

## **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

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

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

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 40 ministers, 50 elders, 2 deacons and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from 9 ministers, 7 elders, 2 deacons and 4 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on February 10<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 April 14<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 and an amendment from the Property Committee.

### **NOTICES**

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

Rev Alistair Shaw took this opportunity to advise those present of the sad passing of Robin Boyd, a former member of Presbytery who died recently. He would be remembered for his close association with Paisley Christian Social Action Centre and his sterling work as Property Convener for Presbytery.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN CHALMERS, MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Mr Chalmers gave an inspirational speech about the challenges that face the church at this time and encouraged everyone to continue to work for the glory of God.

### **VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Rev Jim Cowan, Convener, Mr Douglas Vallance presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. sustains the call to the Rev'd Stuart Steell, Minister of Kilsyth Burns and Old to Renfrew Trinity Parish Church, subject to the Presbytery of Glasgow releasing Mr Steel from his present charge; and subject to the final approval of the Vacancy Schedule by the Ministries Council;
3. remits to the Clerk and the Moderator to make all necessary arrangements for the service of induction once the Presbytery of Glasgow has agreed to release Mr Steel and an approved Vacancy Schedule is received;
4. grants permission to Bishopton Parish Church to call a Minister on unrestricted tenure in terms of Act VII 2003;
5. grants Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch an extension of permission to call for a further 6 months from this date in terms of Act VIII 2003, para 26;

## **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 that Paisley: St Luke's congregation will be worshipping in their halls from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March for approximately three weeks;
3. Notes the appointment of Rev Maureen Leitch as locum at Inchinnan from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 during the vacancy there;
4. Grants permission to the congregation of Kilbarchan: West to hold their Stated Annual Meeting after March 31<sup>st</sup> on April 6<sup>th</sup> 2015;
5. Notes the continuing sick leave of Rev Archie Speirs to March 31<sup>st</sup> and appoints Rev David Stewart as Interim Moderator at Inverkip linked with Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay from March 10<sup>th</sup> 2015;

## **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 two excellent applications were received for nomination as Presbytery Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2015, and approves the nomination of Mr Grant Munn of Neilston Parish Church for the Commission as Presbytery Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2015;
3. Notes the dates for Safeguarding Training;
4. Notes the requirements for attestation of congregations' Safeguarding records;
5. Notes that PVG Scheme Memberships for all relevant persons must be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015; that there will be no extension; and that after 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 all people involved in regulated work with children and/or protected adults must be members of the PVG Scheme.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY AT 7.45PM**

The Business Convener read the names of the proposed Commissioners to this year's General Assembly as noted in appendix 1 and Presbytery approved. These names would be transmitted to the Principal Clerk's office.

## **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. Encourages presbyters to read the report "The Lies we tell Ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty";
3. Commends the valuable work of street pastors;

4. Notes the availability of discussion material for the forthcoming General Election at <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/696/>

### **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. Notes with interest the ecumenical walk of witness held on Good Friday in Barrhead

### **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 with concern the request from Kilmacolm, St. Columba's for exemption from the requirement to remit 2015 Ministry and Mission payments by monthly instalments. The request will be discussed by the Stewardship and Finance Committee at their next scheduled meeting;
3. Notes that all congregations should by now have submitted to 121 their Schedule of Financial Statistics and the Bankers Standing Order in respect of monthly payment of their Ministry and Mission Allocation;

### **PROPERTY**

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the letting by the Greenock East End congregation of their manse, and instructs them to consult with the Church of Scotland Law Department regarding the leasing arrangements;
3. a) approves necessary roof repairs at Langbank, involving the replacement of lead flashing, timber renewal and slating, at an estimated cost of £10,500. Funds are available;  
 b) approves in principle further slate replacement, gutter and drainage repairs at Langbank at an estimated cost of £8,000, subject to the availability of funding;  
 c) approves in principle the dismantling of the church spire at Langbank at an estimated cost of £16,900, plus around £1,500 for professional fees to supervise the work, subject to the approval of CARTA, the General Trustees Fabric Committee and the availability of funding;  
 d) approves an application to the Cargill Bequest Fund for a grant to assist with the above roof and spire works.

### **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 the reports of the Local Church reviews for Kilmacolm Old and Lylesland churches as contained in **appendix 2**;
3. notes that the annual Inspection of Records has taken place and that the committee is satisfied as to the generally high level of record keeping;
4. Thanks all those who assisted in the Inspection of Records, and the congregations who made premises available for that purpose;
5. notes that some ministers are still failing to record accurately in their log books the place and nature of the journey for which they are claiming reimbursement and instructs all ministers to complete their logs in compliance with the Ministries Council guidelines contained in **appendix 3**;

### **DISCIPLINE (in private)**

Rev Alan Sorensen, Convener, presented the report from the Discipline Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. notes that there has come to the notice of the Presbytery circumstances indicating that a disciplinary offence may have been committed;
2. appoints a Special Committee to consider the circumstances in terms of Act III 2001, (Discipline of Ministry); the Special Committee to consist of members drawn from the Judicial Proceedings Panel as advised by the Acting Depute Principal Clerk, namely Mr Alan Dewar, Mrs Aileen Nimmo and Rev Alison Swindells;
3. agrees that in the exercise of any of its functions in terms of this Act, the Special Committee of Presbytery shall have all the powers of Presbytery;
4. notes that all matters relating to the work of the Special Committee shall be kept in a Record Apart;
5. resolves that a Presbytery Chaplain will provide pastoral support to the Minister concerned.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

*Moderator*

*Clerk*