

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

June 16th 2015

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 35 ministers, 45 elders, 2 deacons and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

The Moderator welcomed Rev Stuart Steell back to the Presbytery following his induction on June 11th.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 7 ministers, 11 elders, 2 deacons and 1 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on May 12th being in print and in the hands of members were approved. The minutes of the induction service of June 11th were read by the Clerk and approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as September 8th 2015 in Paisley: St Luke's Church.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

REPORT OF DILIGENCE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of all Presbytery's Commissioners to the 2015 General Assembly, the Clerk reported diligence.

REPORT FROM GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Clerk gave a brief report of the main highlights at the General Assembly this year.

REPORT FROM YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE, GRANT MUNN

Mr Munn gave a very full account of his experience at the General Assembly this year. He thanked Presbytery for the opportunity to attend and hoped to encourage other young people to follow in his footsteps.

GREETINGS TO MINISTERS OUTWITH THE BOUNDS

The Moderator extended greetings to Mrs MacLaine and Messrs Chestnut, Hamilton, MacColl, MacLean, Page and Stewart and instructed the Clerk to write to them in suitable terms.

ELDERS RETIRING FROM PRESBYTERY

The Moderator thanked the Elders who were retiring from Presbytery, Mrs Helen Bullen and Mrs Marion Berekis and wished them well as they continued to serve within their own congregations.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;

2. grants Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch a further extension of permission to call for 6 months from this date in terms of Act VIII 2003, para 26;

BUSINESS

Parties from Kilmacolm St Columba had been cited to appear in their interest but elected not to speak.

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Grants a practising certificate to Rev Bill Armstrong, Rev Ian Bell, Rev May Bell, Rev Lilly Easton, Rev Ian Fraser, Rev Douglas Hamilton, Rev David Kay, Rev Maureen Leitch, Rev Bernard Lodge, Rev David McCarthy, Rev Bill McKaig, Rev Marilyn MacLaine, Rev Andrew MacLean, Rev David Stewart, Rev Alex Whiteford, Rev Margaret Whyte, and Rev David Young in accordance with Act II 2000 and notes they will retain their seat in Presbytery;
3. Approves the Roll of Presbytery as contained in **appendix 1**;
4. Notes the Presbytery committee membership for the coming year as contained in **appendix 2**;
5. Approves a change of legal name to St Machar's Ranfurly, Church of Scotland, Bridge of Weir and instructs the Clerk to notify the Law Department and OSCR of this change;
6. Grants permission for Lochwinnoch to hold a joint service in Calder Church on Sunday 14th June to facilitate the Sunday School prize-giving;
7. Grants permission for Barrhead: St Andrew's to hold a joint service in Barrhead: Bourrock on Sunday 26th July 2015;
8. Homologates the decision of the Business Committee to grant the request of the Special Committee appointed under Act III 2001 (Discipline of Ministry) on the 10/03/2015 a further 56 days in which to complete its investigation by reason of cause shown in terms of section 6(1) of said Act, the 56 day period to run from midnight on Friday 5th June 2015;
9. Thanks and discharges the Assessor Elders at Paisley Abbey, Willie Mathieson, Carolyn Lockhart and Tom MacDougall;
10. Instructs representatives from the Superintendence and Stewardship and Finance Committees to meet with local office bearers of Kilmacolm :St Columba Church to discuss (*inter alia*) the financial situation with regard to M & M payments and to explore further the nature of the funding of the locally employed post and more precisely the relationship between the congregation and the Kilmacolm Mission Fund;
11. Instructs the Trustees and Office Bearers of Kilmacolm: St Columba Church , (Elders and Congregational Board Members) to meet with the aforementioned representatives of Presbytery at a meeting in St Columba Church Hall at **7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 24th June 2015**;
12. Appoints Mrs Ann Robertson as an additional elder from 1st July 2015;

