

## Church of Scotland - Presbytery of Gordon Presbytery Plan Update

### Advisory Figures

<b>2018</b> -	25 charges (28 congregations)	
	21 FTEMWS - 4 vacancies	[Full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament]
	5 MDS [N.B.: 2 FTE at Ellon]	[MDS = Mission and Discipleship staff]
<b>2023</b> -	14.9 FTEMWS	

**2021 General Assembly will look again at these figures**

### Plan Approved

On 02 March 2021 the Presbytery of Gordon approved the Draft Presbytery Plan by 44 votes to Nil.

There were only a few changes to the Plan compared to the one presented and discussed in January 2021.

The main one was that all Groups have been given two years to draw up their Covenant Agreement, but an interim report will be required by March 2022.

In drawing up the Covenant each Group will have to take into account the

### **Five Marks of Mission**

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Mission and Discipleship Committee of the Presbytery has been asked to provide a course of training in leading worship, for members of congregations.

The use of technology will become more important in keeping worshipping communities connected to one another.

### Parish Groupings

New Machar is in Group 5 with Belhelvie, Foveran and Ellon.

All bar one congregation is in a parish grouping.

Covenant Agreement to be drawn up by each Parish Grouping:

- establish areas of joint working;
- consider the ministry team for the grouping;
- procedure that will be followed in a new vacancy.;
- over 5 years each grouping expected to lose one FTEMWS.

First parish to lose a minister will lose its automatic right to call a new minister.

Forms of Team Ministry will be vital. New legislation will be required.

Our Kirk Session has already appointed John Blanksby, Karen Creswell and Ken Hoskins to represent it at initial Group meetings

### Buildings

#### **‘Well-equipped spaces in the right places’.**

Need to reduce buildings that are surplus to requirements in each Parish Grouping. General Trustees are producing a ‘toolkit’ to help with this issue.

New Buildings Officer may have a role.

Groupings with

- 4 buildings or less - 1 to be closed over next 10 years;
- 5 or more buildings - at least 2 to be closed over next 10 years.

Manses will not be included in the Presbytery Plan.

### Categories of buildings

1. Church building on its own (may have vestry /session house /meeting room or small hall)
2. Integrated church and significant hall space & other rooms in an integrated building or suite of buildings.
3. Adjacent - church and separate hall or buildings within same curtilage.
4. Proximate - church and hall close by - but have to leave church grounds to get to the hall.
5. 3rd. Party - hall /toilets /kitchen provided by 3rd. party (e.g.: public hall).

### Next Steps

1. The Presbytery Plan has been sent to the national Presbytery Plan Task Group for ratification. There may have to be modifications to the Plan as a result of the General Assembly 2021. BUT in general it is understood that the new plan for the Presbytery of Gordon is on the right lines.
2. The Plan is intended to run for five years, by which time the new Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles will be up and running.
3. Group 5 (as with all groups) needs to meet soon to get discussions and plans under way.