

## **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

*February 10<sup>th</sup> 2015*

**At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the tenth day of February 2015, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.**

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 41 ministers, 52 elders, 1 deacon and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from 8 ministers, 10 elders, 2 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup> being in print and in the hands of members were taken as read and approved with a minor amendment to the date for payment of Presbytery dues.

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

The next meeting was approved as March 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

### **NOTICES**

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

### **VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

*Parties from Inchinnan had been cited in their interest.*

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes receipt of a request from Rev'd Alison McBrier to be released from her charge of Inchinnan Parish Church in order to accept a Ministries Council post in Kilmarnock;
3. Further notes that Ms McBrier is a Minister in her first charge and therefore subject to the rule stipulating that she should remain in her 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 Ms McBrier from her charge;
5. Agrees therefore to release Ms McBrier to take up this post on March 1st 2015, and confirms that she remains Minister of Inchinnan Parish Church until that date;
6. Appoints the Very Rev'd Dr Lorna Hood as Interim Moderator of Inchinnan Parish Church as from the 1st March 2015.

### **LEAVE TAKING REV ALISON MCBRIER**

Mr Jim Breingan spoke on behalf of Inchinnan congregation and Ms McBrier replied in suitable terms. The Moderator wished her well in her new post in Kilmarnock.

**BUSINESS**

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Appoints an Order of the Day at 7.45pm at the March meeting for the election of Commissioners to the forthcoming General Assembly;
3. Nominates Rev Dr Ken Forrest as the next Moderator for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley from September 2015;
4. Appoints Rev Jonathan Fleming as Vocational Champion for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley, and thanks him for volunteering for this position;
5. Notes the provisional arrangements for the visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly as contained in **appendix 1**;
6. Notes the results of the Overture on Ordination of ministers in same sex civil partnerships as 32 Presbyteries in favour of the Overture with 13 against;
7. Congratulates Mr Kenneth Rankin on completing the necessary work to become a Reader in the Church of Scotland and remits the arrangements for his service of setting apart to the Moderator and Clerk;
8. Grants a practising certificate to Rev Ivan Warwick;
9. Appoints Rev Robin Allison as the Presbytery representative at the NCD review of Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie which is due to take place in March;
10. Notes the sick leave of Rev Archie Speirs until March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015;

**TREASURER**

Rev Alistair Cook, Treasurer, presented the following report which was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the accounts;
2. Approves the accounts of the Presbytery for the year ended 30 June 2014.

**ZIMBABWE**

In the absence of Rev Archie Speirs, Convener, Mr Tom MacDougall presented the report of the Zimbabwe Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees to the survey at appendix 3 being undertaken and awaits the results and recommendations which will be reported to the June meeting;

*An amendment to the survey document was proposed and seconded in addition to an amendment to the deliverance, both of which Mr MacDougall accepted. The deliverance now reads as follows:*

2. Agrees to the survey at appendix 3 (as amended) being undertaken, instructs all members of Presbytery to bring the survey to the attention of their Kirk Session and Congregation and awaits the results and recommendations which will be reported to the June meeting;

Presbytery agreed

**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 with pleasure that several young people were interested in applying to go to the General Assembly 2015 as Presbytery Youth Representative, and asks for prayer as the Committee considers the two applications submitted;
3. Notes the information of funding for mission purposes and commends it to be passed on to groups considering mission projects in 2015;
4. Notes the information about courses and conferences and encourages presbyters, Kirk Sessions and members of congregations to make these opportunities widely known;
5. Notes the dates for Safeguarding Training and asks presbyters to encourage those eligible to attend

**COMMUNITY INTERESTS**

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

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the important role of Foodbanks;
3. Commends and congratulates congregations and individuals that are involved in responding to need and encourages all congregations to consider if they can support local community food projects.

**PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW**

Rev Ken Gray presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the intention of the PPRC to review the plan as described in the report.

**PROPERTY**

In the absence of Mr William Mathieson, Convener, Mr Robert Nicol presented the report of the Property Committee, apart from section 7 in which he declared an interest. The Clerk moved that section of the deliverance and the following was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the annual Presbytery Diligence Return re the Care of Ecclesiastical Properties has been completed and returned to the General Trustees;
3. instructs the congregations of Johnstone: High, St. Andrew's Trinity and St. Paul's, Linwood, Neilston, Barrhead: Bourrock and St. Andrew's, Paisley: Glenburn and Sherwood Greenlaw, Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney, St. Andrew's and St. Martin's, Kilmacolm: Old and St. Columba to arrange to carry out work identified as "Urgent" in the 2014 quinquennial inspections within the

year and to report on progress in advance of the December 2015 meeting of Presbytery; and further instructs the foregoing congregations to arrange to carry out work identified as “Essential” in the same inspections within the next five years, and to undertake as much of the work identified as “Desirable” as possible;

4. a) approves the replacement of the outdated and inefficient heating system in the Bishopton church with a biomass heating system at a cost of £92,364 plus VAT;

*An addendum was proposed and seconded so that section a) now reads:*

4a) approves the replacement of the outdated and inefficient heating system in the Bishopton church with a biomass heating system at a cost of £92,364 plus VAT, subject to funds being available when needed;

b) approves the Bishopton congregation’s acceptance of a loan offer from Resource Efficient Scotland (RES) to fund the full cost of the biomass heating installation;

c) approves the Bishopton congregation’s application to the General Trustees for a bridging loan for the cost of the new heating system, until the loan from RES is received upon completion of the installation;

5. a) approves retrospectively Paisley: Wallneuk North’s acceptance of a loan of £20,000 from the Energy Savings Trust to partly fund the cost of installation of the new heating system previously approved by Presbytery on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2013;

b) notes that the Property Committee has approved a retrospective grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley: Wallneuk North congregation to assist with the cost of their new heating system;

6. approves in principle the purchase by Port Glasgow: St. Andrew’s of a new-build seven apartment manse within the parish bounds, which will be funded by a combination of the part exchange value of the existing manse and funding held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund, all subject to the agreement of the General Trustees and subsequent final approval by Presbytery of the particular house concerned;

7. approves in principle a major renovation project at the Paisley: Stow Brae church building at an estimated cost of £270,000, comprising stonework restoration, roof repairs, replacement of rainwater goods and redecoration of the sanctuary. Funding will be provided from a combination of grant funding and funds held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;

8. a) approves various structural containment works to the rafters and timber props within the roof space above the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity sanctuary at an estimated cost of around £30,000, to be carried out as soon as possible;

b) recommends the appointment of an independent structural engineer, in consultation with the General Trustees, to oversee the roof space work on behalf of the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity congregation;

c) approves a programme of pointing repairs to the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity church stonework at a cost of around £32,000, to be carried out in the Spring of 2015;

Funds are available for each of the above.

### **LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW**

Rev Alan Sorensen, Convenor, presented the report of the Superintendence Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the annual Inspection of Records will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February and that all Session Clerks have received details of venues, times and records required to be submitted and that members of the Safeguarding team will be available to ensure correct attestation of Safeguarding documents at the Inspection;
3. notes that the Kirk Session of Hamilton Bardrainey have correctly attested their Communion Roll under the supervision of the committee and that the roll contains 242 members;
4. notes that the programme of Congregational Visits is in progress and that results of all visits will be brought to Presbytery in due course;

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

*Moderator*

*Clerk*