

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

March 11th 2014

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the eleventh day of March 2014, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ken Gray, Moderator, with 36 ministers, 49 elders, 3 deacons and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 9 elders, 1 deacon and 2 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed the Rev'd Iain Reid to his first meeting of Greenock & Paisley Presbytery and looked forward to working with him.

MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting on February 11th and the Induction of Rev Iain Reid to Paisley: Glenburn on February 27th 2014 being in print and in the hands of members were taken as read and approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as April 8th 2014 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

ORDER OF THE DAY AT 7.45PM

The Business Convener read the names of the proposed Commissioners to this year's General Assembly as noted in appendix 1 and Presbytery approved. These names would be transmitted to the Principal Clerk's office.

BUSINESS

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes that a small committee of Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Rev Ritchie Gillon, Rev Alistair Cook and Rev Alan Sorensen has been set up to oversee the arrangements for a Moderatorial visit to the Presbytery in March 2015;

An amendment to section 2 was proposed and seconded as follows:

Notes that an ad hoc committee comprising Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Rev Ritchie Gillon, Rev Alistair Cook and Rev Alan Sorensen, with powers to co-opt as required, has been set up to oversee the arrangements for a Moderatorial visit to the Presbytery in March 2015;

3. Invites congregations to contact the Presbytery office if their church is celebrating a significant event in March 2015 to which the Moderator of the General Assembly might attend;

4. Invites congregations to contact the Presbytery office with other suggestions to include on the itinerary for the Moderatorial visit;
5. Notes that the present Treasurer's term of office comes to an end in summer 2014 and that there is a need to find a replacement;

An addendum was proposed by the Convener which was accepted as follows;

“and invites applications or nominations for the post to be submitted to the Clerk by 29th April 2014”

6. Agrees that Paisley Abbey and Kilbarchan West may hold their Stated Annual Meeting at the beginning of May;

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Mrs Alison McKenzie, Convener, presented the report of the Community Interests Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the formal statement made by the Church and Society Council on Religious Observance in Schools as included at **appendix 3** and is thankful for their clarification concerning this matter;
3. Affirms that the current practice of there being an 'opt out' of religious observance for those who feel unable to participate in such activities is preferable to an 'opt in' policy;
4. Welcomes the reaffirmation that the guidelines for Religious Observance contain a specific recognition that in light of ...'Scotland's Christian heritage, schools are encouraged to use the rich resources of this tradition when planning religious observance';
5. Recognises that in an increasingly multi-cultural and secular society these issues have to be dealt with sensitively and with respect for those members of the school community who have a different faith commitment or no faith commitment;
6. Notes that in this context there may be some value in considering a name change from 'Religious Observance' to 'Time for Reflection' and looks forward to the General Assembly's consideration of this matter;
7. Affirms the important work that school chaplains do and recognises that they are present as part of the school community at the discretion of the Head Teacher;
8. Resolves to find out how many parish Ministers and MDS within the bounds of Presbytery are currently acting as school chaplains and what difficulties and opportunities are inherent to this role;
9. Regrets that the Church and Society Council acted in consort with the Humanist Society in this matter and welcomes the recognition by the Council that this has caused distress within the wider church;
10. Welcomes the fact that the General Assembly of 2014 will have an opportunity to decide on these matters when they consider the full report of the Church and Society Council;
11. Instructs the Presbytery Clerk to send an extract minute of this report to the Convener of the Church and Society Council, the Principal Clerk to the General Assembly and the Convener of the Council of Assembly;
12. Commends the work of the Inverclyde Family Contact Centre to presbyters and notes that they are currently seeking volunteers;

13. Affirms the continuing work of the Star Project;

MINISTRY

Rev Jonathan Fleming presented the report of the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;

An amendment to sections 2 to 4 as in the print was proposed and seconded as follows:

2. notes with concern that parish ministers are aggrieved by the requirement of the Ministries Council that they should pay for their own Protection of Vulnerable Groups clearance and considers this discriminatory when such costs are covered for other groups within the Church;
3. Holds that the Ministries Council's failure to clarify liability for PVG clearance payment for retired ministers serving as locums or interim moderators is confusing and unhelpful;
4. Invites the Ministries Council to reconsider its decision on the budget for PVG clearance, and to clarify the policy in light of its expressed commitment to affirm the parish ministry;
5. Instructs the Presbytery Clerk to send an Extract Minute of this deliverance to the Ministries Council.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Peter Bennett, Convener, presented the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the Report;
2. Notes that the Kirk Session of Paisley Abbey has received the instruction from last month's Presbytery Meeting to report back to the S & F Committee with an implementation plan detailing actions to reduce the 2014 forecasted deficit with timelines and targets. Such report will be submitted following the next Kirk Session Meeting of the Abbey to be in the hands of the Stewardship and Finance Committee by the end of March;
3. Notes with concern the request from Kilmacolm, St. Columba's for exemption from the requirement to remit 2014 Ministry and Mission payments by monthly instalments. The request will be discussed by the Stewardship and Finance Committee at their next scheduled meeting.

PROPERTY

Mr William Mathieson, Convener, presented the report of the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Elderslie congregation to assist with the cost of the new halls project;
3. approves the installation of a new audio-visual system in the Greenock: Westburn sanctuary at a cost of £25,000 plus VAT, following approval by CARTA and the General Trustees' Fabric Committee. Funds are available;
4. approves the provision of a toilet with disabled access at Paisley:Martyr's Sandyford's Montgomery Road building, following formal approval having been confirmed by the General Trustees' Fabric Committee, and authorises the issue of drawings and documentation to potential contractors. Funds are available to finance the expected cost of £10,000

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

Rev Eileen Ross, Convener, presented the report of the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes that a great many resources and training opportunities are available on the theme of the Commonwealth Games and commends these to congregations, asking presbyters to make these widely known among their congregations;
3. Thanks this month's *Time for Mission* speaker, Matt Oliver, from *More than Gold*, and commends the meeting in Paisley on 27th March to presbyters and others interested in mission and outreach;
4. Notes that the annual "Pray Across Scotland" evening will be on Wed 14 May Venue tbc.

ZIMBABWE

Rev Archie Speirs presented the report of the Zimbabwe Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Encourages congregations to consider twinning and hosting our visitors

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday April 8th 2014 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in **The Cornerstone, Bishopton**

Moderator

Clerk