chaplains, in addition to their parish ministry – providing pastoral care and support to patients, families and staff, and ministering in situations of missional opportunity. Special tribute is due to all hospital chaplains, who have given outstanding service throughout the period of the Covid pandemic and the significant challenges it created for hospital chaplaincy.
30. The Very Rev Dr Godfrey Brown has retired after 56 years’ service as PCI Chaplain in Dalriada Hospital, and Rev Victor Sinclair after 46 years’ service as PCI Chaplain at Knockbracken Healthcare Park – in expressing the utmost appreciation to both of them for their faithful work, the Council recognises that the whole church is very much in their debt.
31. In conjunction with the Public Affairs Officer, a response was made on behalf of PCI to the SEHSCT Bioethical Consultation.

Directory of PCI Healthcare Chaplains and the location of their service (June 2021)

NAME	LOCATION
Rev Lindsay Blair	Altnagelvin Hospital
Rev David Clarke	Sligo University Hospital
Rev Richie Cronin	Cork University Hospital
Rev Dr David Cupples	South West Acute Hospital, Enniskillen
Rev Dr Tony Davidson	St Luke's; Mullinure and Longstone
Susan Dawson	Coordinating Chaplain, Dublin Hospitals
Rev Molly Deatherage	Mayo General Hospital
Rev Ken Doherty	Mater Hospital, Belfast
Joanne Dunlop (Deaconess Assistant to Chaplain)	Antrim Area Hospital and Craigavon Hospital
Rev Helen Freeburn	University Hospital, Galway
Rev John Gilkinson	Belfast City Hospital
Rev David Hagan	Cavan General Hospital
Rev Norman Harrison	Royal Group of Hospitals Northern Trust Lead Chaplain
Rev Keith Hibbert	Altnagelvin Hospital
Rev Jim Lamont	Letterkenny General Hospital
Rev Paul Linkens	Altnagelvin Hospital
Heather McCracken (Deaconess Assistant to the Chaplain)	Royal Group of Hospitals Belfast City Hospital Musgrave Park Hospital
Rev Roger McElnea	Tyrone and Fermanagh
Rev Keith McIntyre	Daisy Hill Hospital
Rev Stephen McNie	Monaghan General Hospital
Rev Jonathan Porter	Louth Hospital
Rev Dr Ivan Neish	Whiteabbey Hospital

Rev Jane Nelson	Tyrone County Hospital (now Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex)
Rev Leslie Patterson	Lagan Valley Hospital (locum)
Rev Owen Patterson	Downe Hospital
Rev Mark Proctor	Tallaght Hospital (Adelaide and Meath)
Hazel Reid	Causeway, Hospital, Coleraine
Rev Marlene Taylor	Belfast Trust (bank relief chaplain)
Rev Ivan Thompson	Bluestone Psychiatric Unit
Rev Alan Thompson	South Tyrone Hospital
Vacant	Dalriada
Vacant	University Hospital, Limerick
Vacant Rev Ernie Boggs (locum)	Ulster Hospital, Dundonald (appointment pending)

Prisons Chaplaincy

32. The importance of prison chaplaincy is recognised by the NI Department of Justice and PCI chaplains are held in high regard. This vital opportunity for ministry and mission has continued through the Covid 19 period, even though, as in so many other areas of Christian ministry, access and opportunities for in-person contact have been significantly limited.
33. PCI is required to provide a chaplaincy service, funded by the NIPS in the three prisons in Northern Ireland. The Council pays tribute to the work of Rev Graham Stockdale, full time Coordinating Chaplain at HMP Maghaberry.
34. Whilst discussions have taken place regarding the introduction of a collaborative model involving the three main Protestant denominations pooling their resources for chaplaincy in HMP Magilligan, it was concluded that a denominationally based PCI chaplaincy approach should be our preferred option, and steps have been taken to fill that position. During the year, Rev Gary Aitchison was nominated to the NIPS for appointment as part-time chaplain in HMP Magilligan.
35. Mrs Heidi England completed her term as temporary part-time chaplain in Hydebank Wood College and Women's Prison, and sincere thanks are due to her for the work she did during this period. The appointment of someone to fill this part time position on a permanent basis is now being actively pursued.
36. The Council notes the continuing real-terms reduction in allocation of Department of Justice funds to chaplaincy provision. While

understanding the budgetary constraints at government level, discussions between the NIPS and the main churches have continued regarding a more realistic subvention towards this work.

Directory of PCI Prisons' Chaplains and the locations of their service (June 2021)

NAME	LOCATION
Rev Gary Aitcheson (pending NIPS processes)	HMP Magilligan
Rev Alan Boal	Mountjoy, Dublin
Rev Colin Megaw	Woodland's Juvenile Justice Centre
Rev Graham Stockdale	HMP Maghaberry (Coordinating Chaplain, full-time)
Vacant	Hydebank Wood College

Forces chaplaincy

37. During the year the Revs Colin Jones and Simon Hamilton moved from part-time chaplaincy in the Army and Royal Naval Reserves respectively, into full-time chaplaincy in the same services.
38. Rev Norman McDowell retired as an Army Chaplain after 25 years' service.
39. The Council is delighted to report that Rev Dr Paul Swinn was appointed Honorary Chaplain to HM, the Queen, from April 2021.
40. During the past year, work on a booklet recognising the service of PCI chaplains during the Great War has been completed, and many thanks are due to Very Rev Dr Donald Patton for the diligence, hard work and historical expertise which he brought to this project. Whilst it had been hoped to distribute copies of the booklet through presbyteries last autumn, this proved difficult due to Covid restrictions. It is hoped that it might be appropriate to highlight this booklet as we approach Remembrance Day 2021.
41. Moderator's visits
In September 2020 the Moderator was invited to attend and give one Bible Reading for our chaplains at their annual conference.

**Directory of Commissioned Chaplains within the Armed Forces
(June 2021)**

NAME	LOCATION
Rev Mark Donald	Army Reserve (part-time)
Rev Simon Hamilton	Royal Navy (induction anticipated July 2021)
Rev Mark Henderson	Army
Rev Colin Jones	Army
Rev Ivan Linton	Army
Rev Graeme McConville	Army
Rev Michael McCormick	RAF
Rev Jonathan Newell	RAF
Rev Heather Rendell	Army
Rev Dr Paul Swinn	Army
Rev Brent van der Linde	Royal Navy
Rev Dr Philip Wilson	Royal Air Force

**Directory of part-time Chaplains to Youth Organisations sponsored
by the Armed Forces**

NAME	LOCATION
Rev Joseph Andrews	Air Training Corps
Rev Dr Paul Bailie	Army Cadet Force (commissioned)
Rev Kenneth Crowe	Army Cadet Force (commissioned)
Rev Richard Graham	Air Training Corps
Rev Dr Ivan Neish	Air Training Corps
Rev Jane Nelson	Air Training Corps
Rev Prof Patton Taylor	Air Training Corps

Police Chaplaincy

42. A pilot scheme, initiated by the PSNI and involving chaplains from the main churches, has been run in the Ards/North Down area, with positive feedback from serving officers, senior management and chaplains themselves. Proposals for the roll-out of a province-wide chaplaincy structure centred on the 25 stations across N. Ireland where Local Policing Teams are based, now await approval by the Chief Constable. Clearly, much work remains to be done in terms of establishing a practical framework and operating ground rules for such chaplaincy before it moves forward.

WORK RELATING TO UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES CHAPLAINCY

43. There are 360,000 tertiary level education students across this island. PCI has 2 full-time chaplains in Belfast, in Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, and affords less than the equivalent of five days a week to all the rest. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland currently has no student chaplains in Dublin. In most universities or colleges apart from Belfast, Presbyterian chaplains manage a parish and can afford only half a day per week.
44. The Council continues to hold to the principles that:
- (a) chaplaincy should be missional as well as pastoral;
 - (b) the work of a chaplain ought to be rooted in the life of a local church.
45. It is recognised that universities are becoming ever more secular and that influence from groups such as Atheist Ireland is ever increasing, particularly in the Republic of Ireland. The Council and the denomination should therefore be prepared to think about and implement changes with regards to chaplaincy and student ministry to be able to respond to the rapidly changing university landscape.

Covid-19

46. In March 2020, the work and ministry of university chaplains changed dramatically because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (a) Rev. Dave Gray, Chaplain to Queen's University Belfast, Stranmillis University College, and Union Theological College, continued to work through the pandemic, given his key-holding responsibilities for Derryvolgie Hall. Some students remained there during the first lockdown with restrictions and mitigations in place to ensure everyone's health and wellbeing.
 - (b) Rev. Cheryl Meban, Chaplain to Ulster University was initially furloughed but, thankfully, was able to resume her duties at the start of the 2020/2021 academic year.

- (c) For all of our part-time chaplains, student ministry came to a sudden stop as access to campuses, students and organisations like Christian Unions ceased or was restricted.

Presbytery Engagement

- 47. Meetings have taken place with representatives of the presbyteries of Derry and Donegal and Dublin and Munster to discuss current chaplaincy vacancies in Letterkenny and in all three universities in Dublin, respectively. The Council is encouraged that presbyteries are taking a lead role in talking about, thinking about, shaping and praying for chaplaincy, student ministry and universities and colleges within their bounds.

Belfast Partnership Group

- 48. The Belfast Partnership Group brings together our two full-time chaplains in Belfast, local church leaders from churches in or close to the university areas (aka the university corridor) and members of the Universities and Colleges Chaplaincy Committee. This Group is an acknowledgement of the Belfast Conference's identification of student work as being one of its four main strategic priorities.
- 49. The Belfast Partnership Group exists to:
 - (a) support, encourage and pray for our chaplains whilst also providing a forum for input into student ministry from local churches;
 - (b) develop a united strategy for chaplaincy and student ministry in Belfast.
- 50. In developing this new united strategy before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Belfast Partnership Group proposed to bring together the two full-time chaplains into one team and to add a third member to that team. This additional team member would:
 - (a) oversee the development and implementation of a united strategy for Belfast;
 - (b) connect and work closely with local churches and presbyteries in nurturing, developing, pioneering and connecting student work.
- 51. At the most recent meeting, the Group unanimously agreed that a third member of the team was a priority for chaplains and churches in the area. This was recognised to be the case even more so now that the university area will be rejuvenated with the return of students at the start of the next academic year, the fact that Queen's has committed to face-to-face teaching and the expansion and the opening of many more student residences in the university corridor.
- 52. Whilst approval has not been granted by the Priorities Reference Panel for the third team member now, it is hoped that it will be recognised as an urgent priority in the future.

Derryvolgie and Elmwood Avenue Management

53. Thanks are expressed to the chaplain and team in Derryvolgie and to Graham Patterson, Property Support Officer for all their diligence and hard work during the last year.
54. There are currently 75 students in occupancy in DV Halls. It has been a challenging year financially as a number of students were given the opportunity to return home for at least one term. As a result, finances will just break even.
55. It is likely that the largest tenant, Clements Coffee in Elmwood Avenue, will vacate the premises in June 2021 which will have a significant negative impact on annual income. This rent is £24k per annum. More positively, the office spaces in the upper floors are occupied.
56. As a result of the loss of Clements as a tenant, a review will take place with a view to fulfilling the Assembly's request to have the Elmwood property operate at no financial cost to the Church.
57. A lighting programme of work to the rear of the Elmwood Property to facilitate the chaplaincy has been completed: this work was commissioned before the pandemic.

WORK RELATING TO STRATEGY FOR MISSION COORDINATION

58. Vacancy Assessment Groups have been appointed for Dunfanaghy and Carrigart, and for Ballina, Killala and Ballymote.
59. Representatives have been appointed to the Tenure Review Panels in Craigavon and in Enniscorthy and Wexford.

Urban Mission Network

60. Two events took place during the year:
 - (a) A webinar on 21 January with John Coulter: 'Fruitful Urban Mission over the long term';
 - (b) An in-person gathering on 2 June in Dundonald: 'Community leadership in the midst of conflict and tension'.

Belfast Conference

61. At the request of the Strategy for Mission Coordination Committee, the Belfast Conference provided comment on the perceived advantages and disadvantages of Urban Mission Status, with recommendations. The recommendations will be considered within the Home Mission Review.
62. Advisory comment has been given concerning New Mossley, Ballysillan, and Windsor.

63. Advisory comment has been given in connection with parish bounds within central and west Belfast.
64. A group is working on possibilities for mission in west Belfast.

Church Planting

65. The conference postponed from 9 May 2020 has been rearranged for 7 May 2022 in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, with keynote speaker Scotty Smith.
66. A church planting strategy is being developed, looking particularly at two complementary pathways into this:
 - (a) For congregations (and also Presbyteries or CMI) that wish to plant a church;
 - (b) For individuals who have a desire to be church planters.

Church Revitalisation

67. A Task Group has been established with the following remit:
 - (a) Understanding what constitutes a revitalisation. What are the questions/criteria that categorise a congregation as a revitalisation? How might this relate to the Home Mission Review pathway?
 - (b) How might we develop a model that includes pathway(s) and core principles for a revitalisation within PCI?
 - (c) Establishing a Revitalisation Hub/Network for PCI that could act as a portal of expertise and support. How might this support the Small and Fruitful initiative within CLW?
 - (d) What practical outcome might envision and inspire presbyteries to think creatively in a time of vacancy? For example, can we capture/package three stories of revitalisation from a variety of contexts within PCI that can be easily shared?
68. Consultation has taken place with the Council for Congregational Life and Witness to ensure that the focus of the Task Group does not extend into the CCLW remit concerning the re-birth and revitalisation of churches.
69. Members of the Task Group have been made available to the Linkage Commission for consultation in connection with Tenure Review procedures.

Rural Mission

70. The Rural Chaplaincy pilot scheme has been under discussion for some time, but further progress was delayed as a result of Covid-19. However, at the time of writing, the Rural Chaplaincy Pilot is on the point of being advertised through the Church and it is hoped that someone will be in post by the autumn. The aim of this new initiative is to enable our Church to begin to address the very significant challenges

which face farmers, farming families and those living in a rural context – issues of isolation, challenges to mental health, economic pressures and changes in the regulatory and trading context.

71. The Council is pleased to note that over 100 articles have now been contributed from PCI to the column in the Belfast News Letter's 'Farming Life' and is grateful to all who contribute and are involved in this ministry.
72. Seeds of ideas for furthering rural mission are being considered in the following areas: mental health; connections with St Patrick; and engagement with GAA.

Night-time Ministry

73. The Council is committed to a review of night-time ministry following the closure of Nightlight. A draft remit for an 'Exploring night-time ministry Task Group', has been drawn up, but before establishing such a group, there will be communication with clerks of presbytery to ascertain what night-time ministry (in the broadest understanding of the phrase) is already going on across presbyteries and congregations, and who is involved.

International Meeting Point

74. The application to the Priorities Reference Panel for the creation of the post of Assistant Project Leader, to be based at the North Belfast site has been approved and, at the time of writing, the post is about to be advertised.
75. Uncertainty continues over the long-term future location of the South Belfast project currently located in rented premises at 133a Lisburn Road. The South Belfast Presbytery has generously funded this for several years now, but does not have the resources to continue. At the same time the Council is aware that, within the foreseeable future, it is likely that Mr Keith Preston, the Project Leader, will retire. Accordingly, a Task Group has been appointed to consider these matters, reporting through the Strategy for Mission Coordination Committee.
76. While government restrictions curtailed much of the work of IMP by varying degrees during the year, the project continues to make strong connections with hundreds of migrants each week both offering a variety of support ranging from the meals so generously supplied by a number of volunteer groups, through internet access to communicate with families at home, food-bank, clothing bank, helping with asylum requests and job applications, English language classes and weekly Bible classes. These connections are variously made at the Lisburn Road and Carlisle Circus sites, and online as appropriate.

South Belfast Friendship House

77. With the retirement of Deaconess Mrs Eileen Black, the Rev William Harkness has been solely responsible for the on-the-ground work of South Belfast Friendship House. The Senior Project Worker, Ms Eunice Moore, continues on furlough. Some of the work has begun to open up on a small scale.
78. The opportunity is being taken to review the work of Friendship House and consider the appropriate direction for it to take. Consultation by the Strategy for Mission Coordination Committee will take place with PW, the South Belfast Friendship House Management Panel, and the Home Mission, Irish Mission and Deaconess Committee.
79. The financial impact of the pandemic has meant that PW has, understandably, had to scale back significantly its funding of Friendship House. PW previously provided over 80% of the operational costs and, while some expenditure has been lower through the pandemic, it has meant that Council funds have had to be used to cover the shortfall. It is unlikely that PW will in the future have the resources to fund the work in the way it once did, which in turn means that the review referred to in the previous paragraph will have to take this into account.

Finance and Property

80. The accounts for 2020 show a credit balance at year end. A number of programmes and projects were not started or run as anticipated during the year. The Council is grateful to those who have remembered the work of the Council in their will, which results in the receipt of a number of bequests most years. Two of those received recently are particularly substantial and seen as providential through this time of financial uncertainty.
81. The Finance Panel thanks PW for its continued financial support and notes that this has been unavoidably reduced due to a very significant decrease in PW income through the year.
82. Projects
 - (a) Having been informed of an increase in costs of the building project in Maynooth, further funds have been put in place to enable it to go ahead.
 - (b) Monies have been ring-fenced for major projects in Greystones, Donabate and Dundalk.
 - (c) Some projects have been put on hold.
83. The previous Evangelist Pay Scale, which had lost its relevance, has been replaced by an 'Additional Mission Projects Personnel Scale.' This will apply to the existing and new IMP Assistant Project Manager posts.

84. A grant has been received from the Southern Association Widows Fund, which has been wound up. The amount is £217,629.73, subject to some small winding-up costs. The terms were that "...any amount remaining shall be paid to the Council for Mission in Ireland "CMI" of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, a registered charity, to be used by CMI to support the work of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland within its presbytery of Dublin and Munster". Discussions have begun with the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster about the principles to establish concerning the use of this money.