

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

December 12th 2017

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the twelfth day of December 2017, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator, with 21 ministers, 36 elders, 1 Deacon and 1 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 14 elders and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting November 14th 2017 being in print and in the hands of members were approved

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as February 13th 2018 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additional sections from the Business Committee and Ministry Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV DR KEN FORREST

Tribute was paid to the life and doctrine of the late Ken Forrest, who died on November 12th.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

There was no formal report but Rev Alan Sorensen advised Presbyters that Rev Robin Allison Minister at Elderslie, had been called to Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial and the formal call was being processed by the Presbytery of Lothian. As it was likely to be completed before the next meeting of Presbytery the Moderator thanked Robin for his service to Greenock & Paisley Presbytery and wished him well in his new charge. Robin replied in suitable terms.

BUSINESS

Rev Dr Alistair Shaw presented the report from the Business Committee, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. gives Notice of Motion- at its February meeting the Business Committee will bring forward the following motion: 'Presbytery amends Standing Order 28 to read ' The Ordinary Meetings shall be held at 7pm on the second Tuesday of September, November, December, February, March, May, and on the third Tuesday of June. There shall be no Ordinary Meetings in October, January, April, July and August';
3. encourages ministers to write to Woodside Crematorium expressing their disappointment in the recent decision to no longer use an organist for funerals;

4. approves the request that Barrhead: St Andrews will join Barrhead: Bourock for worship on Sunday 31st December at 11.00am and that Barrhead: Bourock will worship with Barrhead: St Andrew's on Sunday 7th January 2018 at 11.00am;
5. notes that the congregation of Port Glasgow: St Andrew's will worship in the church hall on Sunday 28th January 2018 to allow urgent repairs to plasterwork in the Sanctuary

additional sections 6, 7 and 8 were proposed by the Convener and approved as follows:

6. approves the request from Greenock: Mount Kirk to forego regular Sunday worship on Sunday 24th December in order to hold a joint service with East End Parish Church at Crawfordsburn Community Centre at 12noon instead;
7. approves the request from Greenock East End to meet for a joint service at Greenock: Mount Kirk on Sunday 31st Dec;
8. approves the request of Paisley: Lylesland to be allowed to worship in the church hall on 14th, 21st and 28th January 2018 to allow the Church to be redecorated on rearranged dates

TREASURER

Mr Peter Bennett presented the accounts for 2017 and the following deliverance was approved:
Presbytery:

1. receives the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2017 and budget for the year ended 30th June 2018;
2. approves the Annual Accounts of the Presbytery, as contained in **appendix 1**, for the year ended 30 June 2017, subject to any amendments which may be required following the Independent Examination which is currently being carried out;
3. approves the Budget for 2017/2018 as detailed at **appendix 2**;
4. approves the proposed Presbytery assessments for 2017/2018 as detailed in **appendix 3** and instructs congregations to make payment as soon as possible but no later than 31st May 2018;
5. approves the setting up of a designated fund in the sum of £5,000 which could be used at the discretion of the Business Committee to meet committee one off events and expenses.

PROPERTY

Mr Ian Russell, Convener, presented the report from the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved;

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. a) notes that the electronic copies of the 2017 quinquennial inspections for Bridge Of Weir: Freeland and St Machars, Elderslie, Howwood, Lochwinnoch, and Paisley: St Ninians; by Brown and Wallace LLP, have been issued to all congregations and printed copies of the inspections are available for collection this evening;

b) instructs the foregoing congregations to complete the items identified in the reports as urgent within the prescribed period of 1 year, and to report on progress to the December 2018 meeting of Presbytery. Also instructs the foregoing congregations to arrange to carry out work identified as essential in the same reports within the next 5 years, and to undertake as much of the work identified as desirable as possible;

3. notes that several congregations who were subject to 2016 quinquennial inspections have still to confirm diligence in accordance with the instruction of Presbytery on 13th December 2016 and instructs those concerned to comply without delay;

4. approves an application by the Bridge of Weir: Freeland congregation for the installation of a replacement and upgraded audio-visual system at an estimated cost of £14,500 plus £2,900 VAT to give a total of £17,400, funds are available plus financial assistance was given from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions;

5. notes that the General Trustees Fabric Committee at its meeting on the 7th November, agreed to make available a grant of £11,500 from the Central Fabric Fund to the Greenock St. Ninian's congregation to meet the cost of the immediate urgent works to the church buildings;

6. approves the request from the congregation of Paisley St Luke's to let their manse during the vacancy and instructs the said congregation to liaise with the General Trustees in connection with the arrangements for any lease and to use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

7. a) approves an application by the Paisley Abbey congregation for a programme of electrical remedial work to their manse and to the Lawn Street halls, at a cost of £18,639.42 inclusive of VAT and funds are available;

b) approves an application by the Paisley Abbey congregation to repair a burst heating pipe in the Abbey and remove the asbestos discovered around it, at a total estimated cost of £8,000 inclusive of VAT and funds are available;

8. notes the attendance by Ian Russell (Property Committee Convenor) at the General Trustees Seminar: How to make your Church Buildings work for you, on 30th November in Glasgow;

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

Mrs Mary Jane Bird presented the report from the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. thanks the prayer facilitators and organisers of the November Conference Prayer Evening;
3. notes the Safeguarding Training for Kirk Sessions will take place on Wednesday 10 January at Wellpark Midkirk, Greenock;
4. notes that the position of Presbytery Safeguarding Trainer is still vacant and encourages anyone with the relevant skills and experience to consider applying;
5. notes that application to the Oakshaw Fund from Inchinnan church was successful and that the £500 requested be released to them;
6. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 23 February 2018;

7. reminds Kirk Sessions of the invitation to nominate a youth representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2018 in Edinburgh;
8. notes that tool kits are available for those Kirk Sessions who took up the pledge to be involved in the Year of Young People:

MINISTRY

Rev Ann McCool presented the report from the Ministry committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. reminds Presbytery of the importance of having a written and signed Local Agreement for the services of an Auxiliary Minister or an OLM
3. reminds Presbytery that Auxiliaries and OLM can submit legitimate expenses to the Treasurers of the churches in which they are serving

an additional section 4 was proposed and seconded as follows:

4. notes that the Worship Leader training course in January was now at full capacity and no further names would be taken, but a further course would be arranged for Autumn 2018

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENCIAL RELATIONS

Rev Alan Birss presented the report from the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. continues to commend to the prayers of Presbyters the church in Zimbabwe and the people of that country in this time of political change;
3. notes that Mrs. Anne Considine represented the Presbytery's WM&ER Committee at the recent Autumn Conference of The Church of Scotland and Action of Churches Together in Scotland on the theme 'Capturing the Vision: A vision for the church in 21st Century Scotland.'

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

Rev Stephen Smith presented the report of the Local Church Review committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the reports of the Local Church Reviews at Paisley: Abbey, Paisley: Stow Brae and Paisley St Mark's Oldhall should be available in 2018.

3. notes that it is the committee intention to conduct Local Church Reviews in the congregations of Inchinnan, Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity and Paisley Martyrs Sandyford in the first half of 2018.
4. Notes the dates and times and venues for the annual inspection of records

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday 13th February 2018 at 7.00pm** for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton

Moderator

Clerk