

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

June 17th 2014

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ken Gray, Moderator, with 39 ministers, 43 elders, 3 deacons and 10 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 8 ministers, 13 elders, 2 deacons and 1 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting on May 13th and induction of June 5th 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 September 9th 2014 in Bridge of Weir: Freeland.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

VISITING SPEAKER

Right Reverend John Keenan, Bishop of Paisley addressed the meeting.

REPORT OF DILIGENCE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of all Presbytery's Commissioners to the 2014 General Assembly, the Clerk reported diligence.

REPORT FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Clerk gave a brief report of the main highlights at the General Assembly this year.

REPORT FROM YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, KAY SLATER

Miss Slater gave a very full account of her experience at the General Assembly this year. She thanked Presbytery for the opportunity to attend and hoped to encourage other young people to follow in her footsteps.

GREETINGS TO MINISTERS OUTWITH THE BOUNDS

The Moderator extended greetings to Mrs Easton, Mrs MacLaine and Messrs Chestnut, Christie, Hamilton, MacColl, Page and Stewart and instructed the Clerk to write to them in suitable terms.

ELDERS RETIRING FROM PRESBYTERY

The Moderator thanked the Elders who were retiring from Presbytery, Mr Clarke, Mrs Gillan, Mrs McLeod and Mrs Shanks and wished them well as they continued to serve within their own congregations.

VACANCY/.....

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 that the vote on the Basis of Linking of Greenock: Mount Kirk with Greenock: East End Parish took place on 8th June 2014 and that there voted in favour of the linking 67 with none against in the Mount Kirk, and 23 for with none against in the East End; notes that Mr. Murphy who holds tenure of The Mount Kirk on the basis of Reviewable Tenure was elected to be minister of the linked charge with 67 people voting for with none against in the Mount Kirk, and 23 voting for with none against in the East End;
3. Resolves to change the basis of tenure of Rev. Francis Murphy from reviewable to unrestricted tenure as from the date of the linking;
4. Appoints that the Service of Linking will take place on Wednesday 18th June at 7pm, the Presbytery to meet at 6.45pm, in the Mount Kirk at which Mr. Murphy will be introduced to the congregations, and remits to the Moderator and Clerk all arrangements for that service;
5. grants Gourrock: Old and Ashton an extension of permission to call for a further 6 months from this date in terms of Act VIII 2003, para 26;
6. grants Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch extension of permission to call for a further 6 months from this date in terms of Act VIII 2003, para 26;

BUSINESS

In the absence of Rev Ritchie Gillon, Convener, the Vice Convener, Rev Alistair Shaw 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. welcomes the Very Rev Lorna Hood back to Renfrew: North following her year as Moderator and further notes that she will be off on sick leave from 23rd June until the end of August 2014;
4. appoints Very Rev John Christie as Interim Moderator at Renfrew: North from 23rd June during Mrs Hood's sick leave and notes he will also serve as locum during that period;
5. Grants a practising certificate to Rev Bill Armstrong, Rev Ian Bell, Rev John Campbell, Very Rev John Christie, Rev Morris Coull, Rev Lilly Easton, Rev Ian Fraser, Rev Douglas Hamilton, Rev David Kay, Rev Maureen Leitch, Rev Bernard Lodge, Rev David McCarthy, Rev Bill McKaig, Rev Marilyn MacLaine, Rev Christine Murdoch, Rev David Stewart, Rev Margaret Whyte, and Rev David Young in accordance with Act II 2000 and notes they will retain their seat in Presbytery;
6. Approves the Roll of Presbytery as contained in **appendix 1**;
7. Notes the Presbytery committee membership for the coming year as contained in **appendix 2**;
8. Notes the newly designated priority areas within Greenock and Paisley are Greenock East End, Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk, Johnstone St Paul's, Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie, Paisley St James' and Port Glasgow St Martin's;
9. Agrees to the request of Rev Andrew MacLean that he be given leave demit his charge and retire as minister of Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's from 1st February 2015;

10. Instructs the Vacancy Procedure Committee to meet with local parties at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrews in light of the impending vacancy there;
11. Appoints Rev Ken Forrest as Interim Moderator at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrews for all matters relating to the impending vacancy when Mr McLean's interests there will have ceased;
12. Notes that Rev Alistair Cook has agreed to continue as Presbytery Treasurer on a yearly basis and thanks him for his willingness to do so;
13. Agrees to increase the current honoraria paid to the Presbytery Chaplains from £100 per month to £110 per month from 1st July 2014;
14. Notes that the architect's report on the buildings at Kilbarchan East and West has been completed and negotiations continue to decide on their future use, and further notes that the proposed union of these congregations will not be finalised until the buildings issue has been resolved;
15. Appoints Rev Ken Gray as Interim Moderator at Kilbarchan East for all matters relating to discussions regarding the future use of church buildings;
16. Appoints Rev Iain Reid as Interim Moderator at Paisley St Luke's from 17th June 2014 to represent the interests of the congregation with regard to the deferred linking with Paisley: St Columba Foxbar;
17. Continues the appointment of Assessor Elders, Mr Tom Macdougall, Mr William Mathieson and Ms Carolyn Lockhart at Paisley: Abbey for a further period of one year
18. Notes that Rev John Murning will exchange pulpits with Rev Henry Kim of Downers Grove Presbyterian Church, Chicago from 14th July to 26th August 2014

TREASURER

Rev Alistair Cook presented a report and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees to transfer £2,700 from the Bequest Fund to the Miss Lang Bequest Fund, and £800 from the Bequest Fund to the Eventide Homes Fund to enable the normal annual grants to Christian social projects and Adam's House to be made by 30 June 2014

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. Attests that the 2013 accounts of the congregations listed in **appendix 3** fulfil the General Assembly's Regulations anent Congregational Finance and the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations;
3. Instructs the Clerk to contact the treasurers of the congregations advising them of the attestation of their accounts and informing them that they may now send their accounts to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator;
4. Instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of (3) above in the designated manner and no later than the due date of 30 June 2014.

5. Notes that a letter has been received by the Stewardship and Finance Committee from Port Glasgow St. Martin's advising of the possibility of them having difficulty in settling 2014 Ministry and Mission Contributions in full.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
 2. accepts the tender of £21,535 plus VAT from wylie shanks, architects, for the 2014 quinquennial inspections to be carried out at Neilston, Barrhead: St. Andrew's & Bourrock, Paisley: Glenburn & Sherwood Greenlaw, Johnstone: High, St. Andrew's Trinity & St. Paul's, Linwood, Kilmacollm: Old & St. Columba's, and Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainey, St. Andrew's & St. Martin's;
 3. notes that the Elderslie congregation is now in a position to go ahead with the new halls extension project, having satisfied the General Trustees Fabric Committee as to the viability of their business plan, and approves the formal appointment of R & R, Glasgow to proceed with the demolition of the existing attached halls and erection of the new single storey extension at a total revised cost of £701,054. Funds are available from various sources;
 4. a) approves the replacement of the timber flooring at Greenock Lyle Kirk's Union St. building at a cost of £4,800;
b) notes that the proposed internal lighting upgrade at Greenock Lyle Kirk's Newark St. building at a cost of circa £6,000 has been approved by CARTA, subject to more than one quotation having been received;
 5. approves the removal of one pew at either side of the pulpit in the Inverkip church in order to create a more practical and usable space on the chancel area;
 6. approves the proposed upgrade to the heating system at Johnstone: St. Andrew's Trinity at a total cost of £15,842;
 7. approves various stonework repairs at Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity at a total negotiated cost of Under £40,000, subject to the approval of the General Trustees Fabric Committee. Funds are available;
 8. notes **appendix 4** to this report relating to applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund re the Grants for Places of Worship in Scotland Scheme;
 9. approves an application from the Erskine congregation to the General Trustees for financial assistance by means of a grant to fund a feasibility study of the various roof levels at the church and halls in order to identify the most suitable approach to the required reroofing and/or repairs necessary to maintain the buildings in a wind and watertight condition;
 10. empowers the Convener to authorise essential work over the summer months, subject to later reporting to Presbytery for backdated approval;
- An additional section 11 was proposed and seconded as follows:*
11. a) approves in principle the replacement of the 140-year old organ in the Bishopton church with a more recent and superior instrument at a net cost of £11,000, which is inclusive of removal cost from its existing location, overhaul and installation. The cost will be met from the congregation's general fabric fund and from grant funding;

b) approves in principle the replacement of the outdated and inefficient heating system in the Bishopton church with a biomass heating system as recommended by the Church of Scotland's heating consultant, at an anticipated cost of just under £79,000. It is the intention to fund the heating replacement project from a combination of grant income and loan finance.

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. Approves sponsorship of Mr Shahrukh Gill (Paisley:Wallneuk North) and Miss Karrie Herbison-Reilly (Paisley:St Ninian's).to attend the National Youth Assembly at Gartmore House from 15-18 August 2014 and commends them, and the NYA, to the prayers of Presbytery;
3. Notes that the Committee's Autumn Conference will be on Sunday 21st September, 1400 to 1600 hours at The Cornerstone, Bishopton and encourages presbyters to publicise it in their congregations;
4. Notes the clarification given by the Law Department on Safeguarding for Elders, that Elders are considered to remain Trustees of the congregation until they resign;
5. Notes that from September 2014 there will be an application form (draft form attached at **appendix 5**), which will be available from the Presbytery Office for requests for grants from the following funds:
 - a. Smith Lefevre Fund
 - b. Oakshaw East Fund
 - c. Port Glasgow Newark Mission Fund
6. Approves the following grants from the Oakshaw East Fund:
 - a. Neilston Parish Church - £150 for Summer Club
 - b. Gleniffer High School Chaplaincy - £250 for Hot Chocolate Café and "Open Door" events
 - c. Erskine Parish Church - £250 for Summer Bible Club

COMMUNITY INTEREST

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the allocation of the following grants:
 - a. £800 to Adams House Church of Scotland Care Home, Elderslie;
 - b. From the Bequest Fund – £1000 Inverclyde Family Contact Centre, £550 Counselling Service The Wynd Centre, £550 STAR Project and £600 to Talk it Over;
3. encourages congregations to "Pray for our Projects" and support our projects in whatever way they can;

MINISTRY/....

MINISTRY

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the appointment of Rev Eileen Manson as locum at Greenock Lyle Kirk from 1st July 2014 during the vacancy there to work alongside the Ordained Local Minister already in post;
3. Invites all readers, OLMs and candidates in training to an informal gathering at Erskine Parish Church on Sunday 29th June at 2:30pm.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Rev Alan Birss, Convener, presented the report of the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. commends the report of the national ecumenical audit to all Presbyters and Kirk Sessions within the bounds;
3. commends and gives thanks for the varied ecumenical activities taking place within the bounds of Presbytery;
4. encourages all parishes to consider, where feasible, joint bible studies, mission and outreach projects with churches of other denominations in their neighbourhood

ZIMBABWE

In the absence of Rev Archie Speirs, Convener, Rev Stuart Stevenson, Vice Convener, presented the report of the Zimbabwe Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees to the proposed visit to the October Presbytery meeting;
3. Encourages congregations to host our visitors as this is so important to the success of the visit.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Wednesday 18th June 2014 at 7.00pm for the linking of Greenock East End and Greenock Mount Kirk, in Mount Kirk Church then on Thursday June 26th 2014 at 7.00pm for the induction of Morris Coull at Greenock: St Margaret's church and then for ordinary business on Tuesday 9th September in Bridge of Weir: Freeland Church.

Moderator

Clerk