

# **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

*December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015*

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

## **SEDERUNT**

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 35 ministers, 53 elders and 12 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from 11 ministers, 6 elders, 4 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

The next meeting was approved as February 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business was approved as printed with an amendment from the Business Convener.

## **NOTICES**

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

## **LEAVE TAKING REV SUZANNE DUNLEAVY**

There spoke on behalf of the congregation Mr David Macdonald and Miss Dunleavy replied in suitable terms. The Moderator thanked Miss Dunleavy for her dedicated work within the Presbytery and wished her well for a long and happy retirement.

## **OVERTURE**

Overture amending the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships Act (Act 1 2015)

Debate was encouraged, thereafter ballot papers were issued. Following a count of completed papers there voted for the overture 50 with 38 voting against. The Moderator declared that Presbytery:

approves the overture

A number of members asked for their dissent to be recorded and their names are noted below:

Rev Ann McCool

Mr Jack McHugh

Rev Stuart Stevenson

Rev Stuart Steell

Rev Alistair Cook

Mrs Agnes Brown

Rev Archie Speirs

Rev Ian Bell

Mr Denis Wadsworth

Rev Jim Cowan

Rev Dr Charles Cameron

Mr William Mathieson

Mr James Holmes

Rev Francis Murphy

## **BUSINESS**

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the request from Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall to hold their Stated Annual Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016;

3. agrees to the demission of Rev Suzanne Dunleavy from Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly Church as from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016;
4. notes that the congregation of Inverkip will worship in their hall on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December to facilitate the performance of the Sunday School Nativity Play;
5. receives letters of thanks from Yvonne Smith and Annette Gordon for their recent grant towards the purchase of books;
6. notes the appointment of Mr John Wilson as a trustee at Inverclyde Family Contact Centre and thanks him for his willingness to serve in this capacity;
7. grants powers to the Clerk, Moderator and Business Convener to appoint assessor elders at Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie once it is raised to full status to assist in the process of uniting the congregation with Paisley: Wallneuk North;

*An additional section 8 was proposed and seconded as follows:*

8. grants permission for the congregation of Kilmacolm Old to hold a joint service with Kilmacom: St Columba on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2015 in St Columba Church at 11.00am

### **TREASURER**

Rev Alistair Cook, Treasurer, presented the budget and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. approves the Budget for 2015/2016 as detailed at **appendix 1**;
2. approves the proposed Presbytery assessments for 2015/2016 as detailed in **appendix 2** and instructs congregations to make payment as soon as possible but no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016;

### **MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP**

In the absence of Rev Eileen Ross, Convener, Rev Dr Glenn Chestnutt presented the report of the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. thanks everyone who contributed to the Mission Conference session in November;
3. approves the application by Barrhead: Bourock for a grant of £300 from the Oakshaw East Fund towards the costs of school chaplaincy work;
4. notes that Safeguarding training for Elders will take place at Houston & Killellan Church in the afternoon of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016;
5. encourages congregations, Presbyters, Kirk Sessions and ministers to prayerfully encourage applications, from all eligible young people, for the Presbytery's commission of one Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2016; and to send applications to the Presbytery Clerk by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016;
6. notes the resources available from [stewardship.org.uk](http://stewardship.org.uk) and [messychurch.org](http://messychurch.org)

### **COMMUNITY INTERESTS**

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. acknowledges the work of the Star Project in Paisley.

### **PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

*The congregations of Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie, Paisley Wallneuk North and Paisley St James's had been cited to appear in their interest.*

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. reports concurrence by the Presbytery Planning Task Group with the deliverance for Paisley St James's as approved by Presbytery at its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. October 2015 that a Basis of Dissolution should be drawn up for this congregation and affirms that this is now the amended plan for this charge;
3. notes that the congregation of Paisley St James's now has fourteen days from the date of this meeting in which to lodge an appeal against this decision and instructs the Clerk to write informing the Kirk Session of this;
4. Instructs the PPRC to draw up a Basis of Dissolution for this charge;
5. reports concurrence by the Presbytery Planning Task Group with the deliverance for Paisley North End as approved by Presbytery at its meeting on the 10th November 2015, and affirms that this is now the amended plan for these charges;
6. notes that the congregations of Paisley: Wallneuk North and Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie now have fourteen days from the date of this meeting in which to lodge an appeal against this decision and instructs the Clerk to write informing the Kirk Session and the NCD Commission of this;
7. instructs the Presbytery Plan Review committee to draw up a draft basis of union in consultation with local parties;

### **PROPERTY**

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. a) approves the installation of an audio/visual system, as approved by CARTA, in the Port Glasgow: St. Andrew's church building, at a cost of almost £15,000, the cost to be met by a combination of grant funding and local fundraising by the congregation;  
  
b) notes that the Port Glasgow: St. Andrew's manse has been inspected and found to be ready for occupation;
3. instructs the congregations of 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 to complete the urgent items contained in the quinquennial inspection reports supplied by Brown & Wallace in September/October 2015, within the prescribed period of 1 year, and to report on progress to the December 2016 meeting of Presbytery. Also instructs the foregoing congregations to arrange to carry out work identified as essential in the same reports within the next 5 years, and to undertake as much of the work identified as desirable as possible;

4. notes that several congregations who were subject to 2014 quinquennial inspections have still to confirm diligence in accordance with the instruction of Presbytery on 9th December 2014, and instructs those concerned to comply without delay;
5. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £1,924 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley: Lylesland congregation to assist with the cost of their audio/ visual system installation;
6. notes that the Inchinnan congregation has agreed to the temporary occupation of their vacant manse on a caretaking basis for a period of a few months to the West Renfrewshire Youth Worker and his wife;
7. a) approves an application from the Bishopton congregation to the General Trustees for financial assistance to obtain a feasibility study on the provision of a disabled access ramp to the church building and the installation of disabled toilets within the attached halls;  
  
b) approves an application from the Bishopton congregation to the General Trustees and CARTA for permission to erect a plaque commemorating the church's bicentenary on the outside wall of the church building. Funding is available;
8. a) approves retrospectively lead replacement and slate repairs to the Kilmacollm: Old church roof, following an incidence of lead theft, at a cost of £22,343. Funds were available;  
  
b) approves retrospectively the installation of a new central heating boiler and the replacement of lead water pipes in the Kilmacollm: Old manse, at costs of £3,192 and £3,326 respectively. Again, funds were available;
9. approves an application from the Neilston congregation to CARTA for permission to install a display board for use during services on an internal wall in the church;
10. approves an application from the Barrhead: St. Andrew's congregation to the General Trustees for financial assistance to appoint an architect to produce outline plans for the proposed extension to the church building;

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015** for a service of union between Kilbarchan East and Kilbarchan West in Kilbarchan West Church at 7.00pm and thereafter for ordinary business on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016** in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

*Moderator*

*Clerk*