

COUNCIL FOR GLOBAL MISSION

Convener: Rev S.E. HUGHES

Secretary: Rev W.S. MARRS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council for Global Mission is all about global disciples sharing God's heart for the world, declaring good news and demonstrating God's love. The Council is tasked with enabling the coordination and delivery of global mission as determined by the General Assembly (Code Par 115), and especially where it is beyond the ability of the local congregation and not falling under the remit of other mission councils, partners or agencies. This entails the development of a strategy for mission overseas, including partnership with overseas churches and sending global mission workers; promoting world development issues, including providing for an annual appeal; lead thinking on issues of global concern such as the environment, race relations, international relations (Code Par 278(3)).
2. The Council met on three occasions since the last General Assembly. It continues to seek to fulfil its remit through the following committees, panels and task groups, while recognising the importance of collaborating with and complementing the work of other councils:
 - (a) **Outreach Ministries Committee** oversees PCI's global outreach initiatives and is particularly focused at present on building teams to take forward church planting in Europe (Pars 3 to 13).
 - (b) **Leadership Development Committee** supports leaders in training through their studies, whether in the UK/Ireland or around the world; and seeks to build vision for global mission amongst church leaders within PCI (Pars 14 to 30).
 - (c) **Global Concerns Committee** grapples with a wide range of issues in relation to world faiths, the stewardship of creation, inter-cultural and international relations, and in this report highlights the issue of world faiths (Pars 31 to 58).
 - (d) **World Development Committee** addresses the challenge of global poverty through both the Annual and Moderator's Appeals, with a focus at present on gender justice and the prevention of gender violence (Pars 59 to 70).
 - (e) **Global Mission Worker Panel** oversees the support of PCI's global mission workers, dealing with calls to missionary service, member care development, memorial minutes, and appreciations (Pars 71 to 77).

- (f) **Global Mission Partnership Panel** deals with all partnership related matters, including allocation of grants (Pars 78 to 83).
- (g) **Business and Finance Panel** handles matters of strategy, finance, property, staffing, and risk analysis (Pars 84 to 87).
- (h) **Vision Building Task Group** has been facilitating a review of the Council's vision, structures and communication (Pars 88 to 94).

OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

3. The Outreach Ministries Committee seeks to initiate and support PCI's global outreach, identifying strategic areas of focus: church planting and evangelism; healthcare mission; conflict resolution; mission through education; integral mission and Bible poverty.
4. In collaboration with the Council's Partnership and Global Mission Worker Panels, the committee seeks to share with PCI's global mission partners and to support global mission workers, concentrating on the 22 global mission workers who have a clear outreach focus to their work with seven partners in seven countries. The committee met on two occasions in the past year and reports as follows.
5. **Challenges:** There are many challenges in world mission today and Western Europe, in particular, has been found to be hard ground for the gospel. While PCI engagement has drawn to a close in Torre del Mar, Spain; Porto Mantovano, Italy; and with the Gujarati community in London, some may conclude that it would be better for PCI to concentrate its efforts closer to home and leave mission in broader Europe to others. Hebrews 10:35 and 39 tell us: "Do not throw away your confidence... we are not those who shrink back and suffer loss, but those who have faith to obtain life!"
6. **Encouragements:** Following on from a split in the congregation two years ago, the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) UK Outreach is now finding its feet again, growing and developing as a congregation. What was a first generation congregation with a chaplaincy mindset, is increasingly becoming a second generation congregation with a fresh focus on cross-cultural outreach and today it contains not only Kenyans but a growing number of other nationalities.
7. In Porto, Portugal, the Comunidade Pedras Vivas church plant formally welcomed its first church members when 12 people were received on profession of faith. With the arrival of Chris and Rachel Humphries, along with their two small children, the committee feels there is now a strong team in place, comprising both global mission and national workers, to carry the mission forward.
8. **Church Planting and Evangelism Task Group:** Great challenges also mean great opportunities and there is both challenge and opportunity for PCI to see itself as a church planting denomination, not just in Ireland but globally. This task group was set up by the committee to

learn from present and past evangelism initiatives and to plot a way forward if the Council is to attempt further church planting initiatives in Europe. As well as conducting research and consulting those involved in global mission, the task group has also benefited from consultation with the Council for Mission in Ireland which is engaged in several successful church planting initiatives.

9. While the task group hopes to bring a final report in 2020, preliminary conclusions include the following:
 - (a) There are significant questions over the current, established model of partnership when it comes to engaging in church planting. Theological differences and lack of missional outlook are just two of the areas highlighted. Indeed, it may be more appropriate to talk of networking or collaborating with similar mission-minded churches and organisations.
 - (b) A church plant ought to be a missional community, outward focused rather than inward looking.
 - (c) PCI global mission workers should work as part of a church planting team comprising those sent by PCI and also national Christians.
 - (d) There is need for flexibility, adopting an approach such as the one found in Acts 15, that defines certain core values and other issues that may change according to culture (e.g. baptism). Decision-making ought to take place primarily in the local context, not least with whatever 'partners' we may be working alongside. It is also important, as a guideline, to convey our trust in those whom we have sent out to serve as global mission workers. Outside of Ireland, the church plant may not end up looking exactly like a PCI congregation as we know it here in Ireland. The name 'Presbyterian' or even the use of the word 'church' may not be properly understood or make people guarded. The result may be the planting of a Presbyterian Church but with a small 'p'!
10. Containers for Malawi Task Group: The Malawi Containers Group, although an independent group, has been largely comprising PCI members. It has served to great effect over many years as a practical way of mission involvement for the church in Ireland, including PCI congregations, PWs, knitting groups, and many others. It has also provided much-needed medical and educational resources for Malawian institutions. Due to charity regulations and other logistical changes, decisions were required concerning the future of the Container Group, and a task group was set up by the committee to explore whether the Container Group ought to be reconstituted and, if so, whether it would remain independent or come under the supervision of the Council for Global Mission.
11. There continues to be strong, grassroots support for sending out containers and some 40 representatives from different congregations attended an open meeting to explore options for the future of the

Malawi Container Group. Feedback on the sending out of containers was largely very positive, although it was recognised that tighter controls would be needed over the items being sent and there were frustrations about lack of feedback from recipients as to whether items were useful or even had reached their intended destination. While the vast majority at the meeting hoped that the sending out of containers would continue, there were few able to commit the necessary time and energy to manage and run such a group. The Container Task Group was likewise unable to identify enough volunteers to provide effective administrative oversight and practical help for the sorting of goods received for shipment and it was clear that the PCI Mission Department does not have the capacity to take on such extra responsibilities.

12. While many of the goods for shipment are donated free of charge, the costs related to shipping, transportation and duty are rising continually, coupled with fluctuations in the value of sterling in recent years. These rising costs have brought into question the cost effectiveness of shipping goods, indeed many of the goods shipped can now be purchased within Malawi itself. There have also been personnel changes within the freight handling company within Malawi, requiring new working relationships to be forged.
13. There is no doubt that the containers have been greatly appreciated as a means of support, especially for the educational and medical institutions of the church, but after much deliberation and heaviness of heart, considering all of the above reasons, the task group recommended that the Container Project be brought to a conclusion at the end of 2019. Items for shipment will be collected for one final container to be sent at the end of this year. Beyond this, it is hoped to encourage those who have been so actively involved in this project over the years to identify other suitable avenues for supporting the work of global mission in Malawi today.

DAVID STEELE, Convener

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

14. Recognising the growth and vitality of the church in many parts of the world and the challenges such growth brings, the Leadership Development Committee works along with partner churches and institutions for the development of mature, experienced, Christian leadership around the world.
15. The committee's work involves liaising with the Global Mission Workers' Panel on the placement, support, review and evaluation of global mission workers involved in leadership development; liaising with the Global Mission Partnership Panel on the provision of leadership development grants to partner churches and institutions; and ensuring the story of leadership development is told widely through the PCI website, magazine articles, and prayer resources.

16. The committee seeks to take to heart the warning of Michael Oh, Global Executive Director and CEO of the Lausanne Movement, about not being so focused on the academic development of leaders in training that we lose sight of them being disciplined in Christ-likeness.
17. The committee has been pleased to welcome Pip Florit as Mission Support Officer (Partnerships) and expresses appreciation for how readily she has taken up her detailed work.
18. The Leaders in Training Panel continues to oversee the provision of scholarship funding for partner church 'leaders in training' whether for study in the UK, Ireland or further afield. Where required, the panel liaises with universities and colleges, ensures the provision of pastoral care, reception and orientation for leaders in training, and provides guidelines to congregations for sponsoring and supporting leaders in training.
19. Leader in training scholarships totalling £43,182 were approved for the year 2019 covering leaders in training in India (Gujarat), Kenya, Myanmar, Malawi, Nepal and Indonesia across a range of disciplines. It is good to note that they are studying largely in their home or neighbouring countries.
20. The continued support (approximately £30,000 p.a.) from the Lindsay Memorial Fund is much appreciated. Three leaders in training on the staff of Zomba Theological College are engaged in distance PhDs through the University of Aberdeen. They attended a summer school in Aberdeen in August 2018 and received a visit from the Leadership Development Committee convener and Leaders in Training Panel convener. Thanks are due in particular to Dr Ken Jeffery of the University of Aberdeen and the university chaplaincy for facilitating this visit so warmly. The plan is to bring the three students for a short visit to Northern Ireland in 2020 at the time of the next summer school.
21. The committee acknowledges the very significant role played by ministers' spouses in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian and is considering once again how best to support their training programmes and events.
22. The Global Envisioning Panel seeks to envision PCI ministers and students for the ministry through providing, as and when invited by Union Theological College, a series of lectures on the Missiology Short Course and a training day for licentiate ministers. The panel also facilitates overseas missional opportunities for ministers and others in PCI's leadership as part of their sabbatical study so as to promote missiological insight and experience, not least through the witness and example of global Christian leaders, especially those experiencing persecution and hardship.
23. The panel recently reviewed its remit, especially for the benefit of new members. Mr Neil Harrison is welcomed in his capacity as Mission Development Officer and is well placed to encourage communication between the panel and the Global Mission Involvement Committee of the Council for Congregational Life and Witness.

24. In February 2019 a Licentiate's Training Day at Union Theological College was facilitated by the panel and a global envisioning trip to the Philippines for PCI church leaders, facilitated by Wycliffe Bible Translators, is currently at the planning stage.
25. Grants with relevance to leadership development under the Global Mission Partnership Panel have been made to Malawi – Nkhoma Synod; France – Faculté Jean Calvin; and Nepal – 'Minority Focus' (formerly known as 'Focus Nepal').
26. The committee warmly supports the possibility of a global mission partnership with St Petersburg Christian University, one that would open up in a strategic way opportunities for theological training and for developing relationships with marginalised protestant and reformed churches in the St Petersburg area and on into the heart of Russia.
27. Overseas visits with a leadership development focus have taken place to the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary, Latvia and Faculté Jean Calvin, France (Prof Gordon Campbell); Tahan Theological College, Myanmar (Dr Ian and Pat Hart); Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary, Jordan (Dr Martyn Cowan and the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles and Mrs Barbara McMullen); Kenya, South Africa, Zambia (Rev Uel Marrs).
28. The committee is aware that improved communication about the work of leaders in training is needed throughout PCI. There are 'good news' stories to share. It is hoped to have leaders in training mentioned by name in the Let's Pray weekly prayer bulletin and to initiate a system of 'prayer friends' so that each leader in training may have personal support from a Council member.
29. Arising from Dr Ian Hart's visit to Myanmar, the committee wishes to explore supporting Tahan Theological College in attaining a much higher standard of English, both to help students engage with visiting lecturers and to have access to wider theological resources. This will hopefully be taken forward by Pip Florit when she represents PCI at a partners' consultation in Tahan due to take place in May 2019.
30. The committee is content that, although it may disappear under the proposed new Council structure, its work will carry on with hopefully greater efficiency through the proposed Global Mission Committee and its panels. The support given to the Leadership Development Committee at all levels from the Mission Department is again deeply appreciated.

JOHN FARIS, Convener

GLOBAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

31. Isaiah portrays God as global rather than parochial in his scope and mission. Isaiah writes: "The Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples" (25:6). He repeatedly lifts our eyes from

the immediate and local, the mediocre and mundane, to a vision of something so much greater, grander, more global in scope.

32. It is something of this vision of God and his mission that the Global Concerns Committee seeks to convey as it wrestles with pertinent issues in our world today. Four panels, carrying out distinct remits, seek to lead the thinking of our denomination on issues as diverse as stewardship of creation, world faiths, international relations and intercultural relations.
33. The main work of the International Relations Panel this year involved seeking a better understanding of the Israeli/Palestinian situation and to engage the wider church in this discussion. To this end a conference was held at the end of November entitled, 'Hard Pressed, Not Crushed'. There were two main speakers.
34. The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, reported on the visit he and Barbara had made to Jordan, facilitated by PCI Mission Department and global mission workers. He spoke very movingly of the situation in which Christians often find themselves as a minority in the Middle East. For them faith grows through adversity. He also spoke very positively of the work of Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary. The Moderator used examples from his visit to illustrate the importance of his theme, 'Building relationships – Christ's love compels us'.
35. The other keynote speaker was Rev Prof Yohanna Katanacho, Academic Dean at Nazareth Evangelical College who describes himself as a Palestinian, Israeli, evangelical Christian. Speaking from a conservative evangelical theological position, he challenged us deeply about our understanding of the situation for the Arab church.
36. He highlighted the fact that as Christians our identity is in Jesus Christ and all other allegiances are secondary to that. As an Arab Christian he could trace his heritage back to earliest Christianity and beyond into Old Testament times, yet many try to make out that evangelical Christianity is a recent import to the Middle East, allied to western imperialism. Churches like PCI can work to dispel that misunderstanding. Perhaps those attending learnt most from Yohanna's humility and deep spirituality. As an extension to the conference both speakers spoke at evening events held in Limavady and south Belfast.
37. The panel is aware that Yohanna was speaking out of his own background, as would anyone coming from a situation of conflict. He was helpfully introducing a Christian viewpoint which is not one that is often illustrated so clearly.
38. PCI was represented by its convener, Rev Dr Donald Watts, at a European Churches Conference entitled, 'Towards Peaceful Coexistence in the Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities', held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor, in December. The timing was in recognition of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights", signed on 10 December, 1948.

39. As well as European church leaders there was significant participation by leaders of Middle Eastern churches, mainly Orthodox and Coptic. It was interesting that their views resonated strongly with the evangelical view expressed by Rev Prof Yohanna Katanacho. The Christian presence in the Middle East is now less than 5%, where it was once 20-30%. This is largely due to persecution and people leaving for their own safety, but it was emphasised that Christians in the area see themselves as witnesses and not victims. The only countries where there are still significant numbers of Christians are Lebanon and Egypt. In other countries the absence of a significant body of Christians is cause for concern. Again, the leaders pointed out that the Christian Church is an indigenous church and its members deserve equal citizenship.
40. The panel reported last year on its contacts with the churches of Lebanon and Syria, largely through PCI's historic relationship with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon and partner organisations. The panel hopes to further develop these contacts.
41. The panel is aware of the publication of a Kairos Ireland document, an Irish response to a previously published Kairos Palestine document, and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the thinking of those who published it. The panel considers that it is for individuals to consider whether or not to endorse it.
42. The main focus of the Stewardship of Creation Panel this past year has been highlighting and promoting the Report on Climate Change presented and approved by the 2018 General Assembly. The panel is concerned that the report could easily 'get lost', partly because the media did not pick up on the report, but also because other issues took centre stage.
43. The panel is convinced of the importance of this report to the church and want to ensure it is kept on the agenda. At a recent event in Belfast, Tearfund's CEO Nigel Harris commented that the biggest challenges to reducing world poverty are conflict and climate change.
44. Strategies to take things forward include encouraging presbyteries to engage with the report's recommendations and writing articles for the *Herald*.
45. The Convener, Rev John Hanson, attended the European Churches Environmental Network Conference in Poland in October. This proved to be an informative and stimulating event.
46. Plans are also underway to make the panel more aware of environmental issues at home. This would include visits to local initiatives. Another area is exploring how PCI as a denomination can better model good stewardship of creation in choices made at every level of church life.
47. The Intercultural Relations Panel continues to lead thinking on issues relating to migration. With its impact felt both locally and globally, migration continues to be the reality for more than 244 million of the earth's population. Of these over 40 million people are internally displaced and more than 22 million are refugees. How PCI relates to

those who have migrated, voluntarily and involuntarily, is a core aspect of discipleship.

48. The Bible reminds God's people that they have a responsibility to treat those who are far from home with the dignity and respect they would expect for themselves. "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God." (Leviticus 19:34)
49. Brexit uncertainty, political scapegoating and racially motivated prejudice and violence have contributed to a feeling of insecurity for many immigrants, especially in the UK. While encouraging engagement with migrants and welcoming them in Christ's name, the panel is not ignorant of the complexities of the wider immigration debate. The words of Jesus are instructive: "I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16)
50. The work of the panel has focused on the completion of a Bible study resource that engages with migration through the lens of the Book of Ruth.
51. The convener of the Global Concerns Committee continues to coordinate a chaplaincy service for Larne House Immigration Detention Unit. Steps to extend this group and address a gender imbalance are presently being undertaken.
52. Northern Ireland continues to take Syrian refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. 1,258 have been given refuge as of 31 December 2018.
53. Following support from PCI and other churches, Embrace is taking steps to advertise for the post of development worker, initially on a part-time basis.
54. The committee has received with regret the resignation of the panel convener, Rev Helen Freeburn. Helen brought passion and valuable experience to the panel and deep appreciation is recorded for all her time and effort. Few people have to travel further to panel meetings!
55. The World Faiths Panel, convened by Rev Robin Quinn, continues to seek ways to 'lead the thinking' of PCI regarding other world faiths. The panel's report (See Appendix A) raises key themes, including PCI's doctrinal position; the challenge of today's ever-changing world; the need to better understand other world faiths; the challenge of going about building relationships with people of other faiths, and how to witness effectively and ethically to them.
56. The panel has embarked on some further work regarding how PCI members should understand, relate and witness to Muslims, has begun some introductory research into the foundations of Hinduism and is mindful of the importance of considering atheism and secularism in the spectrum of faiths.
57. The panel continues to see an important part of its task to be encouraging and enabling our congregations and church members to pray for the salvation of people of other faiths using the booklets, 30

days of Prayer for the Muslim World and Hindu World Prayer Guide, 15 Days of Prayer produced by Interserve and others.

58. These prayer guides will be made available again this year, proposing that they be used during Ramadan (6 May to 4 June 2019) and Diwali (20 October to 3 November 2019) respectively, though their use need not be confined to these times.

RICHARD KERR, Convener

WORLD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

59. The 2018 World Development Appeal was launched on Tuesday 23 October 2018 under the strapline, Seeking Safety. This was the second year of a proposed four-year plan for the Appeal: a plan designed to enable the wider church to 'go deeper' in understanding the long-term nature of sustainable development work and the challenges which it might encounter on the ground.
60. The intention of this four-year plan, which began with the 2017/18 year, is to, in ongoing partnership with Tearfund and Christian Aid, link the four years together under an 'umbrella' theme: the challenges of sustainable development in fragile states, and to do so with a view to being able to deepen and widen understanding within the denomination of the difficult and long-term nature of the work of sustainable development, the fragile and fluid contexts within which it occurs, and the obstacles which can impede the work 'on the ground'.
61. The partner highlighted in the 2018 Appeal materials was the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC), which is seeking to confront and challenge gender-based violence and in particular to prevent and tackle gender-based violence against women, with an emphasis on the important role of faith communities in addressing the problem. The project highlighted was the Casa Noeli dos Santos safe house which acts as a gateway to enable women facing situations of gender-based violence to access the support and services they need to help them move forward with their lives. A short film was produced for general congregational use along with accompanying information and materials for use in the context of worship.
62. In line with the four-year map for the Appeal, funds from the 2018 Appeal will also be channelled to Tearfund's partner highlighted in the 2017 Appeal, Congo Initiative, at the Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo (UCBC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to empower vulnerable women by providing access to trauma counselling, third level education and skills in entrepreneurship.
63. The committee is pleased to report that at the meeting held on Thursday 7 February 2019 it was able to disburse £300,000 from the 2018 Appeal (£150,000 each to Tearfund and Christian Aid). A total of £6,667 remaining in the Special Appeal for East Africa was divided

three ways between Christian Aid, Tearfund, and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan Relief and Development Agency.

64. The committee notes that a Special Appeal for Indonesia was launched by the Moderator on 5 October 2018 following the powerful earthquake and resulting tsunami which struck the island of Sulawesi on 28 September 2018 with devastating consequences. This Appeal had, as of 5 February 2019, raised a total of £319,031 which was divided three ways between partners working on the ground to provide humanitarian assistance – Tearfund, Christian Aid, and the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (CCI).
65. The committee further notes that a Special Appeal for Southern Africa was launched by the Moderator on 22 March 2019 in response to the devastation wrought by Cyclone Idai as it swept through the countries of Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Funds received will be channelled through our relief and development partners, Christian Aid and Tearfund, who are already engaged in longer term sustainable development work in the affected regions and are well-placed to direct additional efforts to the unfolding crisis, and also through our partner church, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Blantyre Synod).
66. The committee expresses its warm gratitude to the congregations and individuals whose generous support of and interest in the work of sustainable development are both a constant encouragement and also a powerful witness to PCI's calling, as global disciples, to partner with God in the work, which he will ultimately complete, of 'pulling back' his creation towards the way he intended it to be.
67. Three Council for Global Mission partner church projects were also supported with appeal funding this year. The following grants were agreed:
 - (a) £5,000 for 2018 (year 2 of a 3 year commitment) to the Consumers' Union Mart of the Protestant Church in Timor;
 - (b) £3,000 to the Presbyterian Church of East Africa for the Solai Dam Project;
 - (c) £20,202 to the Samburu Awareness and Action project of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa as it seeks to address the issues of female genital mutilation, early childhood marriage, and gender violence, primarily through a schools and community education programme.
68. As part of the committee's educative responsibility, work is ongoing on the preparation of a document offering responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the World Development Appeal. The Committee will also, through analysis of the World Development Appeal Survey outcomes, be reviewing its praxis and evaluating how it can best encourage congregations to 'go deep' and 'go wide' in their understanding of the work of sustainable development. An initial step towards broadening understanding of the reach of the World Development Appeal will be to supply details, each year, of all

projects, delivered through Christian Aid and Tearfund partners, that are supported through the appeal.

69. The 2019 Appeal will continue to add detail to the four-year map presented above, returning to consider the ongoing challenges facing the work of sustainable development in fragile states. The committee is engaged in planning how this might best be accomplished in the light of the current situation on the ground in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The launch of the 2019 Appeal is scheduled for Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 12.30pm, following a meeting of the Council for Global Mission.
70. In the meantime, the committee is grateful for the continuing prayers of the wider church as it continues to carry out and to develop the work with which it has been entrusted by the General Assembly, and it welcomes your interest.

FIONA FORBES, Convener

GLOBAL MISSION WORKER PANEL

71. The Global Mission Worker Panel has met twice since the General Assembly meeting in June 2018. Reporting directly to the Council, the panel's key role is to provide advice and facilitate informed discussion on areas relating to human resources and member care guidelines for global mission workers.
72. **Global mission workers:** Panel members thank God for the global mission workers (GMWs) who, as his ambassadors, serve in 10 countries around the world; for those who have been commissioned as GMWs; for those whose overseas service has concluded; and for those who have passed on from earthly service.
73. Details of roles, locations, and global mission partners for those currently serving with the Council are found in Appendix B. On Sunday 24 February 2019, under the Integrate Programme of service, Chris and Rachel Humphries were commissioned by the Presbytery of Armagh for service in Portugal to take up roles in the church planting team of Comunidade Pedras Vivas in Porto.
74. Following their resignations from the Council, a Minute of Appreciation was recorded for each of the following: Steve Anderson who served in Spain from June 2014 until June 2018; David and Pamela McCullagh who served in Malawi from August 2013 until November 2018; and Alan and Tracey Johnston who served in Italy from January 2014 until January 2019. On 31 March 2019 Christopher and Nivedita Benjamin retired from 30 years of serving the Church of North India (in partnership with the Council) in London. The Moderator, Dr Charles McMullen, made a short visit to London to mark this occasion and to express the Council's appreciation for their years of service amongst Asians, especially in the Wembley area.

75. **Memorial Minutes:** Noting sympathies expressed in respect of the following former missionaries were recorded by the panel: Rev Dr Robin H.S. Boyd served in India from 1951 to 1974 and died in June 2018; Mrs Phyllis Thompson served in Malawi from 1970 until 1983 and died on 25 June 2018; Mrs Sarah (Sally) Fleming served in Malawi from 1963 until 1973 and died on 25 July 2018; Mrs Patricia Holliday served in India from 1965 to 1973 and died on 11 October 2018; Mrs Lois Macpherson served in Malawi from 1971 until 1975 and died on 8 November 2018.
76. **Human resources and member care development:** The panel recommended the adoption of:
- (a) The panel's name change to Global Mission Worker Panel;
 - (b) Changes to the initial 'setting-up home' grant;
 - (c) Changes to personal contents insurance for GMWs;
 - (d) New guidelines for the Let's Pray submissions from GMWs;
 - (e) An updated resource entitled Third Culture Kids: information/resources for parents preparing to go...
77. **Medical and debriefing services:** The panel received a progress report on the provision of regular in-service medical check-ups and personal reviews for GMWs and approved the following recommendations:
- (a) The Council continue to provide two types of debriefing;
 - (b) During home assignments HealthLink360 (in Scotland) will be the normal location for all GMWs to attend for personal review and medical check-up;
 - (c) Conduct a review analysing the various ways GMWs report/interact/reflect on their work and who is/should be involved in each process.

VALERIE CLARKE, Convener

GLOBAL MISSION PARTNERSHIP PANEL

78. The Global Mission Partnership Panel reports directly to the Council on the following areas: the norms or principles of engagement in global mission partnerships; policy and strategy including overseas visits and visits by partners to Ireland; grants for global mission partnership projects; maintenance of a database of global mission partnerships; ensuring PCI's mission engagement through global partnerships is adequately reflected in PCI publications and website; and providing advice and support on partnership matters for other PCI mission councils and the wider church.
79. In the course of the year, the designation of 'global mission partner' was considered and subsequently recommended for the following churches, institutions and organisations:

- (a) Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) – PCI's support is important to PCM and has taken the form of partnership grants and leadership development grants;
 - (b) Association for Theological Education in Nepal (ATEN) – Partnership grants have previously been given to allow ATEN to become self-sustaining in providing theological education to Nepali students;
 - (c) Minority Focus (previously known as Focus Nepal) – Partnership grants have previously been given to allow Minority Focus to fund the education of minority Christian students in Nepal;
 - (d) St Petersburg Christian University (SPbCU), Russia – Following an exploratory visit, partnership with SPbCU was recommended. It is the only well-established centre for theological education in Russia outside the Orthodox Church and provides training for students who come from significant distances. The Council of Global Mission has received a request to send a global mission worker to teach systematic and practical theology to PhD level, as there is currently no suitably qualified local candidate for this role.
80. **Grants 2019:** In the course of the year, the Council for Global Mission approved grants for partner projects totalling £57,080 covering 11 global mission partners in 10 countries.
81. **Website:** Work to update the partnership profiles in the PCI website is ongoing.
82. Visits to global mission partners already made or in the planning since the General Assembly 2018, and some of which may have already been referenced in the reports of other committees and panels:
- (a) Rev Uel Marrs to London to meet with Edwin and Anne Kibathi on 24 June 2018.
 - (b) Miss Helen Johnston to London to visit Christopher and Nivedita Benjamin on 14 June 2018 and with the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen on 12 March 2019.
 - (c) The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen and his wife, Barbara, to Jordan to visit the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary from 11 to 21 August 2018.
 - (d) Rev Uel Marrs to Kenya, Zambia and South Africa from 28 August to 7 September to meet with the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, attend the General Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Zambia Synod and visit the Theological Education by Extension College, Johannesburg.
 - (e) Rev Uel Marrs to Basel, Switzerland from 12 to 15 September 2018 to attend the Eukumindo General Assembly and Study Day.
 - (f) Mrs Heather Clements (PW Overseas Vice President) and Mrs Pauline Kennedy (PW Development Officer) to Romania to visit Csaba and Ilona Veres, who are working alongside the Hungarian Reformed Church from 11 to 16 October 2018.

- (g) Rev Robert and Mrs Christine Bell to Porto, Portugal in November 2018 to attend the inauguration of the first members to the Comunidade Pedras Vivas church plant.
 - (h) Rev Brian and Mrs Jean Gibson to Kenya in 28 November to 11 December 2018 to attend the 120th anniversary celebrations of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and visit Mukuyu Congregation.
 - (i) Miss Helen Johnston and Mr Tim Mercer to Jordan in February 2019 to visit Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary.
 - (j) Rev Uel Marrs to St Petersburg Christian University in Russia from 11 to 16 January 2019, to explore a potential partnership.
 - (k) Rev Uel Marrs to Kenya from 25 February to 1 March 2019 to attend a meeting of international partners with the Presbyterian Church of Sudan and South Sudan.
 - (l) Rev Trevor Gribben, Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen, Mrs Barbara McMullen, Rev Uel Marrs and Mrs Heather Clements to Greece from 18 to 21 March 2019 to explore a potential partnership with the Greek Evangelical Church.
 - (m) Rev Uel Marrs to Frankfurt, Germany from 11 to 13 April 2019 for a meeting of the Eukumindo Executive Committee.
 - (n) Mrs Pip Florit attended a partnership meeting with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar in May 2019.
83. The following overseas visitors were hosted:
- (a) Mphatso Nguluwe, Director of the Health Department of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod, visited Ireland to undertake a programme of deputation from 2 October to 2 November 2018.
 - (b) Rev Dimitris Boukis, General Secretary of the Greek Evangelical Church, visited Belfast on 8 and 9 October 2018.

HEATHER CLEMENTS, Convener

BUSINESS AND FINANCE PANEL

84. The Business and Finance Panel met on four occasions in the past year and reports as follows:
85. **Finance and Property:** The Council records its deep appreciation for the United Appeal funding received each year that makes possible so much of its work, together with the wholehearted support and generous grant received annually from Presbyterian Women. Council for Global Mission accounts for the year 2018 indicate a net deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account of (£322) which is very close to the budgeted figure. Having been pledged a grant from the United Appeal of £1,065,000 for 2019, the Council is requesting the same amount in its budget for 2020.

86. The panel ensures the oversight, repair and maintenance of Council for Global Mission properties and has been reviewing the Council's mission property portfolio. The sale of its three existing properties in Belfast and London has been approved and it is anticipated that this will take place in the coming year raising total proceeds in the region of £1,195,000. It is planned that approximately £600,000 of this sum will be spent on two serviced apartments in order to meet the current needs of global mission workers on home assignment. Pending further review, it is proposed that the surplus of funds will be transferred to the Council's General Account over a period of 10 years to cover what has been a fairly constant overspend in the region of £80,000 per year.
87. **Mission Department staffing:** The Council is very grateful for the dedicated and faithful service of all Mission Department staff during what has been another busy year. Mission Departmental staff meetings and updates have been held periodically throughout the year.

LIZ HUGHES, Convener

VISION BUILDING TASK GROUP

88. The Vision Building Task Group met on two occasions since the General Assembly 2018 and reports as follows:
89. The task group planned and facilitated a Global Mission Council Away Day which took place on 19 June 2018, benefiting from the skillful facilitation of Mrs Julie Hoey. It proved to be a positive and worthwhile occasion out of which arose a number of next steps.
90. The Council approved that its work is all about being:
Global disciples sharing God's heart for the world
 (a) Declaring good news
 (b) Demonstrating God's love
91. The following statements were drafted as straplines for the committees and panels of the Council, and referred to them for further consideration: *Global disciples reaching the unreached* – Outreach Ministries Committee; *Global disciples visioning lives transformed* – World Development Committee; *Global disciples equipping leaders* – Leadership Development Committee; *Global disciples highlighting opportunities* – Global Concerns Committee; *Global disciples developing partnerships* – Global Mission Partnership Panel; *Global disciples sending and supporting servants* – Global Mission Worker Panel; *Global disciples managing resources* – Business and Finance Panel.
92. Subsequently, at its October meeting, the VBTG set up two sub-groups to undertake a review of Council structures and communications.

93. **The Structures Review Sub-Group** was asked to review the current structure of the Council for Global Mission and propose any changes that would allow it to function more efficiently and effectively. This sub-group's report was subsequently submitted to and approved by Council and the General Council and is included in the General Council's report to the General Assembly 2019.
94. A **Communications Sub-Group** met and reported on its work. It was acknowledged that its report contains a great deal of good material and was moving in the right direction, not least by setting out a joint strategy between the Council for Global Mission and the Council for Congregational Life and Witness for reaching congregations. The recommendation was that the sub-group make minor adjustments to the report and give further thought to how communication might be improved within the Council.

LIZ HUGHES, Convener

APPENDIX A

PCI and its mission in a multi-faith society

We read in Acts 8:7, "Those who had been scattered (by persecution) preached the word wherever they went." So the words of our Risen Lord, "you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) began to be fulfilled.

Today in the sovereignty of God the peoples of the world have come to Ireland and there are multi-cultural, multi-faith communities, literally on the doorstep. Thus the Christian church needs a renewed confidence in its message and a similar confidence to adapt its methods so that the gospel message is effectively communicated.

Understanding PCI's mission in today's world

Irish Presbyterians need to strengthen their confidence in the foundations regarding what they believe, who they are, what they are called to be and do, and then be challenged to face the question of the cost and commitment involved in Christian discipleship.

Confronted with other faiths we affirm:

- (a) That 'in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, having one substance, power and eternity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit' cf WCF Chapter 2.3. Any other god is not the God PCI believes in and proclaims.

- (b) That the Church is those ‘gathered into one under Christ, the Head. The Church is his body and spouse, who fills all in all...the visible church consists of everyone in the world who professes the true religion, together with their children. The visible church is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and the house and family of God, outside of which people cannot ordinarily be saved’ (WCF Chapter 25.2/3)
- (c) That salvation is as Acts 4:12 declares, “salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved”, that Name is Jesus.

Thus as a denomination PCI have a confidence in God, a deep joy in salvation in Christ, a clear conviction about our calling as God’s people to proclaim God’s kingdom, to love and serve all people, to steward and sustain the beauty and bounty of the Lord’s creation, to seek God’s honour everywhere and among all, now and always. This is our amazing privilege.

The people of the world’s major faiths and cults are seeking what is true, good and satisfying, if not always in the right places. Being people, made in God’s image, for whom Christ died, PCI members must share the gospel with them in the context of home as well as in distant places.

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland has a calling to live and serve in Jesus’ name, with a spirit of humility, an attitude of service, a willingness to listen, a capacity to understand others yet an undiminished confidence in the gospel of Christ to meet the needs of all, just as PCI members, together as part of his church, have experienced.

How PCI members must be equipped for mission

PCI must address the issues raised above by considering:

- (a) How to achieve and maintain humility, “the mind of Christ” (Phil 2:5), while believing, living and proclaiming the exclusive way of salvation;
- (b) How to find ways of naturally serving people in their complete personhood, while not losing sight of their spiritual and eternal need;
- (c) How to genuinely listen to people and not lose our eagerness to speak of Jesus Christ and his offer of salvation;
- (d) How to develop an increasing capacity to understand and respect the situation, mindset, world view and aspirations of others;
- (e) How to be patient, prayerful and persevering, ‘waiting on’ God’s Spirit to do his work;
- (f) How to love as Christ loves, be willing for the cost, challenge falsehood and idolatry, yet remain winsome.

PCI needs to address how to put feet on these words and be sure that her thinking and acting are changing in the right ways, constantly seeking to be Christ-like and engage in mission in today’s world.

PCI must explore and take forward the changes that are required

There is a need for PCI to embark on a journey to discover the changes God is calling her to make at this time. The World Faiths Panel seeks to encourage PCI through its councils to go on this journey and to grapple with how best to share the gospel, given its exclusive nature, with people of other faiths, both in our increasingly multi-cultural, multi-faith society and to the ends of the earth.

This has implications for the envisioning, training and equipping of ministers, global mission workers, congregational officers, organisation leaders, and our church membership as a whole. The changes will influence the welcome and worship in PCI meeting houses, the range of provisions through congregational organisations, the pastoral care provided, the methods and places of outreach and the way in which PCI communicates in the public domain. It will involve a top-down and a bottom-up approach.

Engaging with people of other faiths in the name of Jesus Christ should be an extension of the confidence we have in the gospel and its capacity to transform lives and situations.

APPENDIX B**GLOBAL MISSION WORKERS**

Global mission workers: the names, spheres and category of service are listed below and are to be taken together with the Global Mission Worker Panel Report.

INTEGRATE PROGRAMME – service of two or more years**Brazil**

Naomi Keefe	2004	Outreach programme, The Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB), Recife
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Great Britain

Edwin and Anne Kibathi	2009	Ministry among East Africans in east London
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Kenya

Stephen and Angelina Cowan	1985 1989	Outreach and development work, Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), Tuum
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Naomi Leremore	1991	Development of Theological Education by Extension materials, PCEA, Nairobi
Gary and Mary Reid	2000	Outreach and development work, PCEA, Olkinyiei
Malawi		
Volker and JinHyeog Glissmann	2010	Consultant to Theological Education by Extension in Malawi (TEEM), Zomba
Lyn and Johnny Dowds	2011	Doctor, DGMH, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Livingstonia Synod, Livingstonia
Middle East		
Two global mission workers	2016	Theological education
Nepal		
Peter and Valerie Lockwood	2012	Programme Advisor United Mission to Nepal (UMN), Kathmandu
Peter and Jayne Fleming	2017	Integral Development Advisor UMN, Kathmandu Teacher, Kathmandu International Study Centre
Portugal		
James and Heather Cochrane	2008	Church planting – Comunidade Pedras Vivas, Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal (ICPP) in Senhora de Hora, Porto (since 2013)
Chris and Rachel Humphries	2019	Church planting – Comunidade Pedras Vivas, Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal (ICCP) in Senhora de Hora, Porto

Romania

Csaba and	2001	Coordinator –SERVANT Mission and of Diakonia, Cluj
Ilona Veres	1993	Mera children’s project

Spain

Derek and Jane French	2000	Student outreach with Grupos Bíblicos Unidos (GBU), Bilbao
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Zambia

Diane Cusick	1995	Early Childhood Development Officer, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Zambia Synod (since 2016).
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APPENDIX C

Global Mission Partnerships

PCI is currently engaged in global mission partnership with the following churches, institutions and agencies:

Europe

- The Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal
- The Evangelical Reformed Church of Latvia (including the Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary)
- Faculté Jean Calvin, France
- Grupos Bíblicos Unidos, Spain
- The Hungarian Reformed Church, in Hungary, Romania, and Ukraine

Africa

- The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre, Livingstonia, and Nkhoma Synods, Malawi
- Scripture Union, Malawi
- Theological Education by Extension, Malawi
- The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Zambia Synod
- The Presbyterian Church of East Africa, Kenya
- The Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan (including the Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency, Nile Theological College, and Giffen Institute of Theology)

Middle East

- (a) Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary
- (b) The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (including the Near East School of Theology)

Asia

- The Christian Church of Sumba, Indonesia
- The Evangelical Christian Church of Halmahera, Indonesia
- The Evangelical Christian Church of Timor, Indonesia
- The Church of North India
- The Presbyterian Church of Pakistan (including Gujranwala Theological Seminary)
- United Bible Training Centre, Pakistan
- United Mission to Nepal
- Association for Theological Education, Nepal
- Minority Focus, Nepal
- The Presbyterian Church of Myanmar

Caribbean and Latin America

- The Presbyterian Church of Brazil

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the General Assembly encourage the Council for Global Mission to continue to actively provide a lead in thinking regarding issues of global concern, not least both with regard to those issues affecting PCI's global mission partners and those which impact communities in Ireland.
2. That the General Assembly recognise the potentially valuable insights of both PCI's global mission partners and global mission workers in helping PCI develop its strategies for engaging with, and witnessing to, people of other faiths in the increasingly pluralist Irish society of today.
3. That the General Assembly give thanks for the promotion of Leadership Development in many places around the world and commend those Leaders in Training supported by PCI to the prayers of the Church, that they may grow as disciples of Christ, balance the demands of study, family life and ongoing ministry, and receive practical help where necessary, especially with language learning and processing of visas.

4. That the General Assembly give thanks for the remarkable and sustained generosity shown by congregations and members of the PCI in supporting both the annual World Development Appeal, and the more short-term but acute needs reflected in each Moderator's Special Appeal, and commend the 2019 World Development Appeal to all congregations.
5. That the General Assembly give thanks to God for the dedicated endeavours of PCI's Global Mission Workers and for the generous resourcing of their work by congregations through the United Appeal for Mission and 'extra-mile' giving, encouraging the Council for Global Mission to review its strategy for communicating the story of God's global mission.
6. That the Report of the Council for Global Mission be received.