

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

March 8th 2016

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 30 ministers, 47 elders, 3 deacons and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 5 elders, 2 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on February 9th and the service of induction on March 3rd 2016 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as April 12th 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

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 the induction of the Rev Owen Derrick to Greenock Lyle Kirk on Thursday 3rd March 2016, following the sustaining of his call there by the Vacancy Procedure Committee under powers conferred to it by Act 8 2003, (Vacancy Procedure);
2. Appoints Rev Ian Fraser as Interim Moderator at Howwood and Lochwinnoch as from the date of this meeting;

WELCOME TO THE REV OWEN DERRICK

The Moderator congratulated Mr Derrick on his recent appointment at Greenock Lyle Kirk and wished him well for his time there.

ORDER OF THE DAY AT 7.45PM

The Business Convener read the names of the proposed Commissioners to this year's General Assembly as noted in appendix 1 and Presbytery approved. These names would be transmitted to the Principal Clerk's office.

BUSINESS

In the absence of Rev Alistair Shaw, Convener, Rev Karen Harbison, Vice Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees to participate in a pilot manse fund study run by the General Trustees;

3. Grants permission for Greenock: Lyle Kirk to hold their Stated Annual Meeting on 17th April 2016;
4. Urges members to notify the office of anything they would like to have included in a new Presbytery website;
5. Approves in principle the intention of Trustees at Greenock Lyle Kirk to transfer ownership of the Esplanade church building and halls to the Scottish Redundant Churches Trust, subject to the agreement of the General Trustees and in terms to be decided by them; and instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the General Trustees and the Kirk Session of Lyle Kirk.
6. Approves the appointment of the Rev Alan Sorenson as chaplain to 49F Air Training Corp, Greenock;

An additional section 7 was proposed and seconded as follows:

7. Notes the appointment of Rev Ian Fraser as locum at Paisley: St Columba Foxbar from 8th March 2016

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 that the annual Inspection of Records has taken place and that the committee is satisfied as to the generally high level of record keeping;
3. Thanks all those who assisted in the Inspection of Records, and the congregations who Made premises available for that purpose;

MINISTRY

In the absence of Rev Jonathan Fleming, Convener, Rev Ann McCool presented the report from the ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the study leave application from Rev Robert Craig, Paisley Stow Brae and wishes him well in his studies;
3. Notes the appointment of Mary Jane Bird as locum at Bridge of Weir St Machar's Ranfurly from 9th March 2016

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;
2. notes the result of the vote on the basis of dissolution at Paisley St James's (as contained at **appendix 2**) as 68 for and 15 against dissolution;

Further to the vote at Paisley: St James a new section 3 was proposed as follows and subsequent sections renumbered:

3. concurs with the vote in favour of the basis of Dissolution for Paisley St James's and submits this to the Assembly Committee for their concurrence;

Due to a conflict of interest, the Presbytery Clerk presented section 4 for approval as follows:

4. grants permission to the PPRC to enter into conversations with office bearers of the two congregations in Bridge of Weir with a view to bringing forward an amendment to the Presbytery plan for the village

There was some dissent regarding section 4 but no counter motion was proposed. The Moderator decided to put section 4 to a vote. The votes were 63 for and 4 against and therefore Presbytery approved section 4 as in the print.

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. Agrees sums be allocated from the 5% discretionary allowance to reduce the 2016 Ministry and Mission contributions of congregations as follows – St. Machar's Ranfurly £3,750 : Freeland, Bridge of Weir £5,000 : Kilbarchan £2,000.
3. Notes that applications for financial assistance from the Presbytery's 5% Discretionary Allowance towards the purchase and installation of audio visual and multimedia systems will now be considered.
4. Reminds congregations that applications for financial assistance with Ministry and Mission contributions for whatever reason should be submitted for consideration at as early a stage as possible.
5. Notes recent changes to the Water Rates Charities Exemption Scheme and advises congregations to check their individual status;

Additional sections 6 and 7 were proposed and seconded on the night as follows:

6. Notes that a letter has been received from Kilmacolm, St. Columba's updating the Committee on progress being made with settlement of the balance of 2015 Ministry and Mission contributions still due;
7. Notes that the congregation is not in a position to make monthly payments of Ministry and Mission contributions for 2016 by Standing Order but will make payments on an as available basis meantime.

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 Greenock: Lyle Kirk manse has been inspected and found to be ready for occupation;

3. a) approves the replacement of windows and other repairs in the church tower by the Greenock: Westburn congregation, and also redecoration and repairs in the manse, all at a total cost of £21,835. Funds are available;

b) notes that the Property Committee has approved in principle a grant from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of these works. The exact amount will be determined on finalisation of the actual cost;

4. a) approves the replacement of the central heating boilers in the church and halls by the Greenock: Mount Kirk congregation at a cost of £26,659.20;

b) approves an application from the Greenock: Mount Kirk congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of £23,994 from their Revenue holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;

c) notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £2,665 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of the new boilers;

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

Rev Eileen Ross, Convener, presented sections 1 and 3 to 7 of report of the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;

Due to a conflict of interest the Clerk presented section 2 of the deliverance as follows:

2. Approves the grant from the Oakshaw East Fund of £565 to Houston & Killellan Kirk to support the visit of Bibleworld Mobile sponsored by the 4 Churches Together and Linwood Baptist Church;
3. Agrees the nomination of Miss Aillie MacDougall for the Presbytery's Youth Representative commission to the General Assembly 2016;
4. Notes the arrangements for Safeguarding training;
5. Strongly encourages Safeguarding Co-ordinators to consider updating their training;
6. Invites congregations to let Ms MJ Bird know about their experiences and practices with adults, children & young people who have learning disabilities;
7. Notes the opportunity of "Bible Alive" training and encourages presbyters to make this widely known.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 12th April 2016** in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk