

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

September 9th 2014

At Bridge of Weir and within Freeland church there, the ninth day of September 2014, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ken Gray, Moderator, with 36 ministers, 46 elders, 2 deacons and 10 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 10 elders, 3 deacons and 1 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on June 17th, the service of linking of Greenock East End and Greenock Mount Kirk on June 18th and the induction of Rev Morris Coull to Greenock St Margaret's on June 26th 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 October 14th 2014 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additional items from the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the Property Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR

The Business Convener, Rev Alistair Shaw, thanked the retiring Moderator, Rev Ken Gray, for his service to Presbytery over his year in office and presented him with a gift from the court. Mr Gray replied in suitable terms.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR

Rev Ken Gray, having completed his period of office as Moderator proposed the Rev Ritchie Gillon, Minister of Paisley: St Luke's, nominated at the meeting of the Presbytery on 11th February last, as the next Moderator of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery approved and resolved accordingly.

Mr Gray offered Mr Gillon congratulations and good wishes and led the Presbytery in prayer.

Mr Gillon took the chair and expressed his thanks to the Presbytery for the privilege entrusted to him.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

The Moderator welcomed new elders, Mr Bowie, Mr Breingan, Mr Reid, Ms Clark, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Thom and encouraged them to participate fully in the work of the court.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Parties from Paisley St James had been cited to appear in their interest but raised no objection to section 4 of the deliverance.

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Sustains the call from Gourock: Old Gourock and Ashton to Rev David Burt, minister in the Presbytery of Hamilton, subject to that said Presbytery agreeing to his release from his current charge;
3. Instructs the Clerk to write to the Presbytery of Hamilton seeking the release of Mr Burt from his current charge, and remits the arrangements for his induction to the Moderator and Clerk, noting it is likely to be Thursday 27th November;
4. Notes receipt of a request from the Rev Ivan Warwick, minister at Paisley: St James, seeking leave to demit his charge with effect from 31st October 2014 and grants him permission so to do;
5. Appoints Rev David Young as Interim Moderator at Paisley: St James from 1st November 2014;

An additional section 6 was proposed by the Convener as follows:

6. Sustains the call from Barrhead: Bourock to the Rev Pamela Gordon, minister in the Presbyterian Church of USA, and sets the date for her induction as Thursday 9th October at 7.p.m. in Barrhead: Bourock Church and remits the arrangements for the induction to the Moderator and Clerk;

Presbytery approved.

LEAVE TAKING REV IVAN WARWICK

Mrs Lesley Laing spoke on behalf of the congregation ahead of Mr Warwick's demission and Mr Warwick replied in suitable terms. The Moderator wished him well for the future.

BUSINESS

Rev Alistair Shaw, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the phased return to work of Very Rev Lorna Hood following her recent illness, and notes the appointment of Rev Maureen Leitch as part-time locum at Renfrew: North from 2nd September 2014 to assist with pastoral responsibilities until Mrs Hood returns to full duties;
3. Homologates the appointment of Rev Dr Peter McEnhill and Mrs Moira Hellyer to the Presbytery Panel for a period of three years;
4. Notes the resignation of Miss Lynn Ross and Mr Alan Campbell as additional elders and thanks them for their service to Presbytery in recent years;
5. Notes the transfer of Very Rev John Christie to the Presbytery of Dumbarton;
6. Agrees the General Assembly instructions be remitted to the committees noted in **appendix 1**;
7. Appoints Rev Anne McCool as Interim Moderator at Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch from 30th August to replace Rev Ritchie Gillon;
8. Approves the transfer of Rev Alex Whiteford from the Presbytery of Inverness and admits him to membership of this Presbytery;

ZIMBABWE

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

The congregations of Port Glasgow St Martin's, Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney, Paisley St James', Paisley Wallneuk North and Paisley St Ninian's had been cited in their interest.

Questions and comments were invited then parties were removed and Rev Ken Gray, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

1. Receives the Report;
2. instructs the PPRC Committee to begin the process of applying to the Ministries Council for Interim/Transitional Ministry for the congregations of Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney and Port Glasgow: St Martin's to build capacity in those congregations in advance of their proposed union by 2016 as set out in the Presbytery Plan;
3. suspends the Plan for Paisley North End and instructs the PPRC to consult further with local parties with a view to bringing forward a revision of the plan for that area;

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 2** 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 September 2014.
5. Notes that a report has been received by the Stewardship and Finance Committee from the General Treasurer's Department of the Church of Scotland with regard to congregations who have not setup up Bankers Standing Orders for settlement of Ministry and Mission Contribution.
6. Notes that Paisley Abbey has now settled their aged Ministry and Mission debt in full and is up to date with their 2014 monthly payments. Notes that good progress is being made with the implementation of the 2014 fundraising and cost reduction plan and advises Presbytery that Stewardship and Finance representation will continue for the foreseeable future.
7. Notes that three applications for assistance from the Mission Fund have been received and proposals following review of these will be submitted to the October meeting of Presbytery.

8. Notes the date of 19th September 2014 by which congregations should make applications for an allocation from the balance of the discretionary allowance for 2014.
9. Notes that congregations who are unlikely to meet their Mission and Ministries Allocation for 2014 in full should report the likely shortfall to the S&F Committee by the 19th September 2014.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. homologates the following actions by the Convener of the Property Committee under powers granted at the meeting on 17th June 2014:
 - a) Paisley Glenburn – approved the removal of a section of pews in the church to provide a meeting area for fellowship, following confirmation of both CARTA's and the General Trustees Fabric Committee's approval;
 - b) Gourrock St. John's – approved, at an estimated cost of £40,000, urgent repairs for safety reasons to the Tracery Window above the front door of the church and to loose masonry at the top of the tower. Funds were available;
3. approves in principle the completion of substantial structural repairs at Gourrock St. John's, particularly to the masonry and steelwork in the church tower, subject to the confirmed approval of the General Trustees Fabric Committee and the availability of funds;
4. notes that the Paisley Abbey congregation is investigating the practicalities and financial viability of installing solar panels to a section of the church roof which is not visible from ground level;
5. approves an application from Paisley: Martyr's Sandyford for the release of funds held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund Capital Account to meet the £3,600 cost of works to the exterior walls of the church;
6. approves a proposal from Howwood to remove half of one pew to accommodate two wheelchair users, subject to the approval of CARTA;
7. a) approves in principle the installation of a replacement heating system in an area of Kilmacolm Old church, to replace the existing corroded and irreparable cast iron pipes, at an estimated cost of £12,000 plus VAT. The proposal involves the removal of two pews and minor redecoration, requiring the approval of CARTA; and
 - b) approves repair and resurfacing of the Kilmacolm Old manse driveway at a cost of £5,770 plus VAT.
Funds are available for both items.

Additional sections 8 – 12 were proposed and seconded as follows:

8. notes that the Barrhead: Bourock manse has been inspected and found ready for occupation;
9. notes that Greenock: St. Margaret's manse has been inspected and found ready for occupation;
10. rescinds the prior designation of the Rev'd Coull's own house as the temporary manse for Greenock St Margaret's and withdraws the permission previously given for him to reside there as Minister of Greenock : St Margaret's;

11. further notes that Mr Coull has now taken up residence in the Greenock St Margaret's Manse at 105 Finnart St, Greenock ;

12. notes that Gourock: Old Gourock & Ashton manse has still to be redecorated and this is being done with in consultation with the Minister elect in good time for his induction in November;

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 Safeguarding Training will be available for volunteers and panel members, and instructs Kirk Sessions to ensure that all who have not been trained are notified of the training dates and strongly encourage to attend;
3. Notes that information supplied recently by the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Office, on the roles and responsibilities of Kirk Sessions, is being replaced by an updated version and instructs Kirk Sessions to ensure that the old version is removed from circulation and that all elders have the new version;
4. Notes that the Annual Conference for Session Clerks and Elders will be held at Tulliallan in October and encourages Elders with a particular interest in discipleship and learning to attend;
5. Notes that the Church of Scotland's new Eldership resource will be launched at the October conference for Session Clerks and Elders;
6. Notes that Rutherford House is to bring out an Elder Training DVD and accompanying handbook, in early 2015;
7. Notes the Committee's Autumn Conference on Sunday 21 September 2014, 2-4pm at the Cornerstone is for Sunday School Teachers and others and asks presbyters to make the event widely known, encouraging individuals and groups to attend;
8. Commends to Kirk Sessions and congregations the course *msm (mission shaped ministry)* which will run from October 2014 until May 2015.
<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/msm/glasgow14>

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 with delight that Mr William Boyle has been accepted as a Candidate in Training for Full Time Ministry;
3. notes the resignation of Rev Pam Noonan from her OLM placement at Greenock: Lyle Kirk effective from Monday 29th September 2014, and thanks her for the time she has served

there;

4. notes the Study Leave request made by Rev. Robert Craig of Paisley: Stow Brae Kirk.

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW AND INSPECTION OF RECORDS

The congregation of Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey had been cited to appear in their interest and given the opportunity to ask questions or comment on the report.

Parties were then removed and Rev Alan Sorensen, Convener, presented the report of the Local Church Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Instructs the congregation of Hamilton Bardrainey to formally attest their communion roll using the procedure as laid down in Act 6 2000 Communion Rolls (Consolidating Act), with particular reference to the process as laid out in sections 8, 9 and 10 of that Act;
3. Instructs that this process be overseen and facilitated by representatives from the Local Church Review and Inspection of Records Committee, and the resultant figure to be reported to the first Presbytery meeting thereafter and appended in the minutes of the Kirk Session;
4. Instructs that Hamilton Bardrainey Church receive a Local Church Review visitation as soon as possible, and certainly within the year 2014/15, in accordance with the procedures as laid down in Act 2011 Local Church Review;
5. Notes that the Presbytery Plan review Committee intends to apply for Interim/ Transitional ministry support for this congregation.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for the induction of Rev Pamela Gordon to Barrhead: Bourock on Thursday 9th October and then for ordinary business on Tuesday 14th October 2014 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton

Moderator

Clerk