

COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY

Convener: Rev NJ McCULLOUGH
Secretary: Rev TJ STOTHERS

Executive Summary

1. The **Ministerial Studies and Development Committee reports** on the still small number of applicants for the ministry and a revised format for post ordination training.
2. The **Union Theological College Management Committee** reports on the activities of the College including an encouraging Quality Assurance Agency report and the near-completion of the stonework restoration.
3. The **Reception of Ministers and Licentiates Committee** reports on its work of assessing the applications of ministers who wish to be retained without charge.
4. The **Deaconess Training and Selection Panel** reports on the selection of three new trainee Deaconesses.
5. The **Accredited Preacher and Auxiliary Minister Panel** reports on the training of further Accredited Preachers and Auxiliary Ministers and its intention not to train any more Auxiliary ministers at this time.
6. The **Pastoral Care of Manse Families Panel** reports on its distribution of the book *Zeal without Burnout* to all active ministers.
7. The **Conciliation Panel** reports on its involvement in an increased number of cases and the production of Bible study material.

Convener's Introduction

8. It is anticipated that The Council for Training in Ministry will have met on five occasions since the 2016 General Assembly to receive reports from its Committees and Panels.
9. The Council is aware of the many demands placed upon Union Theological College and its staff. The report from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education has highlighted how well these demands are being met and the high levels of satisfaction expressed by the students is very encouraging. The Council is grateful for the hard work of all the College staff during this past year and especially for the leadership of Principal Carson.
10. The Council acknowledges the planned retirement of Professor Stephen Williams at the end of the summer. Prof Williams has served in the College for 23 years and has not only been key in shaping the theological thinking of many students but has also served as a valuable theological resource for the wider Church. The Council is grateful for his service.
11. This has been the first year in which applicants for the ministry needed to have completed the Accredited Preacher course before commencing their studies. This requirement, agreed by the 2013 General Assembly, was designed to help applicants test their gifts and provide the opportunity for better assessment

of character and competency. It did mean that applicants were known much better by the time of interview. The Council is aware however, that this is not what the Accredited Preacher Scheme was originally designed for.

12. The recent trend for smaller numbers of applicants for the ministry continues with only five applicants this year of whom the Council are recommending all five. It is likely that there will only be 17 students for the ministry in College in 2017/18, the lowest number for many years. While there remains an excess of licentiates compared to vacancies, should the trend continue there will soon be an undersupply of ministers for PCI. Ministers, elders and other leaders are encouraged to identify suitable people with potential ministry gifts, disciple them and provide them with opportunities to test and develop their gifts, so that they might explore whether God is calling them to ordination. This should also be a cause for prayer by the whole Church.

13. The reducing number of students meant that the number of congregations seeking assistants was greater than the students available and it is regrettable that some congregations will have to meet staffing needs in other ways. The Council remains deeply grateful for congregations and supervising ministers who play a vital role in the training of our licentiates and assistants.

14. The Linkage Commission's Effective Contemporary Ministry Task Group highlighted the need for specialised training to meet the demands of some of the ministry situations in Ireland. One of the ways in which the Council is addressing this is by assigning some of the students to Congregations in particular missional contexts where it is believed existing gifts and interests can be developed. Some of the costs of this will be borne by the Central Ministry Fund.

15. The Council again highlights the role of Auxiliary Ministers and commends this to the wider church. Seventeen have been trained and to date only one post has been created.

16. The Council notes the retirement of the Rev Dr Bill Parker from the Convenership of the Ministerial Studies and Development Committee. Dr Parker has led this Committee for seven years (partly under the Board of Christian Training) and has overseen significant changes in the selection and training of students for the ministry during that time.

17. The Council also notes the retirement of the Rev Stephen Moore from the Convenership of the Finance, Personnel and Administration Panel. The Panel has overseen the College stonework restoration together with significant changes in College staffing and the Council is grateful for his leadership.

STUDENTS' BURSARY FUND

The Rev Mark Russell, Students Bursary Fund agent writes:

18. The Student Bursary Fund exists to make financial provision for students for the ordained ministry and their families, during their time of study.

19. In the academic year September 2016 – June 2017 there are 26 students in receipt of grants. 25 are studying at Union and one at Westminster Theological Seminary. The cost to the fund of grants, fees and all other expenses for this period will be £397,000. This is being met through offerings at services of Licensing, of Ordination and Installations of Ministers and Elders and through personal and

congregational donations as well as congregational assessment. Thanks are due to all members of the church who generously support the Students Bursary Fund.

20. All those who have responsibility for planning a service of Licensing, of Ordination and Installation are asked to ensure that full use is made of the Students Bursary Fund literature (available from reception in Assembly Buildings), especially the Gift Aid envelope. Experience has shown that where literature is handed out at an earlier service, those attending the special service are more likely to make use of the Gift Aid scheme. It would be appreciated if any unused literature could be returned to Assembly Buildings following the service.

21. *The Rev Nigel McCullough writes:*

The Council notes the intention of Rev Mark Russell to step back from the role of Students' Bursary Fund agent at the end of June 2017 after serving for almost three years. The Council is very grateful for careful and approachable way in which he has carried out this work and wishes him well in expanding congregational responsibilities. The Rev Adrian Moffett will take over as Students Bursary Fund Agent from July.

MINISTERIAL STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

22. The Committee on Ministerial Studies and Development continues to oversee the selection process and course requirements for students for ordained ministry, the training of licentiates, the post-ordination programme for those just ordained, in-service training for ministers and pre-retirement courses for ministers.

23. The Dean of Ministerial Studies and Development, the Rev Dr David Allen, acts as Secretary to the Committee, advises prospective candidates and works with students in training according to the Regulations of the General Assembly.

24. In the academic year 2016-2017 there were 27 students under the care of Presbyteries, as listed in the appended Schedule (Appendix 1). In addition, two Deaconesses are presently at the probationary stage of their training.

MINISTERIAL STUDIES

Ministry Applicant Recruitment Day

25. In its 2014 General Assembly Report, the Committee reported that it had discussed capping student numbers because of the high numbers of applicants for ordained ministry (Reports 2014, page 207). Three years later the Committee is planning a Ministry Applicant Recruitment Day because of the sharp downturn in applicant numbers. History shows that such peaks and troughs are not uncommon but a long term reduction in applicant numbers could lead to significant problems. The Committee therefore believes that a recruitment day is a wise course of action, but is also very aware that the prayers of God's people about this important matter are essential.

Ministry Application Information and Consultation Day

26. A Ministry Application Information and Consultation Day was held on 9th January, 2017. The Panels had opportunity to have initial conversations with the applicants and also meet with the vocational consultants from HealthLink360 to get their feedback from interviews with the applicants. This was the first year that the vocational consultant was involved at this earlier stage in the application process and it proved to be most helpful in identifying issues to be explored with the applicants at formal interviews in April. In addition, the applicants had seminars on *Called and Qualified* (by Principal Carson), *Bible Reading and Journaling* (by Prof Gibson), and *Leadership* (by Rev James Hyndman).

Interviews

27. The interviews of five candidates were held in Union Theological College on Monday 10th April and Tuesday 11th April 2017. The Interviewing Panels comprised: Ministers – Amanda Best, Robin Brown, Karen Campbell, Daryl Edwards, Andrew Faulkner, David Leach, Niall Lockhart, George McClelland, Dr Ivan Patterson; Elder - Mr Joe Campbell. The Rev Nigel McCullough acted as Chairman, the Rev Dr Bill Parker as Secretary, and the Rev Dr David Allen as DMSD. The Rev Jim Stothers, Secretary to the Council, was also present.

28. Having completed the interviewing process, all five candidates are being nominated to the General Assembly by the Council.

Mentoring of Applicants and Students

29. The current psychological tests for applicants, and on occasion students, often highlight important character and behavioural issues. This has led the Committee to explore the feasibility of setting in place a mentoring programme for each student during the college years.

Ministry Student Placements

30. Beginning with the academic year 2017-2018, Queen's University, Belfast 2nd Semester examinations will be completed by late April. This means that 1st Year Ministry students could begin a summer assistantship in May and conclude it in September. In light of a longer summer assistantship, the part-time winter placement could be removed to allow an uninterrupted focus on academic studies. The Committee believes that such arrangements would present opportunities to enhance, improve and strengthen not only ministry formation initiatives for ministry students, but the academic procedure as well. The Committee *agreed* that this option should be explored positively.

Biblical Languages

31. In the academic year 2010-2011 the Biblical languages curriculum was revised and has continued to be monitored and adjusted. As reported at last year's General Assembly the Committee agreed that there would be a full formal review of the Introduction to Biblical languages Course-Unit in the academic year 2016-2017 and this is being done with the goal of equipping Ministry students to use the original languages appropriately and effectively.

Supervising Ministers

32. A training and orientation day for Supervising Ministers was held in the Training and Resource Centre at Union Theological College on 5th October 2016. Thirteen ministers attended. The Committee agreed that, in light of the encouraging Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education findings, there is a need for more rigorous training for Supervising Ministers, plus a shift to a more evidence-based assessment by Supervising Ministers regarding assistants. The Committee also agreed that speaking to Kirk Sessions as well as to Supervising Ministers about expectations regarding the training of assistants would be helpful.

Remuneration of Summer Assistants

33. The remuneration of Summer Assistants was increased from £260 per week to £300 per week, the first increase since 2014.

PTFI Graduation and Timing of Licensing

34. The current timing of the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland (PTFI) graduation and services of licensing makes the task of marking assessments and approving students extremely difficult to complete within the required time-frame and fails to meet proper academic rigour. The Committee agreed that this was an unsatisfactory situation and that the matter should be raised with PTFI. PTFI since has indicated that it intends to move the graduation service to the end of June from 2018 onwards. As this would have implications for the awarding of an honorary degree to an incoming Moderator, the Moderator's Advisory Committee was informed of PTFI's intention. The Committee is aware that granting Certificates for Licensing at the end of June will also have implications for when services of licencing may take place.

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT**Post-Ordination Training**

35. The 2016 General Assembly instructed the Council to '...develop a sustainable residential format with a clear emphasis on both training and spiritual renewal for post-ordinands in their first five years of ministry' (Minutes, p36, resolution 5). At the time of writing, a joint course for all post-ordinands, using Assembly Buildings and Jury's Hotel is arranged for 9th-11th May, 2017. The programme is to be led by the Rev Dr Mark Welsh, speaking on missiology, and the Rev Dr Martyn Cowan and the Rev Dave Clawson, addressing the subject of worship. The middle day of the training conference is open to other Ministers. These arrangements allow for the use of the Church's facilities, reasonably priced accommodation to cater for all five year-groups, and a church-wide ministry day for interested parties.

Sabbaticals and In-Service Training

36. The Committee has found it necessary to clarify the 2016 guidelines concerning the sabbatical and in-service training scheme with regards to the issue of claiming expenses. This has been by way of reminding those who apply for the scheme of the relevant section of the Committee's report to the 2011 General

Assembly: As a consequence of an increasing array of scenarios concerning applications for sabbatical leave and In-Service training, the Committee has sought to bring a greater degree of clarity concerning the claiming of expenses. While it is acknowledged that Ministers may need to find 'space' to engage in study or reflection away from the manse, thus incurring travel costs and rental charges, it was felt that travel outside Ireland or the UK should be facilitated only if a Minister genuinely needs to visit a specific location or engage in a particular context for the actual purpose of that sabbatical or In-Service training. The Committee agreed that this is an appropriate, and indeed necessary, restriction on claims for travel and/or accommodation. (Reports, 2011, p. 203.)

Pre-Retirement Residential

37. This annual residential seeks to equip ordained Ministers and their spouses as they anticipate the transition from full-time ministry to retirement. It is available from the year in which the Minister reaches the age of 63. A residential was held from 15th-17th November, 2016 with 12 Ministers and their spouses attending. The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the facilitators, the Very Reverend Dr David and Mrs Hazel Clarke and the Rev Bill and Mrs Margaret Sanderson. Another residential is planned for 2017.

WJM PARKER, Convener

UNION THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

38. The Committee welcomed the appointments last summer of Dr Zachary Cole and Dr Martyn Cowan to the academic staff and is delighted with their contribution to Biblical Studies and Historical Theology respectively, and to the life and witness of the College in general. As Dr Cowan was a licentiate of our Church, the Council issued a Call and he was ordained and inducted as Lecturer in Biblical Studies on 9th December, 2016.

39. The major triennial Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education visit took place in October. The report indicated that the College continues to meet UK expectations in terms of academic standards and student learning opportunities, alongside good practice reflected in 'the culture of supporting students and the meticulous care taken to foster personal growth and academic attainment' and 'the strong sense of community'. The Financial Sustainability, Management and Governance element of the report required a resolution to be passed by the General Council that it will ensure, on an on-going basis, that UTC will receive sufficient funding to guarantee that all students who enrol have the opportunity to finish their courses.

40. In line with its overall review of academic provision, Queen's University commissioned a review of Theology by an external panel. While concerns remain about some aspects of the report, both the Institute of Theology and the Faculty have focused on its positive elements, e.g., the opportunity to promote theology to a wider student base (through offering a module that would be available to all students in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences such as 'Religion, Faith

and Society: perspective on belief'), and the opportunity to re-invigorate the BD programme by reconstructing it under the 3 areas of Biblical Studies and Biblical Languages, Systematic Theology and Church History, and Ministerial Praxis.

41. Discussions continue around the review of Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland courses to bring them into line with the Framework for Higher Education.

42. During the current academic year there are 25 ministry students at Union, 5 in first year, 7 in second year and 13 in third year. There is a total of 157 Queen's undergraduate students studying theology at Union (spread across three years) and 30 Queen's postgraduate students. Concern was expressed again over the low number of applicants for the Ministry.

43. A series of seminars on 'Being Human' was held in the College in autumn 2016 under the umbrella of 'The Church in the Public Square', drawing an average attendance of well over 100 each evening. A two-day Luther Conference to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation was held in Queen's Elmwood Hall at the beginning of February, and again was well supported. The lectures at both events were of a high standard and appreciation was expressed by many who attended.

44. During the academic year 2016/17, Prof Laurence Kirkpatrick was on sabbatical leave during the 1st semester and Prof Drew Gibson during the 2nd semester. Prof Stephen Williams has given notice of his intention to retire at the end of the summer. Steps were taken to draw up Job Description and Personnel Specification for Professor of Systematic Theology and to advertise the position. An able academic and an insightful theologian, Prof Williams has served both the College and the wider church with distinction and Christian integrity for 23 years.

45. A high turnover of administrative staff combined with continuing heavy workload meant a challenging year for College administration. Further permanent appointments were put on hold pending the outcome of inquiries into the turnover of staff.

46. With two additional members of academic staff requiring space, the administration area was moved downstairs to former classrooms 1 and 2 which were converted accordingly. This enabled all academic staff to be located together on the first floor, with all administrative staff located together on the ground floor. An associated reception desk adjacent to the front door has proved beneficial to visitors and regular users alike.

47. A new disabled WC facility was completed at a cost of c.£55,000. Since no budget was in place for this unexpected expenditure, permission was sought from the Priorities Reference Panel which agreed that permission be granted, but that it be funded either out of College reserves or from the Magee Fund (which is under the control of the College Management Committee). In view of the possibility of other students in the future with disability, it was agreed to obtain a costed survey of the College re accessibility compliance.

Stonework Restoration

48. The stonework project began on 20 January 2014. Phase 1 was completed on 1 July 2015, Phase 2A on 15 April 2016, and, at the time of writing, Phase 2B is due to be finished by the end of April 2017, with the temporary gravel

parking areas removed and the grass restored. While this greatly improves the visual appearance of the College, it significantly reduces the availability of car parking for staff and visitors.

49. During Phase 2B dust penetration of the rooms from stone cutting was a serious problem, caused significant inconvenience to staff and required a lot of remedial work by the IT Department. The Committee is grateful to all staff for their patience and forbearance particularly in recent months, and also for their co-operation over the course of the entire project.

50. A summary of stonework restoration costs is as follows.

- Total estimated final cost: £2,188,873 plus overdraft interest £34,178
- Total grants: £983,610 (NIEA £403,610, Trustees Discretionary Fund £580,000)
- Net estimated final cost: £1,239,411

51. It should be noted that the entire project has been funded without any appeal to the church at large or any assessment on congregational funds. The Committee remains very grateful for the grants made available, but points out that the remaining balance has had to be funded by dipping substantially into its own reserves - a combination of the sale of shares in the General Investment Fund (GIF) and the Magee Fund. In addition, a long-standing overdraft on the Training Resource Centre will also be eliminated through the sale of shares in the GIF. This means that in the future the College will not be able to rely on the same level of investment income to balance its accounts, but will be dependent on the United Appeal to cover the short-fall through an increased annual grant.

HA DUNLOP, Convener

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS AND LICENTIATES COMMITTEE

52. The Committee met four times since the 2016 General Assembly.

53. Seven people contacted the Committee during the year requesting information on transferring ministry to PCI. Two people have filled in the enquiry form and begun the process of formal application after completing the exploration week in PCI.

54. The Rev. Gunther Andrich has begun his two-year assessed assistantship at Elmwood in Lisburn alongside further studies in Union College.

56. One of the Committee's responsibilities is to deal with requests from Presbyteries for the retention of the status licentiates and ministers without charge. The Code, Par 219 (3)(a) states:

“On accepting a full-time appointment which is not under the jurisdiction of the Assembly, a licentiate or minister without charge shall be deemed to have resigned from his position in the Church...”

57. The General Council at its October 216 meeting recommended as follows to the Council for Training in Ministry: “that a Minister without Charge who is in a “full-time appointment which is not under the jurisdiction of the Assembly” be deemed to have resigned from his/her position in PCI unless there are exceptional reasons to act otherwise.” (original emphases)

58. Accordingly, the Committee adopted a more rigorous approach than previously, and required Presbyteries to give exceptional reasons for retention in their annual reports. Before discussing specific cases, the Committee agreed that a licentiate or minister would normally be retained if they meet any of the following criteria:

- (a) they are retired and retain a communicant membership of a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.
- (b) they have moved into 'without charge' status since the last Presbytery report.
- (c) they are working for a para-church organisation or in a similar form of service to the wider church.

In addition, the General Council had also recommended to the Council for Training in Ministry that if any licentiate is continuing actively to seek a call, that will qualify as an exceptional reason to retain him or her. As well as applying this as a criterion for licentiates without charge, the Committee factored it into consideration of the retention of ministers without charge.

59. A list of recommendations is included in Appendix 2.

60. The Committee is grateful for the way in which Presbyteries have thoughtfully and conscientiously dealt with applications and encourages this to be maintained in the years to come.

61. The Rev Jared Stephens applied to be received from the United States as a Transferring Minister in 2015. It is with great regret that his assistantship was terminated earlier this year after failing to satisfy the Committee of his ability to carry out a successful ministry in PCI.

62. Following the removal of some paragraphs from the Code at the time of the implementation of the new structures in 2014, the Committee is aware that there is a need to have a more fully defined process for receiving Transferring Ministers. Operating principles have been drawn up and will be used over the coming year. It is intended to refine these in the light of experience and present them for approval to the 2018 General Assembly. In the meantime an overture is submitted to make clear the necessity for a Transferring Minister to complete successfully any necessary course of study and/or assistantship before eligibility can be declared.

63. Code Par 190(2)(a) states that a vacant congregation may 'be supplied only by ministers, licentiates, accepted students for the ministry, accredited preachers or elders of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland or by ministers of sister Churches having regular arrangements for ministerial eligibility in this Church.' This last category is now anachronistic. An overture is submitted to enable the Committee to declare ministers of other churches eligible to so supply on a case by case basis, paralleling what already happens with those employed as temporary assistants under Code Par 81(3).

A FAULKNER, Convener

RECOGNISED MINISTRIES

The Rev Dr WJP Bailie, Mission Africa, writes:

64. Mission Africa (The Qua Iboe Fellowship) is one of Ireland's oldest mission agencies. In 2017 we celebrate the 130th anniversary of the founding

of the Mission by Samuel Bill, an Irish Presbyterian from East Belfast. His faithful service in Nigeria led to the establishment of a denomination – The United Evangelical Church (formerly Qua Iboe Church) – that now has some 1700 congregations, 1300 pastors and ministers and a membership of in excess of one million.

65. The mission concentrates on three areas of ministry: 1) evangelism and Church planting; 2) the strengthening of existing Church bodies through theological education; 3) medical and compassionate ministry, including a child sponsorship programme. These ministries are carried out in partnership with various evangelical African denominations, and often with like-minded western mission agencies. At the centre of all that we do is a clear commitment to making known the Gospel of Christ.

66. The mission continues its work against a background of numerous challenges, particularly the scarcity of financial and personnel resources. Nevertheless, we continue to send out full time missionaries. We continue to operate a short-term programme of teams and medium term placements. We also continue to operate branches in Scotland and England. Mission Africa is a member of Global Connections (Evangelical Missionary Alliance) and Mission Agencies Partnership. I am particularly pleased to report a close working relationship with the Council for Global Mission.

67. As Chief Executive I have responsibility for strategic planning; pastoral care of Missionaries; administration of personnel and finance; partner relations with a variety of Churches and agencies, and I am particularly involved in promoting theological education in Africa.

68. I am also grateful to be able to record that my status as a Minister in recognised service permits me to play an active role within my Presbytery (Ards) and in the Council for Training in Ministry. I am particularly glad to serve the Church through part-time teaching at Union Theological College.

The Rev Dr Ruth Patterson, Restoration Ministries, writes:

69. This past year has seen my involvement in many conferences, retreats, speaking engagements, as well as spiritual direction and prayer ministry. As an ecumenical canon in St Anne's Cathedral I attend the chapter meetings and various services and it is my privilege to preach once a year.

70. As part of the Presbytery of South Belfast, I value the prayerful support of fellow clergy and elders and also appreciate the sense of community with my sisters in ministry.

71. Faith and Friendship, an outreach branch of Restoration Ministries, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Since 1997, in a quiet but effective way, in six groups across the country, it has provided an opportunity for people to meet together on a regular basis to share their faith in an atmosphere of friendship. Understanding, trust and respect have been nurtured over the years as we have met to share and pray. Faith and Friendship provides an atmosphere that is grounded in faith, expressed in friendship and nurtured by the Spirit.

72. The International Federation Assembly of L'Arche, the movement founded by Jean Vanier, is taking place this year (June 2017) in Queen's University, Belfast. The mission of L'Arche is to make known the gifts of people with learning disabilities, working together towards a more human society. Over

the last eighteen months of planning, Restoration Ministries has been involved in offering background support and, as one of the four international church representatives, I will be speaking and leading some of the worship at this event.

DEACONESS SELECTION AND TRAINING PANEL

73. The Panel continues to grow into its role as it selects and trains deaconesses and oversees them during training.

74. A restructuring of PW required that Mrs Charlotte Stevenson would no longer continue as secretary to the Panel and grateful thanks must be expressed to her for her excellent service. Mrs Pauline Kennedy (Women's Ministry and PW Development Officer) was welcomed to the Panel to bring the perspective of PW.

75. The oversight of Deaconesses completing their training continues. On the completion of her second year of study Miss Rachel Cubitt began her Probationary Year on 1st June, 2016 in the congregation of Newmills. Having completed her studies on 31st December, 2016 Mrs Heidi England began her Probationary Year from 1st January 2017 and continues to serve in the congregations of Anahilt and Drumlough. They become eligible to receive a call on 1st September 2017 and 1st January 2018 respectively.

76. The request of the Council for Mission in Ireland to select three new Trainee Deaconesses for training has been concluded. Six short-listed applicants were interviewed on 4th April 2017. The Panel was impressed with the calibre of all six applicants. On the recommendation of the Panel, the following were accepted by the Council for Training in Ministry as candidates for the office of Deaconess under the care of Presbytery, as per the Code Par 303(4)(c):

Mrs Paula Burrows;

Mrs Louise Davidson;

Mrs Sylvia Santos-Bryce.

They will begin their studies at Union Theological College in September 2017.

77. In consultation with the Faculty at Union Theological College the Course to be completed by Trainee Deaconesses has been significantly redesigned. Thanks must be expressed to Principal Carson and the College Faculty for the careful thought and planning that has been given to these changes.

78. Consideration is being given to the academic and financial implications of training changing from two years of full-time College study plus a Probationary Year, to one year full-time at College plus two years of placements and part-time study.

RL BROWN, Convener

ACCREDITED PREACHER AND AUXILIARY MINISTRY PANEL

79. The Panel handles all aspects of the selection, training and ongoing development of the Accredited Preacher Scheme and the Auxiliary Ministry Scheme.

80. There are 7 Auxiliary Ministry trainees who have completed their classroom training course in 2016/17 and are currently completing their written assignments. Their preaching and mentoring phases are also in progress.

81. Due to the lack of Auxiliary Ministry posts being created, the Panel is not planning a 2018 course, but this situation is being kept under review for the following year. Publicity to highlight the benefits of the scheme is ongoing.

82. The Accredited Preacher Scheme continues with 24 candidates having been interviewed and approved by the Council. They will attend the APS intensive course in July 2017 and begin mentoring after that.

O McAULEY, Convener

PASTORAL CARE OF MANSE FAMILIES PANEL

83. An annual meeting with Licentiates has now become a regular part of the Panel's work. This usefully provides insight for Licentiates into some of the practicalities of Manse life, what can be expected as they transition into ordained ministry and what this will mean for them and their families.

84. In December 2016, following the Panel's recommendation, the book 'Zeal without Burnout' by Christopher Ash was given to all active Ministers. The Panel is grateful to the support given by The Moderator, Dr Sellar, in the accompanying letter. The book acknowledges that each person is different (at various stages of ministry and with many complex issues going on in our home and work circumstances). It was given as an encouragement and a help to those in Ministry to maintain zeal without giving up.

85. At the February meeting of the Panel the Moderator Dr Sellar and his wife Claire shared some of their observations from visiting many Manses during the year of office. The lack of someone to talk with was evident. The growing culture of individualism rolls over into church life manifesting itself in ministers and congregations becoming more congregational than Presbyterian – removing themselves from the support they need to maintain a healthy and fruitful ministry. Ministers do not always feel safe enough to be open about how they are feeling, or to be cared for by other Presbyters.

86. The Panel realises that there is a need to provide adequate Pastoral Care for Ministers and Manse Families but that there is no one model of care that fits all. However the Panel feels that the present situation does not meet the need. Too many Ministers and their families are 'falling through the net' and the Panel continues to look at ways in which this situation can be addressed.

G FARQUHAR, Convener

CONCILIATION PANEL

87. The Conciliation Service has been involved with a slightly increased number of cases this year. The Panel continues to work to raise awareness of the support which the Service can offer at congregational and Presbytery levels. Twice a year, update training is run for conciliators to ensure that they are equipped for this sensitive work.

88. Conciliation Service members also have a training role. The purpose of this is to support the development of skills and procedures around handling conflict well and to provide information about the Service itself. Conciliators have delivered a variety of courses to Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries over the year. Two days of training were also provided for licentiates.

89. In addition to this, four Bible studies have been developed, one linking to each of the main courses. These have been gathered under the heading, "Maintaining Healthy Congregations", and are available on the PCI website. They can be used by any congregational group but may be most useful where a Kirk Session or other leaders have participated in a full training course and want to share some of the learning more widely in the congregation.

M POTTER, Convener

COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY

APPENDIX 1

SCHEDULE OF STUDENTS

ARDS	David Morrison	Union
	Richard Tregaskis	Union
ARMAGH	John Graham	Union
BALLYMENA	James Porter	Union
	Chris Wilson	Union
NORTH BELFAST	Philip Houston	Union
	Gareth Keaveney	Union
SOUTH BELFAST	Andre Alves-Areias	Union
	Seth Wright	Union
EAST BELFAST	Sam Bostock	Union
	Andy Downey	Union
	Ben Johnston	WTS
	Steve Kennedy	Union
COLERAINE		
AND LIMAVADY	John Torrens	Union
DERRY AND DONEGAL	Robert McFaul	Union
	Jonny McKane	Union

DOWN	Peter Burke	Union
	Michael McCormick	Union
DROMORE	Robin Aicken	Union
	Jamie Maguire	Union
	Philip Poots	Union
DUBLIN AND MUNSTER	John Brogan	Union
	David Curran	Union
	Kevin Hargaden	-
NEWRY	David Bingham	Union
	Campbell Mulvenny	Union
ROUTE	Richard Morrison	Union

COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY

APPENDIX 2

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING LICENTIATES AND MINISTERS WITHOUT CHARGE

Presbyteries have sought authorisation for the retention of the following as recognised licentiates or ministers without charge under Code Par 219(3)(c) (i), and the Council for Training in Ministry makes recommendation as detailed.

Ards

Rev Dr SI Dennis to be retained as Minister without charge
 Rev Simon Henning to be retained as Minister without charge
 Rev CD Mawhinney to be retained as Minister without charge
 Rev David McKee to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)
 Mr KJ Ward to be retained as Licentiate without charge

Armagh

Rev Dr Michael McClenaghan to be retained as Minister without charge
 Rev JWP McConnell to be retained as Minister without charge

Ballymena

Mr SW Orr to be retained as Licentiate without charge

North Belfast

Rev LE Carroll to be retained a Minister without charge
 Rev JSB Drennan to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)
 Rev Dr LH Eagleson to be retained as Minister without charge
 Mr David McCarthy, to be retained as Licentiate without charge

Rev CI McKnight to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)
Rev WA Shaw to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev WM Smyth to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)
Rev FW Vincent to be retained as Minister without charge

South Belfast

Rev CH Deering to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev JD Maxwell to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev JA Peacock, to be retained as Minister without charge

East Belfast

Rev PP Campbell to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev WJ Harshaw to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev Dr DJ Montgomery to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev BJ Walker to be retained as Minister without charge

Carrickfergus

Mr CMS Barron to be retained as Licentiate without charge
Rev RJ Gilkinson to be retained as Minister without charge

Derry and Donegal

Rev RA Mulholland not to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev KG Patterson to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev JC Teeney to be retained as Minister without charge

Down

Rev CG Anderson to be retained as Minister without charge
Rev Samuel Armstrong to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)
Rev RN Stewart to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)
Rev GR Stockdale to be retained as Minister without charge

Dromore

Rev WJ Todd to be retained as Minister without charge

Iveagh

Rev EG McAuley to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)

Monaghan

Rev DJM Boyle to be retained as Minister without charge

Newry

Rev BAH Wilson to be retained as Minister without charge

Omagh

Rev JA Gordon to be retained as Minister without charge

Route

Rev Dr Victor Dobbin to be retained as Minister without charge (retired)

Templepatrick

Rev Dr WJM Parker, to be retained as Minister without charge

Tyrone

Rev WI Ferris, to be retained as Minister without charge.

NOTE: Since last year the following are no longer recorded as Licentiates or Ministers without charge:

DECEASED**Coleraine and Limavady**

Rev JD Mark

Route

Rev William Brown

ORDAINED

East Belfast (transferred to **Armagh** after last General Assembly as Licentiate without charge)

Dr Martyn Cowan

NO REQUEST TO RETAIN RECEIVED FROM THEIR PRESBYTERY**Ards**

Mr Edward Kirwan

South Belfast

Rev KA Drury

East Belfast

Rev DR Baker, Messrs SE Cowan and Paul Orr

Newry

Rev DB Murphy

Tyrone

Mr JA Dunn

COUNCIL FOR TRAINING IN MINISTRY

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the General Assembly express their appreciation of Professor Stephen Williams for his work as Professor of Systematic Theology and wish him a long and happy retirement.

2. That the following candidates, their nominations having been sustained by the Council for Training in Ministry, be accepted as students for the Ordained Ministry, and placed under the care of their Presbyteries:

Name	Congregation	Presbytery
Philip Boyd	Bloomfield	East Belfast
Richard Hill	Richhill	Armagh
John McCracken	Abbey Monkstown	North Belfast
James O'Neill	Ballyrashane	Coleraine and Limavady
Mark Rodgers	Wellington	Ballymena

3. That the General Assembly encourages members of the Church to pray concerning applications for the ordained ministry.

4. That the General Assembly notes the intention of the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland, to move its Graduation Service to the end of June from 2018.

5. That the recommendations concerning those whose retention as Licentiates and Ministers without charge has been sought by Presbyteries be adopted.

CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION

6. (a) That the assessment for the Ministerial Development Programme be set to raise £100,000.

(b) That the assessment for the Students' Bursary Fund be set to raise £380,000.

7. That the Report of the Council for Training in Ministry be received.