

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

February 9th 2016

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the ninth day of February 2016, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 35 ministers, 50 elders, 2 deacons and 12 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 11 ministers, 6 elders, 1 deacon and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on December 8th 2015 and the service of union on December 15th 2015 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as March 8th 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

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. notes that the vacancy at Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch has not yet been filled and grants the nominating committee there a further extension of six months of their permission to call in accordance with Act VIII 2003;
2. notes that the vacancy at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's has not yet been filled and grants the nominating committee there a further extension of six months of their permission to call in accordance with Act VIII 2003;
3. reminds Interim Moderators in vacancies that Act VIII 2003, as amended, requires that the Presbytery Clerk, and through him the Convener of the Vacancy Procedure Committee, be kept informed of progress in the nominating process;
4. reminds Interim Moderators in vacancies that Act VIII 2003, as amended, requires that a Vacancy Schedule is completed by the appropriate body in a congregation and transmitted to the Clerk for approval, and is then requires further approved by Ministries Council, and this must be done before Presbytery can set a date for a service of induction.
5. reminds Interim Moderators in vacancies that Act VIII 2003, as amended, requires that Manses are inspected and approved as being fit for habitation by the Presbytery property committee before Presbytery can set a date for induction, and consequently, any planned repairs or works deemed to be required at a Manse should be carried out as early as is possible in the vacancy period;
6. Notes the resignation of Rev Ann McColl as Interim Moderator of Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch as from the 1st February 2016, and thanks her for her period of service there;

The Convener withdrew sections 7 and 9 as in the print and section 8 was renumbered

7. Appoints the Rev David Stewart as Interim Moderator of Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly Church as from the 1st February 2016;

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Appoints Mrs Margaret Sharp, Mrs Elsie Sutherland and Mrs Anne McAleer as assessor elders at Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie from the date it is raised to full status until the date of union with Paisley: Wallneuk North;
3. Appoints an Order of the Day at 7.45pm at the March meeting for the election of Commissioners to the forthcoming General Assembly;
4. Nominates Rev Ann McCool as Moderator Elect for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley from September 2016;
5. Grants permission for Paisley: St James's to suspend worship on Sunday 21st February in order for the congregation to visit alternative prospective places of worship;
6. Grants permission to Lochwinnoch church to have a united service with Calder United Free Church on Sunday 28th February 2016, this service to take place in the Calder building;
7. Notes the request from Inverclyde Council and local undertakers for assistance with ensuring timings at Greenock Crematorium are adhered to, and advice from the Registrar regarding the change of period of notice to 28 days for couples arranging their marriage and a request for ministers to be diligent in the completion of marriage schedules in appropriate liquid ink;

Additional sections 8 and 9 were proposed and seconded as follows:

8. Grants permission for the service at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk to be conducted by the Kirk Session there as they celebrate "Souper Sunday" on February 21st 2016;
9. Notes the resignation of Mr Allan McEwan as an additional elder due to ill health and thanks him for his service to Presbytery.

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 applications have been received for the Presbytery's commission of a Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2016 and that a nomination will be brought to the March meeting of Presbytery;
3. Notes the dates for Safeguarding Training;
4. Notes the arrangements for the Safeguarding Road Show on March 29th in Erskine Church

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 withdrawal of Unity Enterprise from the House 2 Home Project and the return of £10,391.49 of funds from them in January 2016 ;
3. acknowledges the re-launch of the Talk it Over Group at Paisley Abbey;
4. Homologates the decision to pay £300 a month from the PCSA fund to Scottish Churches Housing Action as from January 2016, and agrees to continue that monthly payment until the PCSA fund is depleted;

MINISTRY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. congratulates Mr Thomas Blane on being accepted as a candidate for full-time ministry of word and sacrament and wishes him well;
3. Approves the job specification for the Youth and Children's worker in the Greenock Parish Grouping, (see Appendix1), and instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Ministries Council;

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

There had been a technical problem in having this report included in the print and permission was sought to have it presented on the night. Presbytery approved.

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. Commends the World Mission Council's "Let us build a house' initiative to churches within the bounds;
3. Notes the World Mission Council's challenge to each Presbytery to raise £500 for the Appeal;
4. Notes that a Coffee Morning will be held in Paisley Abbey on Saturday 5 March 2016 from 10am to 12.30pm as part of this effort.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

- notes the result of the vote on the basis of deferred linking between Paisley: St Columba Foxbar and Paisley: St Luke's as follows;

Paisley St Luke's	for 72	against 8
Paisley St Columba Foxbar	for 43	against 2

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 the changes required under the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice for congregational accounts prepared on an accruals basis for the year ended 31st December 2015 and requests all congregations preparing accounts on this basis to comply therewith.
3. Notes Congregations' responsibilities to consider the Gift Aid Checklist 2016 provided by the General Treasurer's Department and act thereon accordingly;
4. Notes the timetable for the submission of Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the annual Presbytery Diligence Return re the Care of Ecclesiastical Properties has been completed and returned to the General Trustees;
3. approves the commercial letting by the Inchinnan congregation of their manse, and instructs them to follow the direction of the Church of Scotland Law Department regarding the leasing arrangements;
4. approves an application from the Barrhead: St. Andrew's congregation to the General Trustees for a £5,000 grant to assist with the payment of stage 1 of their church building extension project;
5. a) approves an application from the Erskine congregation to the General Trustees for financial assistance in the form of an interest-free loan over a period of 10 years, in order to fund 75% of the revised cost of their essential roof repairs, which has been quoted at £234,000, inclusive of VAT, management fees and a 5% contingency provision;

b) approves the erection of a handrail at the steps leading to the chancel area in the church, following the advice obtained from CARTA;
6. a) approves the replacement, following advice from CARTA, by the Paisley: Martyr's Sandyford congregation of 18 timber framed windows in their King Street, Paisley halls with uPvc double glazed units at a cost of £10,800 inclusive of VAT;

b) approves an application from the Paisley: Martyr's Sandyford congregation to the General Trustees Fabric Committee for the release of £10,800 from their holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund, to meet the cost of their new windows;

7. a) notes the appointment of Frew Conservation by the Paisley: Stow Brae congregation in relation to their proposed programme of stonework repairs, which is estimated at £230,000, with £30,000 allocated for professional fees;

b) approves the appointment by the Paisley: Stow Brae congregation of a consultant designer to assist with the stonework repairs project. The funds to meet the cost are available.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 8th March 2016** in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk