

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

September 8th 2015

At Paisley and within the St Luke's Church there, the eighth day of September 2015, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 36 ministers, 46 elders, 4 deacons and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 9 ministers, 14 elders, 2 deacons and 2 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on June 16th being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as October 13th 2015 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR

The Business Convener, Rev Alistair Shaw, thanked the retiring Moderator, Rev Ritchie Gillon, for his service to Presbytery over his year in office and presented him with a gift from the court. Mr Gillon replied in suitable terms.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR

Rev Ritchie Gillon, having completed his period of office as Moderator proposed the Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Auxiliary Minister, nominated at the meeting of the Presbytery on 10th February last, as the next Moderator of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery approved and resolved accordingly.

Mr Gillon offered Mr Forrest congratulations and good wishes and led the Presbytery in prayer.

Mr Forrest took the chair and expressed his thanks to the Presbytery for the privilege entrusted to him.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

The Moderator welcomed new elders, Miss Margaret Pearson, Mrs Mary Taylor and Mrs Margaret Brook and encouraged them to participate fully in the work of the court.

LEAVE TAKING OF DUNCAN ROSS

The Moderator spoke of Duncan's service to the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley and also recounted some of his time at Glasgow Presbytery, serving with Very Rev John Miller. The Moderator wished Duncan well in his retirement noting that his membership of Presbytery would continue.

GUEST SPEAKERS

There were four delegates from Johnstone High Church who had attended the National Youth Assembly. April Miller, Lauren Dougan, Shona Damari and Callum Macmillan gave an interesting

presentation on their time there and the various topics they had discussed. All of them had enjoyed the experience and were grateful to Presbytery for funding two places for them, encouraging other young people to attend if they got the opportunity.

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Homologates the decision of the Special Committee of Presbytery, first appointed at its March meeting to consider a potential disciplinary offence on the part of a Minister within the bounds, to place Rev Douglas Cranston, Minister St Columba Church, Kilmacolm, under administrative suspension from 25th June 2015;
3. Homologates the decision to sist investigations of the Special Committee appointed to consider a potential disciplinary offence on the part of the Rev Douglas Cranston (Act 3 2001) as from the 20th July 2015 and to continue until the current police inquiry and any ensuing action thereafter is concluded, unless and until the Special Committee itself requests that the sist be recalled.
4. Homologates the appointment of Rev Bill Armstrong as Interim Moderator and locum at Kilmacolm: St Columba from 1st August 2015 during the suspension of Rev Douglas Cranston;
5. Appoints Rev Alistair Cook as Interim Moderator at Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney from the date of this meeting;
6. Notes that the Interim Ministries Task Group is seeking to appoint an Interim Minister to undertake some consultancy support work at Inchinnan Parish Church, this appointment having the agreement of the Interim Moderator, the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood, and the Kirk Session of Inchinnan Parish Church;
7. Congratulates Rev Jonathan Fleming on being awarded "citizen of the year" for the Erskine area;
8. Agrees the General Assembly instructions be remitted to the committees noted in **appendix 1**;

The Convener proposed an additional section 9 as follows:

9. Notes that the Panel of Arbiters determined at its meeting on June 23rd 2015, that the church and halls of Kilbarchan East Church shall be the buildings to be used by the united congregation of Kilbarchan

Presbytery approved.

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 2** 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 September 2015.
5. Notes that the support offered to Paisley : Glenburn from the Mission Support Fund of a sum not to exceed £1,980 has been deferred until 2016.
6. Notes the date of 18th September 2015 by which congregations should make applications for an allocation from the balance of the discretionary allowance for 2015.
7. Notes that congregations who are unlikely to meet their Mission and Ministries Allocation for 2015 in full should report the likely shortfall to the S&F Committee by the 18th September 2015.
8. Notes that information regarding congregations' responsibilities under the UK Pensions Regulations has been circulated to congregational treasurers and advises congregations to check their obligations in this regard.

PROPERTY

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

1. receives the report;
2. approves in principle, following the union of the Kilbarchan East and West congregations, the sale of the existing manse and purchase of a suitable new property, to serve as the manse of the united congregation. Further notes that any proposed new Manse will have to be approved by Presbytery before the purchase is completed;
3. a) approves a revised extensive programme of pointing repairs to the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity church stonework at a total cost of £45,900 inclusive of VAT;
 b) notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £4,590 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity congregation to assist with the cost of their stonework repairs;
4. homologates the approval granted in July under powers by the Clerk to the Johnstone: St. Andrew's Trinity congregation to renew the radiators and pipework in the church and halls at a cost of £13,700, and the release of the funds required from the congregation's holdings in their revenue account.

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 Safeguarding Training will be delivered in the presbytery during the autumn term as follows:

- Saturday 3 October, 10am to 12.30pm at Paisley Abbey – Training for Volunteers
 - Wednesday 7 October at 7pm, venue to be confirmed – Training for Panel members
 - Saturday 14 November 10am to 12.30pm at Erskine Parish Church Training for Volunteers
 - Saturday 14 November 10am to 4pm at Erskine Parish Church Training for Co-ordinators.
3. Notes that the annual conference for congregational Safeguarding co-ordinators in this presbytery will take place at Erskine Parish Church, on Saturday 24th October, from 10am to 4pm;
 4. Notes the instruction of the General Assembly 2015 to Kirk Sessions, to ensure that all volunteers and locally employed staff undertaking Regulated Work, as defined in the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act, 2007, join the PVG Scheme by 31 October 2015;
 5. Notes the instruction of the General Assembly 2015 to Kirk Sessions, to ensure that all volunteers and paid staff who are members of the PVG Scheme attend safeguarding training;
 6. Notes that monthly meetings of congregational Prayer Promoters will recommence in Greenock on Monday 21st September;
 7. Homologates the committee's decision during the summer break to grant £170 funding to JHPC amounting to two delegates' fees for NYA 2015;
 8. Notes the newly available resources on The State of Christianity, Faith and The Church in Scotland, and Pioneering a new future.

MINISTRY

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

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the appointment of Greta Gray as Locum at Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney as from the 1st September 2015 ;
3. Notes study leave period of Rev. Eileen Ross, Linwood Parish Church.

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 world week of prayer for Palestine and Israel 20-26 September 2015 and draws attention to liturgical material developed by Palestinian Christians.

SUPERINTENDENCE

Rev Alan Sorensen presented the report from the Superintendence Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that resulting from the meeting between office-bearers of Kilmacolm: St Columba and representatives of the Superintendence and Stewardship & Finance Committees there appear to be matters of concern relating to relationships within the Kirk Session, decision making procedures and its oversight of the congregation;
3. notes that the Superintendence Committee will continue, in conjunction with the Stewardship & Finance Committee, to assist the Kirk Session there

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 15th September 2015 at 7.00pm to introduce Rev Sandra Black as Interim Minister at **Port Glasgow: St Martin's** and then on Tuesday October 13th 2015 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in **The Cornerstone, Bishopton**

Moderator

Clerk