

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

April 14th 2015

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 27 ministers, 46 elders, 2 deacons and 9 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 21 ministers, 10 elders, 2 deacons and 2 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on March 10th 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 May 12th 2015 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with a minor amendment to the Business Committee report.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

Presbytery:

1. grants Greenock: Lyle Kirk an extension of permission to call for a further 6 months
From this date in terms of Act VIII 2003, para 26;

BUSINESS

Parties from Kilbarchan East and Kilbarchan West had been cited to appear in their interest

Rev Alistair Shaw, Convener, presented part 1, 2 and 5 of the report of the Business Committee but declared an interest in the other sections so The Clerk presented section 3 and 4, after which the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Thanks those who were involved in any way in making the visit of the Right Rev John Chalmers a successful and positive experience;
3. Notes that the Kirk Sessions and congregations of Kilbarchan East and Kilbarchan West have been unable to come to an agreed decision regarding which buildings are to be retained by the united congregation;
4. Refers this matter to a panel of arbiters for a final and binding decision on all parties; said panel to be appointed from a list of those approved by the General Assembly for this purpose, all in accordance with the provisions as laid out in the Basis of Deferred Union;

5. Gives notice that at its next meeting on Tuesday 12th of May 2015 the following amendments to standing orders will be moved;
 - a. Agrees that no. 7 shall be amended to read, ' The Presbytery shall appoint a part-time Clerk under terms and conditions of employment to be drawn up by the Business Committee as and when required';
 - b. Agrees that No.10, (Local Church Review), shall be amended to read, 'Superintendence and Local Church Review (with responsibility for Inspection of Records and Presbytery visits);
 - c. Inserts a new No. 11, headed Discipline and Complaints and includes the following: 'Presbytery conforms to the provisions of Act 3 2001 (Discipline of Ministry) and Act 1 2010 (Discipline of Elders, Readers and Office Bearers); and for the purposes of consideration for referral under these Acts, a committee comprising the Clerk, the Convenor of the Superintendence Committee and one Elder drawn from the Superintendence Committee will initially consider whether a potential disciplinary offence may have been committed and refer appropriately under the Act.'
 - d. Agrees a new no. 11 (b) 'The Superintendence Committee shall act as the Complaints Committee of Presbytery, drawing up an ad hoc committee from its number as seems appropriate for the purpose, with the proviso that it shall always include a minimum of three members incorporating either the Convenor or Vice Convenor of the Superintendence Committee and include at least a minimum of one ministerial member and one elder on the committee;
 - e. Agrees a new no. 11(c) that for the purposes of an Appeal/ Procedural Review of a Complaints Committee' s findings; the matter shall be referred to the Business Committee, which shall appoint an ad hoc committee of three from its membership to conduct the procedural review;
 - f. Amends No 35(b) to read at the end of the current sentence; 'For the avoidance of doubt, this provision does not apply to reports given under the Local Church Review process.'
 - g. Agrees these amendments and renumbers Standing Orders appropriately;

MINISTRY

In the absence of the Convener, the Clerk presented the report from the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the receipt of a Study Leave Application from Rev. Ann McCool to attend a course entitled 'Managing Effective Change in the Church' in June followed by a week to study and reflect in July;
3. notes that Mr Jack McHugh will act as locum at Renfrew Trinity from 13th April until the induction of Rev Stuart Steell;

PROPERTY

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

1. receives the report;
2. approves an application from the Port Glasgow: St. Andrew's congregation to the General Trustees for financial assistance towards the cost of refurbishment of their existing manse in Barr's Brae, Port Glasgow, which is estimated at just over £43,000. The loan package applied for will supplement funding already held by the congregation and any income raised from fundraising ventures;
3. a) approves the renewal of paintwork, plus window, roof and tower repairs in the Greenock: Westburn sanctuary, along with repairs in the link corridor to the hall at a total estimated cost of around £24,600. Funds are available;
- b) approves redecoration and fireplace replacement in the Greenock: Westburn manse lounge at an estimated cost of up to £5,000. Funds are available;
- c) approves an application to the Cargill Bequest Fund for a grant to assist with the cost of the above two items;
4. approves an application from the Erskine congregation to the General Trustees for the funding of a feasibility study of the roof condition and structural soundness of the church and halls at a cost of £4,740 inclusive of VAT;
5. approves an application to the General Trustees Fabric Committee from the congregation of Paisley: Martyr's Sandyford for the release of just over £7,000 from their holdings in the Central Fabric Fund, to meet the replacement cost of the gas service main at their Montgomery Road complex and to replace some floorcoverings;
6. notes, following a visit to Barrhead: St. Andrew's by representatives of the General Trustees, that the Project Group appointed to investigate a possible extension to the existing church building will prepare a Business Plan outlining their proposals, estimated costs and means of funding for approval by Presbytery in due course;
7. notes that the Congregational Board of Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity, following the recommendation of Presbytery on 10th February 2015, has commissioned a survey report by a consultant civil and structural engineer to identify the structural condition of the church's roof timbers and to provide recommendations for remedial work and approves an application for financial assistance to the General Trustees Fabric Committee to meet the total cost of £9,350 plus VAT;
8. instructs the Property Committee to obtain tenders for the 2015 quinquennial inspections at Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay, Inverkip, Gourrock: St. John's and Old Gourrock & Ashton, Greenock: St. Margaret's, Paisley: St. Mark's Oldhall and Oakshaw Trinity, Renfrew: North and Trinity, Langbank, Bishopton, Erskine, Inchinnan and Houston & Killellan, and to report the result of the tendering process in due course.

ZIMBABWE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the amended survey as contained in **appendix 1**

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 the efforts made by Mrs Anne Thomson and Mrs Georgette Whitelaw to have clear guidelines, following conflicting advice and differing interpretations on Safeguarding, with particular reference to Pastoral Care volunteers; thanks them for their persistence in keeping these concerns before the Safeguarding Service;

The Convener withdrew section 3 in the print and the following sections were renumbered as follows:

3. Welcomes the measures outlined in the report to clarify PVG scheme membership for Pastoral Care volunteers, and will give every assistance to the proposed sample audit, to establish the uptake of PVG Scheme record checks;
4. Notes that there has been a very poor uptake of Safeguarding Panel training, reminds Kirk Sessions that every congregation should have a Safeguarding Panel; further reminds Kirk Sessions that each member appointed to the Safeguarding Panel should attend training;
5. Notes that the annual Pray Across Scotland meeting will take place in the Gateway at Lyle Kirk, Union Street, Greenock, on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm and encourages attendance by presbyters, members of congregations and friends.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Sunday 10th May 2015** for a service of admission to the office of Reader for Mr Kenneth Rankin in Barrhead: Bourrock Church at 4.00pm and then on **Tuesday May 12th 2015** at 7.00pm for ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk