

REPORT OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

It has been a busy and eventful year for the Youth Committee, with the major events being the Ethiopia Mission trip last August and the appointments of Richard Knott and Andrew Brown in January.

ETHIOPIA MISSION TRIP

The Ethiopia Trip to Dembi Dollo in conjunction with Stand by Me saw David Spurdle, along with Laura and Gordon Mackenzie lead a team of 13 who were involved in building water filtration systems and running Holiday Club activities for the children at the Abdi Academy School run by the organisation.

Members of the team have spoken very positively about their experience, and Stand by Me have been delighted, not just with the work of the team, but with the support of the whole denomination through prayer and giving towards the project. When the figures were finalised, we were able to send an extra £12,700 to Stand by Me in addition to the £10,205 which came in from the Easter Scheme. This money has funded the building of footpaths, steps and walls, the purchase of a generator, has helped fund a 17m well for the school with a 'Well-house' to protect it and has enabled a large 'wet-dry' shelter to be constructed to ensure the children are dry in the wet weather and cool in the sunny weather. Over and above this the team members raised £16,250 to cover their fares and other expenses.

EASTER SCHEME

This year's Easter Scheme was for the Leprosy Mission's project to raise funds for a training centre for young people with leprosy in West Bengal, India. The Committee would like to thank the denomination for their giving to this worthy cause.

SPARK! YOUTH EVENT

The Spark youth events in Darnley and St Ninians have continued, with meetings in September, November, January and April. The Committee is grateful to the group who plan these events and who lead worship, steward and help with food preparation and games, and to Nathan Owens who assisted them during the interregnum between Youth Worker and Children's and Youth Development Worker.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKER

A snappy title, it's not! However, we believe it more accurately describes the role Richard Knott has been appointed to. The Committee consulted with a number of young adults in the denomination last May after we knew of Laura's intention to leave, and many of their ideas have been included in the job description.

Since he started in January, Richard, who has a Salvation Army background, has been meeting with various groups of ministers, youth workers, and young people throughout the country in order to identify ways in which he can help develop children's and youth work in the denomination.

The part-time appointment of Andrew Brown, who has a UF Church background, should be mutually beneficial as he learns from the more experienced worker, while sharing his knowledge of the UF Church with Richard. In addition, Richard and Andrew each have two members of the Committee who meet with them regularly to give oversight and support.

They have set up a Facebook group for those involved in children's and youth ministry, and a regular E-newsletter with news, ideas and links to relevant articles and training events.

CAMPS AND YOUTH ASSEMBLY

The original plan to combine the Primary and Secondary camps at Lendrick Muir in May was changed because the accommodation booked was not appropriate for such a wide age-range. The Secondary camp will now take place at Alltnacriche from 9-11th December, with a day event planned for June. Richard and Andrew have had discussions with some of the young people about the venue and format of the Youth Assembly but nothing has been arranged at the time of writing.

The Committee would like to thank the congregations and presbyteries who gave financial assistance to allow young people to attend the youth events on offer, and also the Church Office staff for assisting with the administration of these events.

TRAINING EVENTS

While the Committee has not organised any specific UF training events, the E-newsletter has informed people about available courses, and "Core Skills in Children's Ministry" is being run in conjunction with the Scottish Episcopal and Methodist churches over 3 days from April to June.

In the name of the Committee

JOHN P CROSS	Convener
ELIZABETH MCDOWALL	Vice-convener
JOHN O FULTON	Secretary