

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

October 14th 2014

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 28 ministers, 47 elders, 3 deacons and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 16 ministers, 8 elders, 2 deacons and 2 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting on September 9th and induction of October 9th being in print and in the hands of members were taken as read and approved with one minor amendment welcoming Mr Bowie as a member of Presbytery on September 9th.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as November 11th 2014 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices including the fire safety notice.

WELCOME TO REV PAMELA GORDON

The Moderator welcomed Ms Gordon, recently inducted to Barrhead Bourock Church and looked forward to working with her in the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley.

TRIBUTE TO LATE STEWART KERR

The Clerk led a tribute to the late Stewart Kerr, representative elder from Paisley: Lylesland Church. The tribute is held on file in the Presbytery office.

VISITING SPEAKER

Rev Archie Speirs introduced the visitors from Zimbabwe and the Moderator invited Rev Matorofa Mutonganavo, Moderator of the Presbytery of Zimbabwe, to address Presbytery. He brought formal greetings from the Presbytery of Zimbabwe and commented on the fact that the covenant between the two Presbyteries was now in its eighth year and solid relations had been forged in that time, including three twinning arrangements. It was unclear at the moment how the covenant could move forward with the uncertainty about the possible split within the Presbytery of Zimbabwe, but it was hoped that a final decision on that matter would be made early in 2015.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The congregation of Bishopton had been cited to appear in their interest

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes receipt of a request from the Vacancy Procedure Committee of the Presbytery of Glasgow that the Rev'd Daniel Manastireanu be released from his charge of Bishopton Parish/.....

Parish Church in order to accept a call to the congregation of Glasgow: St Paul's;

3. Further notes that Mr Manastireanu is a Minister in his first charge and therefore subject to the rule stipulating that he should remain in his first charge for a minimum period of five years;
4. Considers that in this instance there are 'exceptional circumstances' in terms of ACT VIII 2003 that justify releasing Mr Manastireanu from his charge;
5. Agrees therefore to the translation of the Rev'd Daniel Manastireanu to Glasgow: St Paul's on the date of his proposed induction on October 27th 2014, and confirms that he remains Minister of Bishopton Parish Church until the date of his induction to Glasgow: St Paul's;
6. Appoints the Rev'd Donald Campbell as Interim Moderator of Bishopton Parish Church as from the 28th. October 2014.

LEAVE TAKING DANIEL MANASTIREANU

Mr David Pollock spoke on behalf of Bishopton Church ahead of Mr Manastireanu's translation to Glasgow St Paul's church. Mr Manastireanu replied in suitable terms and the Moderator wished him well in his new charge.

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
The convener withdrew section 2 as in the print as Mr Ramsden was not present and subsequent sections were renumbered as follows:
2. Approves the appointment of Mrs Anne Considine as representative elder for Neilston Parish Church and instructs the Clerk to add her name to the roll of Presbytery.
The Moderator welcomed Mrs Considine to the Presbytery;
3. Notes the transfer of Christopher Rankine, ministry student, to the Presbytery of Glasgow;
4. Approves the request from Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch to hold a joint service in Howwood Church on Sunday 23rd November 2014 at 11.00am;
5. Notes that the congregation of Johnstone High will worship in their hall on Sunday 26th October whilst the sanctuary is painted;
6. Encourages ministers and elders to consider nominations for the General Assembly's various councils and committees;
7. Notes the resignation of Ian Clapperton as an additional elder and thanks him for his service to Presbytery, in particular his work in winding up the affairs of the former Renfrew Old Church

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/.....

1. Receives the report;
2. Commends to congregations the 2014 stamp appeal, the *Needing a Neighbour* project and the Prayer for Peace in the Middle East initiative

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the Report
2. Agrees that the balance of the 3% discretionary allowance available for the 2014 Ministries and Mission contributions be used to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions of congregations as detailed in **Appendix 1**;
3. If the deliverance is accepted (a) instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship and Finance Department by Friday 31st October 2014 and (b) instructs the Convener to inform the congregational treasurers;
4. Notes the proposed Ministries and Mission contributions for 2015 as detailed in **Appendix 2**;
5. Notes the date of 24th October 2014 by which congregations should make representations regarding the proposed 2015 contributions to the Convener;
6. Notes that the following information has been sent to congregational treasurers :
 - Proposed contributions for 2015 with average income for the relevant years as detailed in Appendix 2
 - Copy of scale table for 2015 used by "121" to determine initial proposed contributions.
 - Letter from Presbytery's Stewardship and Finance Committee outlining how the proposed contributions in (a) above have been adjusted so far.
7. Notes that application forms for Mission Support Fund for 2015 have been circulated to Congregational Treasurers and Session Clerks.

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 2014 quinquennial inspections for Neilston, Barrhead: St. Andrew's & Bourock, Paisley: Glenburn & Sherwood Greenlaw, Johnstone: High, St. Andrew's Trinity & St. Paul's, Linwood, Kilmacolm: Old & St. Columba's, and Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney, St. Andrew's & St. Martin's have all been timeously completed by Wylie Shanks, architects;
3. approves the removal of various sections of pews in the Neilston church building to form a meeting area and spaces for wheelchair and disabled access, subject to the approval of CARTA;
4. approves/.....

4. approves in principle the reroofing of the Erskine church and halls at an estimated cost of £110,000 - £130,000, subject to funding being available;
5. approves the sale by Greenock: Lyle Kirk of the former Finnart St. Paul's manse at 105 Newark Street, Greenock;
6. instructs congregations to ensure that they comply with the requirement to have a fire risk assessment in force for their churches and halls.

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. Commends the Report of the Theological Forum for study throughout the Church;
3. Notes dates for Safeguarding training have been arranged and instructs presbyters to encourage eligible people to attend.

22 nd October	Greenock: Westburn	Panel
26 th October	Paisley: St Ninian's	Kirk Sessions
15 th November	Neilston	Volunteers
4. Instructs Kirk Sessions and Safeguarding Panels to use the safeguarding self-assessment checklist to review and evaluate their safeguarding arrangements;
5. Notes the meetings of prayer promoters taking place in Greenock and ask presbyters to let interested people know of the opportunity to join each month;
6. Notes that sets of Table Talk are available for groups to borrow;
7. Notes with thanksgiving the effect in Martyrs Sandyford Parish Church of the *trypraying* initiative; and commends the initiative to Kirk Sessions.

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. Commends the work of the House to Home project which is a partnership between the Presbytery, Unity Enterprise, Renfrewshire Council and Scottish Churches Housing Action

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 11th November 2014 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton and then on Thursday 27th November for a service of induction at Gourrock: Old Gourrock & Ashton Church

Moderator

Clerk