

## **REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009**

The Committee has continued to work with the Evangelism Committee in trying to progress and promote the joint initiative to assist congregations in Mission and Evangelism. They continue to look at training areas, denominationally, church – based and with leaders.

The Committee is extremely grateful to the former North Woodside congregation for the substantial donation they provided, which is to be used for individuals, and congregations who wish to embark on training. We believe that this should provide the basis of a fund to be disbursed for this purpose.

### **DENOMINATIONAL**

“Celebrating the Word” or the “Bannockburn Event” continues to succeed in bringing people together for training, teaching and fellowship. It is an event where those attending are enthused, encouraged and engaged by the quality of the speakers, workshops and praise.

This year the “Bannockburn Event” will be held in Dunblane! Dunblane High School was built around a year ago and we believe that it will provide us with better accommodation; it can accommodate more people for the main sessions and for lunch and is still in a central location with good public transport links.

We thank the planning group who organise this event and remain grateful to Elaine Duncan, of the Scottish Bible Society, for her contribution to the planning of the event. Currently, there is an impressive list of speakers/workshop leaders already confirmed. Be at Dunblane on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of August and be prepared to be uplifted, enlightened and possibly challenged!

### **CHURCH BASED**

Training has become rather fragmented over the last few years. Since the post of Training Development Officer ceased, there has been no one to champion training and to visit presbyteries, Kirk sessions and congregations to find out what training requirements they may have or to promote training workshops. The committee is engaging with each presbytery to try and raise the profile of the training team, to ensure that each presbytery knows who their local Adult Trainer is and what workshops are available. The Training Team is still regarded as “Elder Trainers”; however, only three of the many training workshops are specifically for Elders or prospective Elders and, we believe that ‘Adult Trainer’ is a more appropriate name.

In order to strengthen the link between the Trainers and the Presbyteries, the committee is proposing that those who are appointed as Adult Trainers should be members of Presbytery. If it is not possible for them to be nominated by a congregation as a member, then they should be made corresponding members of presbytery. This would enable them to be aware of matters raised in Quinquennial Reports etc, to have input at presbytery and to take the initiative arranging and promoting training events.

## **LEADERS**

There have been opportunities for training leaders at the Ministers and Pastors in-service event and at the School of Evangelism. Arrangements are being made for a Leaders' Forum to be held in Perth UF Church on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 11 a.m. and further information will be circulated to congregations. The committee is considering holding a Session Clerks conference later this year.

We are grateful to David Cartledge for his recent book reviews and hope that this will encourage others not only to read Christian literature but also to submit their reviews, which may be helpful to leaders and the wider membership.

In the name of the Committee

GORDON STEEL  
DEIRDRE P LYON  
JOHN O FULTON

Convener  
Vice-convener  
Secretary