

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

April 12th 2016

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 31 ministers, 53 elders, 3 deacons and 9 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 17 ministers, 6 elders, 1 deacon and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on March 8th 2016 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as May 10th 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE VERY REV DR SANDY MCDONALD

Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood led the tribute to the late Sandy McDonald who passed away on 17th March 2016.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

In the absence of Rev Jim Cowan, Convener, Mr Douglas Vallance presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Grants permission for Inchinnan Parish Church to call a minister on unrestricted tenure in accordance with Act VIII 2003;
3. Thanks Rev Eleanor McMahon and Rev John Collard who, along with The Interim Moderator and Locum have worked with, and will continue to work with, the Kirk Session to resolve issues within Session and Congregation;

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the resignation of Rev Donald Campbell as Interim Moderator at Bishopton due to pressure of work and thanks him for his time there;

3. Homologates the appointment of Rev Bill McKaig as Interim Moderator at Bishopton from 1st April 2016 in addition to his duties as locum;
4. Homologates the decision to allow Barrhead St Andrew's hold their Stated Annual Meeting on 1st May 2016;
5. Notes that the Presbytery minute book has been examined and found to be in order and instructs the Clerk to send confirmation of this to the Principal Clerk;
An additional section 6 was proposed and seconded as follows:
6. Notes that Paisley: Stow Brae Kirk will be worshipping in their halls for the next four to six weeks during building work in their sanctuary.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

Parties from Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly had been cited to appear

Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Clerk, presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee as the convener, Rev Ken Gray, as a neighbouring minister declared an interest in the report, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. suspends the current Presbytery Plan for Bridge of Weir: St Machars Ranfurly Church;
3. instructs the committee to draw up a Basis of Adjustment indicating that St Machars Ranfurly Church will be designated a Reviewable Charge in terms of the plan, and to present said Basis to the office bearers and congregation for their consideration;
4. instructs that the Basis of Adjustment will include a clear provision that the next Minister will be inducted for a period of not less than seven years before the review is undertaken;
5. expressly acknowledges that the seven year period of reviewable tenure is simply a minimum period stated before a review will be carried out, and gives no direction at this stage as to what the result of that review should be;
6. indicates, for the avoidance of doubt, that one possible result of any future review will be a continuation of the ministerial tenure there;

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. instructs the Property Committee to obtain tenders for the 2016 quinquennial inspections at Greenock: Wellpark Mid, The Mount Kirk, St. Ninian's, Lyle Kirk and Westburn and Paisley: Abbey, Lylesland, Martyr's Sandyford, St. Columba, Foxbar, St. Luke's, Stow Brae and Wallneuk North, and to report the result of the tendering process in due course;
3. approves an application from the Barrhead: St. Andrew's congregation for financial

assistance amounting to £9,370.80 from the Central Fabric Fund to carry out window repairs identified as a safety risk in the unoccupied former South & Levern church building;

4. a) approves in principle an application from the Kilbarchan congregation for a short-term loan of £125,000 to meet a potential shortfall in the purchase of an as yet unidentified new manse within the parish boundary;
- b) approves in principle extensive repairs and improvements to the Kilbarchan church and hall amounting to £341,113, inclusive of VAT, fees and contingencies. CARTA have already been consulted on the proposals;
- c) In addition to these repairs and improvements, approves the intended sale of the former West church and hall, as directed by the General Trustees.

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 the dates of Safeguarding Training arranged for April and May;
3. Notes that "Pray Across Scotland" will be held in this Presbytery on Monday 16th May 2016;
4. Encourages presbyters to pray for the two congregations of this Presbytery (Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw, and Linwood) which have been accepted for the Path of Renewal Pilot Scheme, and for the Co-ordinator, Rev Liz Crumlish.

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. Invites applications from community based projects for funding from the Presbytery's Miss Lang Bequest Fund; Application forms (**see Appendix 1**) should be returned to Alison McKenzie, Convener by 10th May 2016.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

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

Presbytery:

- 1 receives the report
- 2 expresses gratitude for the support given by churches within the Presbytery to the World Mission Council's challenge to raise funds to support the 'Let's build a house' appeal for victims of last year's earthquake in Nepal.

- 3 expresses concern at the rise of religious persecution in the world, and in particular the persecution of Christians, and commends to the prayers of all the churches within the bounds of Presbytery the victims of violence and terrorism throughout the world.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 10th May 2016** in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk