

# **COUNCIL FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE AND WITNESS**

Convener: Rev COLIN MORRISON

Secretary: Rev DAVID THOMPSON

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The Council for Congregational Life and Witness has met on two occasions since last year's General Assembly.
2. The report details:
  - (a) The work of the following eight committees:
    - (i) Discipleship Committee
    - (ii) Global Mission Involvement Committee
    - (iii) Leadership Committee (including the Youth Assembly and SPUD at the General Assembly)
    - (iv) Outreach Committee
    - (v) Pastoral Care Committee
    - (vi) Women's Strategy and Coordination Committee (including Presbyterian Women)
    - (vii) Worship Committee
    - (viii) Youth, Children's and Family Strategy and Coordination Committee.
  - (b) The work of the Developing Congregational Use of Social Media Task Group.
  - (c) A summary of the background to a proposal for streamlining the Council's structure of Committees, Panels, Task Groups and Organising Groups. This will be formally presented to the Assembly under the report of the General Council.
  - (d) Developing the Council's Fruitful Congregations theme, particularly through the Growing in Fruitfulness and Small and Fruitful initiatives.
  - (e) Developing Council engagement with Presbytery as a training hub.
  - (f) Plans to develop the enabling element of the Council's ministry.
  - (g) Continuing challenges in the area of communicating with congregations.

3. An appendix sets out an overview of the main activities, training and events offered by the Council during 2017/18.

### **Difficult Task. Active Hope**

4. Sometimes how others see us can come as a revelation giving insight into what we are really like and what God is doing in our life. A visiting guest speaker at one of the main programmes delivered by the Council for Congregational Life and Witness in 2018 engaged in many conversations with ministers and elders from all over the island in the course of his time with us. Asked to sum up his impressions of his experience of the present situation for ministry and mission in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, he did so in just four words. Difficult task. Active hope.
5. If the life and witness of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is to be fruitful in the times in which God has placed us, it is necessary for us to take hold of both realities. We do face a difficult task. To pretend otherwise is to ignore the impact of the rapidly changing, increasingly secular society in which we live and labour for the gospel. But do we also have eyes for what God is doing among us in and through the life and witness of local congregations? Ours is an active hope. Not just a future heavenly hope, but a hope that is being experienced in the here and now of what God is doing by His Spirit.
6. Active hope is not a passive waiting upon God. It leans into the promises of His word with prayerful expectancy and Kingdom anticipation. It does not expect things to come easily. It commits itself to patient sowing, planting, watering and reaping. It embraces necessary change. It engages a needy world. It enlists in the struggle against principalities and powers. Let us take encouragement that a visitor sees signs of that activity and hope in our life as congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.
7. The Council for Congregational Life and Witness exists to accompany local congregations in developing their calling to live out their life as communities of the people of God. It listens and responds to the needs of churches to encourage, envision, equip and enable them for this task. The report that follows offers some snapshots of the main initiatives undertaken during 2017/18 and highlights some emerging priorities.

### **Accompanying the Development of Congregational Life and Witness**

8. The Council's work of accompanying congregations in developing their life and witness is wide and varied and presently overseen by eight committees. The following section offers an overview of what is presently being delivered, is planned and is being prioritised. Some of it represents work that is progressing, some is work in progress.
9. The Council invites and welcomes the comments of the General Assembly on all of it – what is being delivered, what is under discussion

and what it isn't, but needs to be. It is committed to ongoing refinement, nuancing and fresh prioritisation in response to the collectively expressed needs of congregations.

## DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

10. Supporting 'local congregations in enabling their members to live as followers of Jesus in every relationship, everywhere they are and in every circumstance of life' has been identified as a denominational priority (Priorities Committee Report to the General Assembly 2017). The Discipleship Committee continues to develop its work with an ever-sharpening focus on addressing this task.
11. The Everyday Disciples theme of last summer's Special Assembly helped delegates further to explore some key areas of the discipleship agenda. The challenge, as always with this kind of event, is how to translate successfully the experience, enthusiasm and learning of those who attended to the greater number of their congregation who were not there.
12. The autumn meeting of the Committee spent time reflecting on the development of the discipleship conversation within the denomination in recent years and sought to identify and prioritise a set of next steps.
13. The Essentials DVD Bible study resource, launched last September, provided congregations with a way of stimulating the discipleship conversation in the context of small groups. It has proved popular with many.
14. Tides also continues to offer a popular devotional approach through which members are challenged and encouraged in their personal journey of following Jesus.
15. Envisioning and equipping in the area of congregational discipleship development continues to be offered through Disciple Makers' Network. This year saw a good response from congregations to the two programmes offered in Ballymoney and Ballydown.
16. Following on from these initiatives, the Discipleship Development Officer has been following up on requests from individual congregations to accompany them on the fledgling steps of designing a pathway towards a discipling ministry which fits their particular starting point and set of ministry circumstances. Approaching developing congregational discipleship in this way is profitable. It recognises that one size does not fit all and resists the temptation to import and impose any particular process designed by others in a different ministry setting.
17. The emerging priority for congregations appears to be a set of simple tools to enable discipleship conversations in the more personal setting of twos and threes, rather than in traditional small group Bible studies. While both have their place, the more intimate environment of relational discipleship offers the opportunity to go deeper and reflect

on particular individual discipleship challenges. A focus group to further nuance what congregations wanted to see developed for use in this area has helped design a format and a series of themes that will be worked up and released in the next number of years. It is hoped that the first of these will be ready in September. Entitled Seasons, it has a focus on following Jesus through a variety of circumstances of life such as storms, disappointment, change, suffering and success. Coinciding with its release, it is also intended to deliver an introduction to the resource and training in using it. This will be rolled out on a regional basis.

18. Discipleship is something of an all-embracing theme. It also has many particular facets. The challenge is to hold the development of what might be considered core elements in balance with highlighting specific outworkings of what it means to follow Jesus in different settings and stages of life.
19. It has been encouraging to see how the work of the Good Relations Panel has raised the profile of the particular challenge of what it means to be the church in the setting of a still divided society. Central to this has been the promotion and development of the Vision for Society statement for congregational use. The Committee encourages congregations to use the DVD Bible study resource, Living Out a Version of the Vision, to keep before members the need to reflect deeply on what it means to love a wide variety of neighbours, many of whom are not like us. The Good Relations Panel is beginning to unpack a further practical outworking of that challenge by exploring what it means for our congregations to be communities of welcome.
20. Christian giving and generosity remain important elements of discipleship. Grace of Giving resources remain available for use in congregations. It has been agreed to bring together a focus group to examine how to keep the Christian use of money and the importance of giving to God's work before congregations and their members.
21. The Committee has also considered the area of discipleship and the family. It has reflected on how the Close to Home materials have been used in congregations and their particular needs in developing this area. The Children's and Youth Development Officers have been encouraged to continue to use all existing channels, and to develop new ways, to support and resource parents, leaders and congregations as a whole for family ministry.
22. A day conference in April, entitled Worship in the Discipleshaping Church, helped those who plan, shape and lead worship to do so with an eye to how our vertical focus on God in worship also enables worshippers to make horizontal connections with the realities of living for His glory in their everyday lives.
23. This year, the Transform young adults' discipleship event examined the area of freedom in Christ with a particular focus on missional discipleship in the city.

24. Youth Night 2018 will follow a discipleship theme. The aim is to ensure that what has become a big denominational focus is also conveyed to young people in a setting and style with which they can readily connect. It will reinforce the priority of hearing and responding to Jesus' call to follow Him in a world of many competing claims for attention and allegiance.
25. Further areas remain to be explored. Those already flagged for attention on the Committee's agenda include resourcing congregations for children's and youth discipleship and discipling men and women in congregational life.

MARK GOUDY, Convener

## **GLOBAL MISSION INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

26. Last year's report to the General Assembly highlighted how the Global Mission Involvement Committee had identified an urgent need to find fresh ways to raise the profile of involvement in global mission in congregations. This year's work has begun to tease out that priority by way of a survey of congregations and the development of a framework strategy for the future.
27. The survey contacted 157 ministers and asked a range of questions about congregational global mission involvement. These included exploring who took responsibility in their congregation for developing this area of its life; which PCI global mission projects they used; if they sent a team overseas; if they had members engaging in mission work overseas; and if their congregations had an active, ongoing link with a particular person, place or project in overseas mission.
28. On the basis of the survey results, the Committee identified two priorities crucial to increasing congregational engagement in global mission involvement. Firstly, there is a need to envision, equip and enable congregations to create, or develop, a deep link with at least one particular person, place or project in global mission. This foundation offers the opportunity on which to build the familiarity, interest, ownership and engagement of members through participation in a living, ongoing, global mission relationship. Secondly, there is an opportunity to harness the potential of existing annual PCI initiatives in global mission in a fresh way. With greater connectedness and coordination, it should be possible to more intentionally present them as a range of opportunities spread out across the church year to help members grasp the scope of what is involved in God's global mission and being a global disciple. This dual framework strategy for developing congregational global mission involvement has been captured as set out below.

29. **Go Deep. Go Wide.** – Developing a dual focus for congregational global mission involvement:

*To encourage, envision, equip and enable every congregation to develop a dual focus for global mission involvement which*

- (a) **goes deep** by identifying and developing a particular focus on a specific global mission person, place or project with which to be involved in an ongoing way appropriate to their situation.
  - (b) **goes wide** by harnessing the annual denominational opportunities, coordinated with the collective sub-branding ‘Global Disciples’, as a variety of ways of being involved in the breadth of what God is doing around the world. This to include:
    - (i) Global Disciples Care for God’s World
      - Annual opportunity of World Development Appeal.
    - (ii) Global Disciples Share in God’s Mission
      - Global mission element of United Appeal.
      - Annual Youth and Children’s Project rebranded as an All Age Congregational Global Mission resource centred on provision for an all age worship service, but drawing in opportunities for all children, youth and family elements of congregational life and witness e.g. organisations including Sunday School, BB/GB, Youth Fellowship, Toddlers Group.
      - PW Annual Overseas Project.
    - (iii) Global Disciples Respond with God’s Love
      - Moderator’s Appeal in situations of special need.
    - (iv) Global Disciples Go in God’s Name
      - Denominational Overseas Teams as commissioned by Council for Global Mission but delivered in conjunction with Global Mission Involvement Committee.
30. The Committee has opened an already fruitful discussion with the Council for Global Mission. It has offered its encouragement in continuing to develop the details of the framework strategy and committed to actively engage with the Global Mission Involvement Committee in the process of doing so in a coordinated way. Further conversations will be required with the United Appeal Committee and Presbyterian Women to ascertain their views on the ‘Go Wide’ component of the strategy and to seek their support for an agreed way forward.
31. The area of providing effective and accessible guidance and support for congregations sending teams overseas is also a priority. The Committee recognises that, increasingly, most congregations sending teams overseas only have the opportunity to gather their team members together two or three times in advance of departure. The challenge is to help them maximise these opportunities.

32. The Do it Well toolkit remains a comprehensive guide to addressing best practice in sending effective short term mission teams and is recommended to congregations. However, the Committee is convinced that a shorter, sharper, simpler resource to lead teams through three stages – before they go, during their time away and after they come home – is required. This would also replace the Prepared to Go event which has been discontinued due to persistently poor numbers. The Committee will explore possibilities and aim to complete a new resource by summer 2019.
33. The Youth and Children's Project remains one of the most popular vehicles used by congregations in highlighting and promoting the area of global mission involvement. The 2018/19 project, entitled Foundations, will contribute to the funding of training courses in Pakistan for leaders in children's and youth ministries. Part of the finance raised will directly support aspects of the work of Maqsood and Ruby Kamil, long term partners with PCI in global mission. The subsidiary home mission element of the project will support the development of youth and children's ministry in Kilmount congregation in the Monaghan Presbytery.
34. The Concorde Fund is available to PCI members to provide financial assistance for travel related to involvement in overseas mission. Some changes have been made to application deadlines with the aim of increasing accessibility to this funding opportunity throughout the calendar year. The effectiveness of the new system will be kept under review.

TREVOR LONG, Convener

## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

35. 'Developing effective leadership according to biblical patterns and expectations, in every sphere of the General Assembly and its Councils', has been identified as a denominational priority (Priorities Committee Report to the General Assembly 2017). The Leadership Committee has a particular focus on supporting and resourcing congregations for this area of their life together. This involves work in the areas of developing emerging leaders, the eldership and in envisioning for the crucial task of leading congregations in leaning into the future.
36. The Committee has a strong sense of the need to explore congregational leadership in its widest context. Leadership cannot function without participation of members. Maintaining and expanding the connection and communication between leaders and followers is key. Nor is leadership the exclusive preserve of those who are called to formal offices of leadership. The necessity of harnessing the softer leadership skills of facilitating discussion and exercising wise relational influence as means of developing God's work are also evident. Making sense of all of this and how it relates to presbyterian polity is challenging.