TREASURER

Rev Alistair Cook presented a short report and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees to transfer £1,800 from the Bequest Fund to the Miss Lang Bequest Fund, and £700 from the Bequest Fund to the Eventide Homes Fund to enable the normal annual grants to Christian social projects and Adam's House to be made by 30 June 2015

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

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. notes the report of the Local Church review at Wallneuk North church contained in **Appendix 3**

PROPERTY

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

1. receives the report;
2. approves the letting by the Bishopton congregation of their manse, and instructs them to follow the direction of the Church of Scotland Law Department regarding the leasing arrangements;
3. approves the sale by the Gourrock: Old Gourrock & Ashton congregation of their second manse at 3 Tower Gardens, Binnie Street, Gourrock;
4. approves, subject to the final approval of the General Trustees' Fabric Committee, a revised schedule of essential repairs to the tower and roof at Langbank at an amended cost of £37,000, following further investigation and advice obtained subsequent to Presbytery's previous approval of the initial programme of works on 10th March 2015. Funds are available in a combination of grants and local funding;
5. a) approves, following architect's advice, the urgent renewal of the flat roof area and associated works to the timber decking and structural steelwork immediately below the tower at Gourrock: St. John's at an estimated cost of £25,000. Funds are available;
- b) approves, subject to satisfactory arrangements being reached with Vodafone and the General Trustees' Fabric Committee relating to the proposed installation of mobile phone antennae within the tower clock room of Gourrock: St. John's, necessary repairs to facilitate the installation, at a provisional cost of £50,000. Funds are available, but grants will also be pursued to assist with this expenditure;
6. accepts the tender of £12,610 plus VAT from Brown & Wallace, Construction Consultants, for the 2015 quinquennial inspections to be carried out 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, Inchinnan and Houston & Killellan;
7. empowers the Convener to authorise essential work over the summer months, subject to later reporting to Presbytery for backdated approval.

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. Approves a grant of £250, from the Oakshaw East Fund, to Glenburn Parish Church, for school chaplaincy work carried out in Gleniffer High School by Glenburn and Lylesland Parish Churches;
3. Notes that applications to attend the National Youth Assembly 2015 can now be made, and asks presbyters to encourage eligible young people to attend the event.

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. Approves the allocation of the following grants:

Eventide Home Fund -	£800 to Adams House
Miss Lang Bequest Fund -	£500 Counselling Service at The Wynd Centre £650 Inverclyde Family Contact Centre £400 STAR Project £300 Talk it Over £350 Starter Packs £500 Paisley Child Contact Centre

MINISTRY

Rev Jonathan Fleming, Convener, presented the report from the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

1. receives the report;
2. invites OLMs, Auxiliary Ministers, Candidates in training and Readers of the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley to a gathering at Erskine Parish Church on Sunday 28th June at 3pm;
3. nominates the congregations of Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw and Linwood to be considered for participation in the Path for Renewal Project.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Rev Alan Birss presented the report of the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report
2. Notes the increasing importance of pilgrimage to the contemporary church and the possibilities for mission therein;

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 2014 accounts of the congregations listed in **appendix 4** 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 June 2015.
5. Agrees that a sum not to exceed £1,980 be allocated from the 4% discretionary allowance available for the 2015 Ministries and Missions contributions to reduce the 2015 contribution of Paisley : Glenburn.
6. Notes the interim report on the awards made to congregations to date from the Mission Support Fund and encourages presbyters to assist their congregations to consider this source of funding when planning outreach work on their own or in partnership with neighbouring churches.
7. Reminds congregations facing considerable expenditure on a major repair that they can apply to the Stewardship and Finance Committee at any time during the year for consideration of reduction in their Ministry and Mission contribution.

ZIMBABWE

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the Report;
2. Grants permission to the committee to extend the time given to them for their report on the future of the Covenant with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe to the October meeting of Presbytery, whereby they will bring definite proposals; thus allowing the committee time to discuss current developments with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe to ascertain how they see the relationship moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday September 8th 2015** at 7.00pm for ordinary business in Paisley St Luke's Church.

Moderator

Clerk