

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

May 13th 2014

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ken Gray, Moderator, with 35 ministers, 46 elders, 4 deacons and 7 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 9 ministers, 10 elders, 2 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting on April 8th 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 June 17th 2014 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with an additional item from the Ministry Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

VISITING SPEAKER

Mrs Marion Dolan, Presbytery Representative for the Church of Scotland Guild, gave an update on the various projects in which they were involved. The Moderator thanked her for her report and wished the Guild well in the coming year.

LEAVE TAKING MISS GRETA GRAY (DCS)

Rev Alistair Cook spoke on behalf of the congregation of Lylesland, where Miss Gray had been serving. The Moderator acknowledged her long and faithful service and wished her well for a long and happy retirement.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Rev Alan Sorensen, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Report and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. notes the decision of the VPC to approve the vacancy schedule and to sustain the call from Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw to the Rev. John Murning, Minister of Denny Old Church, and that their decision having been duly circulated by the Clerk and intimated in a Schedule A was concurred with by members of the Presbytery;
3. notes that the Clerk has been instructed to write to the Presbytery of Falkirk requesting Mr Murning's release from his current charge;
4. further notes that, pending his release from his current charge, the date of Mr. Murning's induction has been set for June 5th at 6.45 p.m. for a Service of Induction at 7.00 p.m. to be held in Sherwood Greenlaw Parish Church and remits to the Moderator and Clerk all arrangements for that service;

5. approves the Vacancy Schedule for Greenock: St. Margaret's, subject to the completion of outstanding works to the manse required by the Presbytery's Property Committee;
6. sustains the call from Greenock: St. Margaret's to Rev. Morris Coull, minister without charge, on the basis of reviewable tenure, appoints his induction to take place on Thursday 26th June 2014, Presbytery to meet at 6.45pm, the service to start at 7.00pm, and remits to the Moderator and Clerk all arrangements for that service;
7. notes the Basis of Reviewable Tenure on which Mr. Coull will be inducted (**appendix 1**), that Mr. Coull has given written agreement to the basis and instructs the Clerk to engross a copy of the basis of tenure in the minutes and forward a copy to the Ministries Council,
8. designates the residence of Mr. Coull at 1 Toward, The Lighthouses, Greenock Road, Wemyss Bay as the manse for the charge of Greenock: St. Margaret's until the current tenants have vacated the present manse and required works there are completed, and notes that Mr. Coull has given written assurance that he intends to occupy the present manse once the required works have been approved by the Presbytery Fabric Committee
9. approves the Basis of Linkage between Greenock: East End Church and Greenock: Mount Kirk (**appendix 2**).

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 the continuing sick leave of Rev Ivan Warwick;
3. homologates the appointment of Rev Maureen Leitch as Interim Moderator at Paisley: St James' from 29th April during the sick leave of Rev Ivan Warwick;
4. instructs congregations to return their forms appointing a representative elder for the coming session to the Presbytery office no later than May 28th 2014;
5. instruct Presbyters to notify the Presbytery office if they require a hard copy of the new Presbytery Handbook for 2014 – 2015 by 31st May 2014;
6. nominates Mr Tom MacDougall as Presbytery representative on Inverclyde's Education Committee to replace Rev Andrew MacLean;
7. notes with joy the decision of the Ministries Council to raise Greenock East End NCD to full status as from the 1st April 2014, and seeks God's blessing on Greenock East End Parish Church in its new life of witness and service.
8. notes that a service recognising the conferring of full status on this charge was held on Sunday 4th May 2014 at which Presbytery was represented;
9. homologates the decision of the Business Committee, taken at its meeting on the 29th April 2014, to appoint Mr Douglas Vallance, Mr Ronal Brown and Mr Ian Murphy as Assessor Elders to Greenock East End Parish Church to assist in the creation of the Kirk Session there;
10. homologates the decision to discharge Mr Douglas Vallance, Mr Ronal Brown and Mr Ian Murphy as Assessor Elders at Greenock East End Parish Church as from the close of the service on Sunday May 4th.
11. commends the newly formed Kirk Session and congregation to presbyters and urges them to offer prayerful support and encouragement at this time of new beginnings;
12. Instructs the Kirk Session of Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney Church to meet with representatives of the Local Church Records Committee at their next regular meeting on 10th June 2014;

13. Further Instructs the Kirk Session there to submit the minutes of the meetings of the Kirk Session and their most recently attested congregational roll to the Presbytery office for inspection by the Local Church Records Committee prior to the aforesaid meeting taking place;
14. agrees to increase the annual honoraria for Safeguarding Trainers to £600 and the honoraria for the Presbytery Treasurer to £1000 annually;
15. thanks and discharges Rev Morris Coull as Interim Moderator at Greenock Lyle Kirk and appoints Rev Alan Sorensen from 1st July 2014 during the vacancy there

MINISTRY

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. notes the receipt of a study leave request from Rev. Ann McCool (Johnstone: High);
3. welcomes the decision of Ministries Council to cover the costs of PVG clearance for Parish Ministers following correspondence from a number of Presbyteries including ours;

An additional section 4 was proposed and seconded

4. notes the appointment of Sandra Maxwell as locum/pulpit supply at Barrhead: Bourrock from 3rd May 2014 to complement the pastoral work carried out by Geoff Orry

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the Report;
2. Agrees the existing Plan as it affects Paisley: St Luke's and St Columba Foxbar but with the inclusion of the interim step of deferred linkage with unrestricted tenure.

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 the proposals for the distribution of the balance of the 3% discretionary allowance available from the 2014 Ministries and Mission contributions in the sum of £42,674 as reported below and detailed in **appendix 3**;
3. encourages Presbyters to discuss the proposal within their congregations and to apply for assistance if they have any qualifying projects;
4. approves the implementation of the proposed scheme;

5. notes that the attestation process for 2013 Annual Accounts is in process as reported below.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. a) approves in principle at Bridge of Weir: St. Machar's Ranfurly church the replacement of the 30 – year old central heating boilers and the installation of a zoned and programmable heating control system at a total cost of £33,000 inclusive of VAT and professional fees;

b) notes that the Property Committee has approved in principle a grant of £3,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Bridge of Weir: St. Machar's Ranfurly congregation to assist with the cost of the proposed heating system installation;

c) approves an application from the Bridge of Weir: St. Machar's Ranfurly congregation to the General Trustees for around £3,000 grant assistance to meet the cost of professional fees incurred in the preparation and oversight of the new heating project;
3. approves the completion of glazing and additional repair works to side and front sanctuary windows at Elderslie at a cost of £3,726 including VAT. Funds are available;
4. formally approves the Houston & Killellan congregation's new halls extension project, following the receipt of updated tenders, on the basis that the total cost will not exceed £620,000;
5. a) approves in principle the re-roofing of the hall attached to the Bishopton church building at an estimated cost of £22,000 plus VAT;

b) approves in principle repointing and repairs to the tower stonework at the Bishopton church building at an estimated cost of £10,000 plus VAT;

The cost of both items will be met from a combination of local funds and grant assistance.

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 the dates for Safeguarding training;

Sunday 11th May 2pm -4pm Volunteers' training at Barrhead St Andrews

Wednesday 21st May 7.15pm to 9pm Kirk Session Training at Port Glasgow St Martin's

Notes the date of the annual Co-ordinators' conference at Lylesland 17th May
- 3 Notes the annual "Pray Across Scotland" evening in Lyle Kirk's Union Street building, on Wed 14 May at 7.30pm and encourages presbyters to support it and to invite others to attend;

- 4 Reminds young adults aged 17-25 of the National Youth Assembly, at Gartmore House from 15th -17th August; encourages congregations, where appropriate, to assist with fees; and invites applications from young people to be considered for one of the two places sponsored by Presbytery;
- 5 Gives thanks to God for The Wynd Centre and sends congratulations to all involved on the occasion of the Centre's 30th Anniversary, assures the Wynd Centre of Presbytery's prayerful support.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Thursday 5th June 2014 at 6.45pm for the Induction of Rev John Murning to Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw Church then on Tuesday June 17th 2014 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in **The Cornerstone, Bishopton**

Moderator

Clerk