37. A number of observations are emerging. If leadership is to garner ownership for any initiative it will have to become more collaborative in nature, finding viable ways of engaging the whole congregation in conversation about the future. This will require the development of enablers with facilitation skills. The lack of trust and training in a facilitative approach to leadership seems to represent a major leadership deficit in the ability to help congregations navigate necessary change.
38. It is also evident that congregations and their leaders are weary and wary of big initiatives and promises of easy, overnight, transformation. Rather, they have an increasing desire to be envisioned and equipped for low key, one-degree shifts, that offer deep and lasting change if pursued with wisdom, patience and grace. This represents a more realistic approach. The challenge of course is that some congregational situations require more rapid change than that for which this more gradual approach allows. Be that as it may – and always allowing for the truth that the Spirit blows wherever and however He pleases – the natural course of ministry in Scripture reinforces the reality that God and the growth of His Kingdom cannot be hurried along.
39. The Committee has resisted easy answers to the challenges outlined above. It is patiently pursuing an appropriate response to this particularly difficult task with active engagement and hope. In the meantime the Committee continues to commend the use of the Valuable Leadership resource to congregations. It represents a flexible leadership development tool useable in a range of congregational settings and is available on the PCI website.
40. The work of the Elders' Panel continues to develop the capacity of elders to fulfil and develop their leadership calling. Elders' Roadshows have been well supported in Carrickfergus, Monaghan and Ballymena Presbyteries. The programme in Carrickfergus and Ballymena has included a seminar delivered by the Conciliation Panel on healthy decision-making. This has been well received and represents an important overlap with this aspect of the General Council's remit.
41. A resource for clerks of session is now available on the PCI website. Two other resources that will be of interest to elders are in preparation: using the bible in pastoral visitation and reaching fringe members of the congregation.
42. The Prepared to Lead course has also been revised and updated. The content of elders' refresher training is also under consideration.
43. The Children's and Youth Ministry Courses and Road Trip regional training offer specific leadership development for those involved in children's and youth ministry.
44. June will see a residential Communicators' School focused particularly on building the skills of leaders in youth work to effectively communicate gospel truth to the emerging generation.
45. Proactively developing emerging leaders is crucial for the church's life. The Emerge course, now in its second year, has once again attracted



a large number of enthusiastic participants. Meeting four times throughout the year and then for an overnight residential, it offers support to congregations investing in younger leaders in whom they identify potential, as well as those who are beginning to find their feet in more formal leadership positions.

46. SPUD and the PCI Intern Scheme continue to offer other opportunities for leadership development as younger members of the church to find environments in which to explore their gifts, hone their skills and find their voice as leaders.

### **Youth Assembly and SPUD at the General Assembly**

47. The Youth Assembly met in February. ‘Our identity as Irish Presbyterians’ was the theme. The gathering explored the perspectives of the emerging generation on aspects of church life which are cause for both celebration and frustration, along with those areas in which we are particularly challenged to change.
48. The Youth Assembly report giving further details of the feedback from the day and the particular aspect they will be taking forward will be published in Supplementary Reports.
49. Once again a SPUD residential is being held during Assembly week, encouraging delegates to experience this aspect of the life of the denomination and to speak, participate, understand and be involved in decision making.
50. Delegates to the Assembly will eagerly anticipate the SPUD fringe event on Wednesday evening from 5.45pm to 7.15pm. Those wishing to attend are reminded of the need to book places in advance via the PCI website or through contacting the Council office.

EMERSON McDOWELL, Convener

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

51. The Outreach Committee remains focused on envisioning, equipping and enabling congregations for the two clearly identified priorities of community witness and evangelism. These twin tasks of sharing God’s love and speaking the good news of the gospel can only function effectively in tandem.
52. Progress in developing this crucial area of congregational witness has been slower than anticipated due to two periods of vacancy in the post of Mission Development Officer in the first three years of the Council’s life. It now demands priority within the overall Council agenda.
53. With the appointment of a new Mission Development Officer in late January 2018, significant progress has been made on a framework for the production of a major resource. Its aim is to help congregations engage in local mission with a holistic approach, but always with an

eye to the ultimacy of inviting people to know Christ as Saviour and Lord.

54. The Committee believes that this resource will enable congregations to reflect in a simple, but serious way about the intersections between prayer, relationship, community and evangelism that are vital to the work of bearing witness to the gospel through the life of the local church. It will aim to build the confidence of congregations and their members to approach this task together and use their collective gifts to play their part in God's work of mission to the world. The production of this resource will form the major part of this Committee's work in 2018/19.
55. Overseeing the development of the Summer Outreach Teams programme is another aspect of the Committee's work. It has undertaken a major review of the summer teams' programme.
56. The review has collected insights from host congregations, the Organising Group (which delivers the annual programme on behalf of the Council) and two of the team leaders. The following six questions, based on wider, overall observations of the programme in recent years, have provided a framework for the review.
57. **Do we need our own denominational Summer Teams and what for?**  
*In an increasingly crowded and competitive market of summer teams, what is distinctive about PCI Summer Teams? Do we need them? If so, what purpose do they serve, and what priority should they have in the Council programme?*

The review endorses the need for denominational teams for the purposes of:

- (a) Supporting congregations in local mission;
- (b) The development of team members in missional discipleship;
- (c) The growth of team members in confidence, gift discovery and ministry skills;
- (d) Provision of a distinctive and trusted PCI brand in a crowded teams' marketplace;
- (e) The benefit they provide to both receiving host and sending home congregations.

In terms of Council priority, it is recognised that teams will only ever be part of a much bigger programme and receive a proportion of staff time. Therefore, the focus should fall on ensuring continuing high quality, rather than expanding the quantity, of teams. It will be important to continue to think about the particular strategic contribution of summer teams within overall youth and young adult ministries. Greater linkage with young adult and leadership development programming would also improve the flow of potential team members and leaders. A more intentional provision of discipleship material for use in team devotions would improve effectiveness in this area.

58. **How do we decide where Summer Teams go? Should we be more proactive in seeking to assign teams to congregations or missional projects, or rely on those wanting a team contacting us?**

The review endorsed a policy of assigning teams that allows for both congregational application and greater proactivity in terms of creating a range of missional experiences. In particular, there is value in approaching congregations where a team could particularly enhance local mission, especially in the Republic of Ireland and/or in situations of new missional development. A valuable steer could be provided by ongoing discussions with the Council for Mission in Ireland. There may be merit in advertising the possibility of team ministry to all congregations. However, it is important to acknowledge that capacity to deliver on every request might prove impossible and therefore such promotion would likely be counterproductive.

59. **Should team programming be more all age? It seems that numbers at children's Holiday Bible Clubs run by teams remain high, but 'come to us' style youth ministry is less and less effective. Should we examine overall team programmes in the light of this observation? What other activities might form part of a team's programme?**

The review encouraged the exploration of a wider range of programming than the traditional Holiday Bible Club and teens work, but recognised that these remained important components in most places. It may be that the Council needs two basic streams of teams – those with a children's and youth ministry focus and those with a more specialist programme and all-age feel. There is a sense that envisioning around more imaginative youth programming is required.

60. **What is the partnership between team and host congregation? Should teams only be assigned to churches which will be able to take responsibility for running their own summer ministry within three years? If not, how do we avoid a dependency culture?**

The review recommended a more open and flexible approach to how long teams should be assigned to churches. It was felt that five, rather than three years was a more realistic timescale in which intentional transition from a team taking the lead, to a congregation undertaking ministry by themselves was more realistic. It was noted that not all congregations or projects to which teams are assigned should be expected to be able to take on responsibility for future work. While it is considered that strategic development of a team as part of a congregation's own development of mission was preferable, in some settings teams are making a particular contribution to an area of specific missional need e.g. inner city and Republic of Ireland. Capping team numbers at between twelve to fifteen members was also considered optimal in terms of both team dynamics and not swamping congregations and so impeding their contribution and hands-on input.

61. **How do we assess impact? Should teams be assigned on a time-limited basis and also be subject to review annually?**

This remains a difficult question. Annual review involving minister, team leader and organising group member should become the end piece to the team's work each year and set the scene for future development or cessation of the team.

A team's contribution to the creation of 'event feel' in the community, should not be underestimated. Assessing team impact, whether or not to reassign, or when to end a team needs to be a judgement taken in the round, however, further work to provide markers for progress may be possible.

62. **Can we imagine a different type of team?** *Should we aim to have at least one all-age team each year, not necessarily in the summer and not necessarily focused on children's ministry? Do we have examples of what those teams might look like?*

The possibilities for different types of teams was enthusiastically endorsed during the review. Ideas included:

- (a) evangelistic teams on the ground with congregations at community events eg as with previous team deployed to work during the Lammass Fair;
  - (b) presbytery teams partnered with another presbytery and working in both locations;
  - (c) weekend teams in congregations and/or at community events;
  - (d) teams focused on men's or women's ministry;
  - (e) teams trained in evangelism through reflection and practice that were permanently available to help in a variety of congregations and locations where opportunity presented;
  - (f) all-age and family teams.
63. It is hoped that the outcome of the review can help refine and develop the existing Summer Outreach Teams programme, which is largely promoted for those of 16-25 years of age, but also shape new and future directions for deploying short-term mission teams of all ages around Ireland in new and innovative ways.

STEPHEN RICHMOND, Convener

## PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

64. The Pastoral Care Committee continues to help congregations develop their approach to pastoral life around the three-sided framework offered by the pastoral life triangle. Its three aspects involve: developing the pastoral core of biblical truth applied to real life situations; developing the pastoral community of the church; developing the capacity of pastoral care in response to specific situations of need.
65. The concept of the pastoral triangle has been further illustrated, earthed and unpacked for congregations by the release of three DVD clips that explore each element. These are available on the PCI website

- and congregations are encouraged to make use of them in discussing and developing their pastoral life.
66. The Committee remains focused on finding ways of continuing to promote the Pastoral Life triangle.
  67. Other specific areas of pastoral care have also been directly addressed this year. An updated version of the booklet *Life after Loss: A Christian perspective on dealing with loss*, for use with those who have been bereaved, is now available for purchase. A new section on mental health awareness has been added to the Pastoral Care Training Course. The Committee is examining the area of prayer ministry as an aspect of pastoral care. It is also exploring the increasingly important, but largely uncharted territory, of faith in later years.
  68. An evening of Pastoral Care Training was offered in Newry Presbytery in April.
  69. Two important initiatives under the oversight of the Committee are the denominational counselling service and annual Family Holiday. The Committee has worked tirelessly in recent years against the backdrop of difficult circumstances to ensure the ongoing viability of both aspects of work.
  70. The relaunch and rebranding of the counselling service under the name Fresh Light was completed in September 2017. This has met with a positive response. An application process for new counselling supervisors has resulted in one appointment. This is an important first step in ensuring the ability to increase the capacity of the ministry offered. The next phase will be increasing the number of counselling volunteers.
  71. The Family Holiday, which ran at a significant financial loss for many years, has been reconfigured, reducing the deficit. More significantly however, the initiative has been substantially reimagined, reshaped and promoted as a means of supplementing congregational social witness to those on the fringes of church life or who have passed through a period of particular family difficulty.
  72. Central to this reconfiguration has been the partnership with the Presbyterian Children's Society in this venture. The Committee is grateful to the Society for its creativity in opening additional channels of grant aid allowing a more flexible approach to funding families to participate in the holiday.
  73. Moving venue from Share Centre, Lisnaskea, to Castlewellaan Castle has been significant in creating an environment for a more intentional community experience. Changes to the programme have also developed the potential of the initiative in creating a space for unbelievers to experience genuine Christian community along with appropriate invitations to encounter the gospel.
  74. The 2018 holiday was filled to capacity with some applicants disappointed at being unable to gain a place.

ALISTAIR BILL, Convener

## **WOMEN'S STRATEGY AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

75. The release of a DVD discussion guide encouraging congregations to consider a more integrated approach to women's ministry in wider congregational life and witness at last year's General Assembly has proved a significant step. There is great potential to be unlocked in re-imagining the potential of women's ministry as an integral part of, rather than sitting apart from, the rest of the life of the local church.
76. The challenge for the Committee is to find ways of devising a strategy to begin to reposition women's ministry in the minds of the leadership and the whole congregation as being a key contributor to the core pastoral, discipling, missional, praying life and witness of the local church. In reality, in many cases, it already fulfils these roles. Often, however, that is not recognised, or the ministry fails to exercise its full potential because it is not integrated into the wider consideration of the development of congregational life and witness.
77. This year the Committee has focused particularly on how to develop the women's ministry element of discipleship. It is carefully and patiently exploring the best means of speaking on the issue into a wide range of real congregational starting points and situations. In this regard, it will be watching closely the next phase of the work of the Discipleship Committee as it seeks to equip congregations for more intentional, relational discipleship.

### **Presbyterian Women**

78. The Committee forms a key interface between the Council's congregational focus and the particular contribution of Presbyterian Women delivered under the oversight of the PW Panel.
79. This year has witnessed an encouraging convergence of Council and PW themes. The speaker at the PW Forum in February was Rachel Jones, author of the *5 Things to Pray* resources also referred to under the report of the Worship Committee. This should helpfully reinforce congregational exposure to the challenge and opportunity of developing prayer life, which has always been a central emphasis of Presbyterian Women.
80. The *Wider World* magazine continues to carry the kind of real life stories of congregations and their members who are seeking to follow Jesus in a wide variety of settings and life circumstances. As is the case across the Council's work, the impact of such stories in envisioning the church in the breadth and depth of what it means to express our faith in the contemporary world cannot be underestimated.
81. Once again the Inspirations resource for women's ministry for 2018/19 was of a high quality in terms of content and production. This year's theme, Beautiful, is drawn from Psalm 27:4. It is unpacked in ways which bring together the teaching of scripture with the challenge of

its expression in real life settings as the people of God. The theme and ideas for meetings offer much to PW Groups, but will also be valuable to fire the imagination of other gatherings of women in congregational life.

82. The Alive women's conference in September proved an encouragement to those who attended as they commenced another church year of women's ministry.
83. The format of the PW Annual Meeting continues to evolve to balance the promotion and celebration of the work of the organisation and offer biblical ministry to those who attend. This year's speaker was Kate Patterson who unpacked the promise of God's blessing.
84. The home dimension of the annual PW Project for 2018/19 is to support the development of facilities and specialist training for staff in Trinity House, Garvagh, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's newest residential care home. The work of International Justice Mission in addressing the issue of cybersex trafficking is the overseas aspect of the appeal.
85. Generosity in giving to the Lord's work is a much-neglected aspect of discipleship. Presbyterian Women is owed the gratitude of the whole church for the way in which it continues to bring focus to passionately promoting and raising funds for the ministry and mission of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and other Kingdom causes.

VALERIE STEWART, Convener

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

86. The Worship Committee has responsibility for supporting and resourcing congregations in all aspects of public worship.
87. September saw the Big Sing event return to Assembly Buildings. Again there was significant buy-in from congregations who benefited from the resources provided for use in harvest services and from being brought together for mutual encouragement and learning. This time the event had a missional dimension with input from, and an opportunity for participants to contribute to, the ministry of Open Doors. The Committee has determined that future Big Sing events should happen as and when a particular focus and opportunity presents itself, rather than being programmed annually.
88. For a number of years Worship Academy has been a vehicle for the development of emerging musicians and worship leaders. The 2017 programme was again profitable for those who participated. However, the Committee notes that numbers remain small and have decided to explore other ways to approach investing in this crucial element of developing leadership in public worship.

89. Along with the Worship in the Discipleshaping Church event detailed above under the Discipleship Committee, two regional events entitled Simple Worship in the Smaller Church were held in Magherafelt and Richhill in April. In both cases, it was encouraging to see an integration of worship with other areas of the Council's remit.
90. The Simple Worship in the Smaller Church events represented a practical attempt to focus on the development of worship as one specific aspect of congregational life under the Council's Small and Fruitful theme, which has a particular focus on supporting and resourcing smaller congregations.
91. September should see the launch of a six-part Bible study resource aimed at enabling members to participate more meaningfully in all aspects of the worship service.
92. Entitled Encounter, its goal is to encourage a better appreciation of the flow of worship as a conversation and journey of encounter with God. Elements of worship explored in a contemporary way will include gathering; confession and assurance of pardon; hearing God speak; responding and being blessed and sent.
93. The Committee has also been assigned the responsibility of overseeing the task of envisioning and equipping congregational prayer life. The People of God 28-day prayer journey, launched in September, was effectively and creatively adopted by many congregations. Once again, hosting content on the PCI website to maximise the flexibility of the resource allowed congregations to take it and make it their own.
94. March saw the release of a short DVD clip entitled *Let's Pray* aimed at encouraging congregational prayer. Featuring Rachel Jones, author of the *5 things to Pray* resources published by the Good Book Company, the Committee was glad to be able to offer congregations a significant discount on bulk purchases of these titles in conjunction with release of the clip. This is the second promotion of this kind. Once again, it was widely appreciated by congregations and the Council is grateful to the publisher for their generosity in helping us promote prayer as a priority across our denomination.
95. There is much to learn from the format and popularity of the *5 Things to Pray* books. They are short, simple, scriptural and sharply focused on enabling members to pray meaningfully for church, world, family and their own walk with God. It is becoming increasingly obvious that these principles should undergird our approach to stimulating and developing congregational prayer.
96. Building on these observations, the Committee is working on a series of twelve simple, postcard-sized, prompts for prayer on a variety of themes for use in congregations. It is hoped that these will be available for the start of the new church year in September.
97. Two further initiatives are being explored by the Committee. One is the provision of a CD providing musical accompaniment for 40-50



popular praise items drawn from the *Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook*. This proposal is aimed especially at helping smaller congregations who struggle to find someone to lead music on a weekly basis. The second is a pilot event exploring the use of the organ in contemporary worship. The Committee identifies this as an experiment in enabling congregations in which the organ remains the primary instrument of musical accompaniment to take small, but significant, steps in developing their praise.

JOHN MURDOCK, Convener

## **YOUTH, CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY STRATEGY AND COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

98. The Youth, Children's and Family Strategy and Coordination Committee continues to help the Council think strategically about this vital area of congregational life and witness. Crucially, it also seeks to guide the Council in the integration of this age and stage specific element of its remit into the core areas of discipleship, leadership, global mission involvement, outreach, pastoral care and worship. Encouraging progress has been made in both dimensions.
99. What is slowly happening at Council level needs to be mirrored in the ministry and mission of congregations if pathways for the journey of faith are to be created which enable transition from childhood, through adolescence to adulthood. The necessity of congregations finding ways to further explore and develop such pathways is coming increasingly to the fore in discussions of various Committees of the Council. Without intentionally creating such pathways, we will see children and young people ill-equipped for key transitional phases of the discipleship journey and continuing to fall through the cracks.
100. Another area with which the church urgently needs to come to terms is seriously reflecting on the challenges of reaching a generation of unchurched children and young people. Quite simply, most congregations have passed the tipping point at which they have contact with more unchurched children and young people than with those who have grown up in their church.
101. In follow up to a morning conference on the subject of reaching unchurched children and young people in May 2017, the Children's Development Officer has been working on three short Holiday Bible Club style programmes with a particular focus on starting in the world of the unchurched child. Some specific input on this area is also being filtered into Summer Outreach Team training. Much more remains to be done if the church is to grapple with the difficult task of reaching a generation increasingly characterised by a threefold lack of basic spiritual awareness, biblical literacy and familiarity with church.

102. A number of significant resources in the areas of youth, children's and family ministry have been released this year and are available on the PCI website. They include DVD and discussion material on mentoring, developing family ministry and effective use of the Close to Home material.
103. A comprehensive and very practical guide to schools ministry has been produced with ideas to both initiate, create links to, and build upon existing, relationships with local schools. Hard copies have been circulated to every congregation and the material is also available on the PCI website.
104. Another significant resource nearing completion at time of writing, offers DVD and discussion material around a variety of models for Sunday morning children's ministry. This is an important element of congregational life in almost every congregation. Changing realities in terms of numbers, availability of those who teach and the ways in which children learn, make this a vital conversation if children are to be integrated into church and discipled in their fledgling faith.
105. Other resources in production include the repackaging and updating of material aimed at helping congregations explore the areas of youth participation and models for young adults' ministry.
106. Youth Link is an organisation in which PCI has been a major stakeholder since its inception. Following the denominational restructuring and the sharper focus of the Council on resourcing congregations to do youth ministry and mission, a profitable conversation with Youth Link has commenced leading to the identification of particular ways in which their skills and experience can be better harnessed in support of the local church. The Committee looks forward to building on these early discussions.
107. Major events such as Little Day Out, Kids' Big Day Out, MAD weekend and Youth Night continue to draw large numbers and prove helpful in the ministry they offer which supplements ongoing weekly congregational ministry. The associated resources offered for use back in congregations are intended to enable local expression of ministry on the themes developed at the events.
108. Three My Place events helped congregations explore the challenges and opportunities for more fully inclusive children's ministry that supports families and children with special needs. These were well supported and the positive response presents a challenge to the Council as to how to take this important message to a wider range of congregations.
109. Full time youth and children's workers in PCI congregations have been afforded opportunities for learning and reflecting through a series of roundtable gatherings throughout the year and an annual retreat.
110. Two other areas on the Committee agenda for consideration are teaching doctrine to children and young people and models for intergenerational worship. Initial, tentative exploration of both have commenced.

111. The Council functions in listening and responsive mode. With that in mind, two focus groups will examine emerging areas of need in congregational children's and youth ministry during the month of June and will report back to the Committee. This feedback will further shape and refine resourcing, training and the themes unpacked in major events.

SAM FINLAY, Convener

### **Developing Congregational Use of Social Media Task Group**

112. This crucial area of developing congregational communication for ministry and mission in the contemporary world was brought to the attention of last year's Assembly by SPUD. A Task Group has begun working on a series of outputs that will build into a resource to guide congregations in best practice in harnessing the potential use of social media for Kingdom purposes.

### **Pruning for Greater Fruitfulness**

113. It is never possible to accurately quantify the impact of any ministry. Jesus' parable of the sower is a salutary reminder that the same seed scattered widely falls into very different soils. What can appear to be growing well at first can prove short lived, while what can seem to have got lost somewhere beneath the surface may, in time, reap an amazing harvest.
114. The Council keeps a careful eye on the number of congregations engaging with the programme and resources it provides. From March 2017 to April 2018, 361 out of 541 congregations had attended at least one Council run programme, event or initiative. This compares favourably with a figure of 293 for a similar period in 2016/17. In addition, 207 congregations have purchased at least one core resource produced by the Council in the same period. Many congregations have engaged with the Council's output in multiple ways. These figures do not include the work of individual staff members with single congregations. This is an area of work Council is keen to develop and expand (see paragraphs 138-143 below).
115. The work of the Priorities Reference Panel has also proved useful in helping ensure that the Council is covering all aspects of its wide remit. The paper submitted to the Panel was the subject of scrutiny and discussion at the February Council meeting, with members encouraged by the breadth and variety of the ministry provided.
116. Numbers are not everything, however, and no response to a set of forms can fully capture what God is doing. The Council Secretary has been exploring other means of charting progress of the Council's work, assessing its ministry effectiveness and measuring the deeper impact on the transformation of congregational life and witness. Should this prove helpful, it will provide yet another way of developing eyes for the fruitfulness of the Council's work.

117. The Council report to last year's General Assembly included a significant section detailing the difficulties emerging from the complex structure of Committees, Panels, Task Groups and Organising Groups involved in delivering its remit. A resolution agreed by the Assembly authorised the Council to engage with the General Council to reflect on a structure which best ensures both appropriate accountability and ability to deliver its remit.
118. The Council has patiently and carefully pursued and developed this mandate. Doing so has involved engaging external input to shape organisational design, careful consideration of the views of Council members at both meetings of the Council this year, discussion with present Committee Conveners and staff, as well as formal engagement with the General Council. The Council is grateful for the input of everyone involved in this process. It is confident that the collectively constructed and rigorously tested proposal to streamline Committee and Panel structure, which will be presented to the Assembly for approval, ensures increasing accountability within a form that simultaneously best facilitates the function of serving congregations.
119. A fuller background to the issues involved and the details of the proposal can be found on pages 136-142, of the report of the General Council which will present the resolution to the Assembly. If agreed by the Assembly, the new structure will be implemented from June 2019. This allows adequate space and time for transitioning without significant interruption to the ongoing effectiveness of the Council's work.

### **The Fruitful Congregations Theme: Root and Branch Work**

120. One of the intended outcomes of the proposed committee streamlining is to restore the Fruitful Congregations theme to its central place. Due to the number of competing messages and initiatives arising from the multiplicity of committees and panels, what had been intended to be a simple core image, with which every congregation could readily identify and which concisely conveyed what was offered by the Council, has become just another string to its bow.
121. It would be too much to suggest that all of the Council's work should be strictly aligned to the Fruitful Congregations theme, but it would certainly benefit from being attuned to it. There will always be a range of notes sounded by a Council with such a wide remit, along with a variety of instruments assembled to do its work, but that should not become the excuse for the production of a discordant cacophony of noise assaulting the ears of listening congregations.
122. In re-centring upon the image of a fruitful congregation, the Council has the opportunity to helpfully root everything it does in this biblical picture which it believes has particular relevance to congregational life and witness in this season of denominational life. As previously described, *Fruitfulness is more than faithfulness to the past in a changing world, often less than success in the eyes of a superficial world, always the growth of a Kingdom that is not of this world.*

123. The present spiritual atmospherics certainly require a willingness to lean into the future, but doing so will not necessarily see rapid numerical growth. It therefore becomes all the more necessary to look for signs of God at work that are steady rather than spectacular.
124. From this root should flow questions about fruitfulness in every branch of congregational ministry and mission. What does it look like for our congregation's leadership, worship, discipleship, pastoral life, prayer life, outreach and involvement in global mission to be fruitful? How do these expressions of fruitfulness draw upon the contributions of men, women, children, young people, young adults, families, singles, older generations? How do they speak into their worlds?
125. Developing the Fruitful Congregations theme as the root of the Council's work will involve building upon two areas where some significant progress has already been made – the Growing in Fruitfulness and the emerging Small and Fruitful agenda.
126. A number of congregations have already made good use of the web-based Growing in Fruitfulness resources found on the PCI website. Flexible materials for preaching, prayer, bible study and group work enable the sowing of the vision and the choosing of areas in which congregations discern God's leading to particularly invest in the next season of their life.
127. The Council believes that these resources could profitably be used more widely. A promotional clip explaining what the initiative offers can also be viewed on the PCI website. Ministers entering the third year in their first charge, and those who have recently moved to new congregations, are being proactively contacted to highlight the particular potential of the resources as they navigate crucial early phases of new ministry.
128. Last year's Assembly report identified that 70% of congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland have a core membership of under 150 members. This is where core membership is counted as those attending at least one communion service per year. This figure has been identified as the best approximation available from the annual statistics collected of the number of members likely, or able, to be actively involved in the ongoing ministry and mission activities of their congregation.
129. The reality is that most of our congregations function as small churches. This statistical analysis led to the question of what it might mean to be Small and Fruitful. To begin that conversation across the denomination, three regional events were held with guest speaker Karl Vaters who blogs and writes extensively on the challenges and opportunities of being a small church.
130. Turn out at the events was significant and positive feedback showed that the initiative proved a huge encouragement to many key leaders of small congregations. Council sought the specific feedback of those who attended as to how best to repackaging this theme for use in individual congregations. Already, the Council Secretary has had opportunity to

preach on the theme in a variety of locations. Council will continue to consider how to build on the important conversation that has been birthed.

### **Developing Presbytery as a Hub for Congregational Training**

131. During 2016/17 all nineteen presbyteries were invited to engage with the Council to shape a programme bespoke to their locally identified training needs and maximising their opportunity to engage congregations and members within their bounds.
132. Response was limited and disappointing. However, two presbyteries, Tyrone and Monaghan, very successfully constructed programmes which the Council were able to support and deliver.
133. Tyrone Presbytery freed up its stated meeting in November to invite other key leaders from congregations to join members of presbytery for an evening based around the theme of Discipleshaping Church. A plenary session was followed by three breakout groups exploring discipleshaping worship, family and pastoral life.
134. Monaghan Presbytery utilised the existing gatherings of a Presbytery Sunday School Service, Ruling Elders' Fellowship meeting and PW LINK meeting as vehicles to harness Council input on children's ministry, use of the Bible in pastoral care and developing women's ministry.
135. In both cases, these initiatives proved popular and were made easy for presbytery to deliver by publicity and administrative support provided through the Council office. Perhaps as importantly, they demonstrated that presbytery can function creatively as a valuable hub to pull together groups of key leaders in congregations for training.
136. One aspect of the work of the Engagement and Consultation Task Group under the General Council (see pages 104-107), has been to explore the overall role of presbytery within denominational structures. One area highlighted is the potential of presbytery to act as a training hub. The Council for Congregational Life and Witness remains keen to develop this possibility. From September 2018, it will seek to build upon the encouragement of the examples above by beginning to work out a resolution passed by last year's Assembly to engage proactively with at least three presbyteries per year on a rotational basis in order to provide an agreed and accessible programme to envision and equip congregations within their bounds.
137. Doing so will only bear fruit if presbyteries are proactive in their response. If they are, this will enable the Council to better balance congregational, presbytery, regional and central training in the service of the whole church and its members.

### **Developing Enabling Ministry**

138. The Council has developed its remit around three main means of resourcing and supporting congregations:
  - (a) Envisioning – presenting possibilities and painting pictures of different ways of doing things
  - (b) Equipping – providing resources and training directly to congregations and/or upskilling key leaders to develop effective practices of ministry and mission in the local congregation
  - (c) Enabling – journeying with individual congregations as they work out, and work towards, realising their vision
139. In addition, the Council supplements these primary ways of engaging with congregations with an annual programme of larger scale events of the kind which require specialist expertise beyond that of any local congregation. An overview of main activities, training and events offered by the Council during 2017/18 can be found in Appendix 1.
140. Significant progress has been made in developing the envisioning and equipping agendas through regional training and resource production. Similarly, the annual programme of events continues to provide key moments in which to encourage congregations and their members who attend. The area most in need of development is that of enabling.
141. There are a number of reasons this enabling ministry is crucially important. Firstly, it is evident that it is becoming increasingly difficult for congregations to ask already busy members to attend extra events for training, envisioning and equipping beyond the normal rhythms of local church life. Secondly, even those who do attend and are encouraged and excited by what they have gleaned find it almost impossible to take that enthusiasm and learning back to others in the congregation who were unable to be there. Consequently, wider impact is limited. Thirdly, every congregation is different. Their particular story, challenges and opportunities can best be explored individually. Finally, if real momentum and change is to be developed, whole congregations, or groups of their key leaders, need to be engaged in conversation together and to collectively own the journey towards a different future.
142. The Council team of Development Officers represents a ready-made resource for congregations, available to facilitate conversation and help identify simple steps forward. Many congregations have already found their input helpful. The Council believes it is important that the church maximises their potential in the service of congregational ministry and mission.
143. This year has seen an intentional programme of staff training focused on understanding congregations, honing facilitation skills and reflecting on how to work effectively in group settings. It is intended to build upon this preparatory work by publicising the possibilities available to congregations to have Development Officers engage directly with them in developing a wide range of areas of ministry and mission. Requests will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis and capacity created

to balance staff time between the four responsibilities of envisioning, equipping, enabling and delivering events. The Council encourages congregations to take advantage of this enabling ministry in which the move from theory to practice can be explored and big denominational ideas can be translated into focused local realities.

### **Lost in Communication**

144. The most frequently highlighted challenge for the Council remains in the area of availability of channels of communication with congregations and their members. In conversations and meetings of Council and Committees the three most often heard comments are, “we didn’t know”, “we can’t find” and “the online booking and registration system isn’t working”.
145. A resolution to last year’s Assembly tasked the Council with engaging with the General Council “... to identify and take necessary steps to improve mediums of communications with congregations and facilities for online booking and registration.” Early work identified some of the problems, however progress remains slow and the issue is crippling the development of the Council’s potential and is a source of widespread frustration across the church.
146. The Council recognises that resolving this issue is further complicated by pending changes to General Data Protection Regulations, an issue being addressed by a General Council Task Group. Nevertheless, it urges the General Council to revisit a number of key areas as a matter of urgency. Firstly, the exploration and development of an appropriate range of effective mediums of direct communication with key leaders in congregations. Secondly, while acknowledging the necessary breadth of information carried on the denominational website from all the Councils, the appropriate prioritisation of a more visible and accessible presence for events and resources directly related to the development of congregational life and witness. Thirdly, the resolution of ongoing issues surrounding online booking, registration and payment.

### **Active Hope in Congregational Life and Witness in Difficult Times**

147. Writing to the church in Rome in the first century, the Apostle Paul encouraged a small congregation in a hostile world to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but also to rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.” (Romans 5:2-5)
148. Today, congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland face into their own difficult tasks. But let us be encouraged in God’s strength to face them with that active hope that is fashioned in us as we persevere in being shaped by the Holy Spirit in the character of fruitful congregations.



## APPENDIX 1

### Overview of main activities, training and events offered by the Council during 2017-18

Programme	Venue	Date(s)
Interns' Commissioning	Union Theological College	1st September 2017
Alive PW Conference	Assembly Buildings	9th September 2017
The Big Sing	Assembly Buildings	16th September 2017
Children's Ministry Course	Union Theological College	September to December 2017
Youth Ministry Course	Union Theological College	September 2017–March 2018
Disciple Makers Network	1st Ballymoney Presbyterian	A series of four meetings September 2017 – March 2018
Disciple Makers Network	Ballydown Presbyterian	A series of four meeting September 2017 – March 2018
Discipleshaping Church	Tyrone Presbytery	21st November 2017
Handling the Word	Union Theological College	A series of six evenings October/November 2017
Road Trip	Dundonald Presbyterian	10th October 2017
Little Day Out	Second Saintfield Presbyterian	12th October 2017
MAD Weekend	Ulster University, Coleraine	27th-29th October 2017
Road Trip	Ballyloughan Presbyterian	16th November 2017
Youth Ministry Course Residential	Castlewellan Castle	10th-12th November 2017
My Place   Inclusive children's ministry	First Holywood Presbyterian	7th December 2017
Emerge Leadership Development	Several venues	A series of four sessions and one residential January – June 2018
Summer Outreach Team Leaders' Training	Assembly Buildings	3rd February 2018
PW Forum	Assembly Buildings	3rd February 2018
My Place   Inclusive children's ministry	Muckamore Presbyterian	5th February 2018
Elders' Roadshow	Carrickfergus Presbytery	8th February 2018
Youth Assembly	Assembly Buildings	10th February 2018

Programme	Venue	Date(s)
Vision for Small and Fruitful	Assembly Buildings	20th February 2018
Vision for Small and Fruitful	Richhill Presbyterian	22nd February 2018
Vision for Small and Fruitful	Kilfennan Presbyterian	23rd February 2018
Elders' Training	Monaghan Presbytery	26th February 2018
Little Day Out	Elmwood Presbyterian	21st March 2018
Transform	Crumlin Road Gaol	23rd-24th March 2018
PCI Family Holiday	Castlewellan Castle	3rd-6th April 2018
Pastoral Care Training	Newry Presbytery	16th April 2018
Elders' Roadshow	Ballymena Presbytery	19th April 2018
Kids' Big Day Out	Wellington Presbyterian	21st April 2018
Worship in the Disciple-shaping Church	Assembly Buildings	25th April 2018
Simple Worship for the Small Church	Union Road, Magherafelt, Presbyterian	26th April 2018
Simple Worship for the Small Church	Ballydown Presbyterian	26th April 2018
My Place   Inclusive children's ministry	Ballygawley Presbyterian	2nd May 2018
PW Annual Meeting	Assembly Buildings	10th May 2018
Ministry Certificates Graduation	Knock Presbyterian	16th May 2018
Full-time Youth and Children's Workers Retreat	Hilton Hotel	17th-18th May 2018
Communicators' School	Portrush Hostel	21st-23rd May 2018
Youth Assembly Residential	TBC	4th-6th June 2018
Youth Night	Assembly Buildings	9th June 2018
Summer Outreach Teams' Training Day	Assembly Buildings	16th June 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Ballyweaney Presbyterian	30th June–8th July 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Mullingar Presbyterian	6th-14th July 2018
Summer Outreach Team	St Andrew's Presbyterian, Bangor	14th-21st July 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Abbey Presbyterian, Monkstown	21st-29th July 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Dungannon Presbyterian	21st-28th July 2018

Programme	Venue	Date(s)
Summer Outreach Team	Seaview Presbyterian	28th July–5th August 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Whitehouse Presbyterian	4th–12th August 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Co Cavan	11th–18th August 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Gt Victoria Street/ Friendship House	11th–18th August 2018
Summer Outreach Team	Grange Presbyterian, Ballymena	11th–19th August 2018

## RESOLUTION

1. That the Report of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness be received.