

## **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

*May 10<sup>th</sup> 2016*

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

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 38 ministers, 47 elders, 3 deacons and 14 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 11 elders, 2 deacons and 1 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

The next meeting was approved as June 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business was approved as printed with additions from the Business Committee, Property Committee and Presbytery Plan Review Committee.

### **NOTICES**

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

### **VISITING SPEAKERS**

Mrs Marion Berekis and Mrs Helen Eckford from the Guild Presbyterial Council spoke about the various projects the Guild has been involved in this year and also spoke in detail about the Action Plan. Presbytery would consider the contents of their report and prepare a response for feedback to the National Church.

### **BUSINESS**

Rev Alistair Shaw, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee, apart from section 5 which the Clerk presented, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Approves the application made by the Rev Alistair Cherry for transfer of membership from the Presbytery of England to this Presbytery, and admits him subject to the usual reaffirmation of vows and signing of the prescribed formula;
3. Notes that the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood has indicated she intends to retire from Renfrew North on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016;
4. Appoints Rev Maureen Leitch as Interim Moderator at Inchinnan from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 following Mrs Hood's resignation as Interim Moderator there;
5. Appoints Rev Alistair Shaw as Interim Moderator at Renfrew North from the date of this meeting;
6. Grants permission for Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie to cancel their diet of worship on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May to allow them to worship at Paisley: St James' at their service of dissolution;
7. Notes that Paisley St James's will have their final service on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and that the agreed dissolution of the congregation will take place on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016;

8. Gives thanks to God for the long and faithful service offered by the St James's congregation over the years and acknowledges the positive and constructive manner in which the office bearers have brought the life of this congregation to a dignified close;
9. Assures the office bearers and congregation of our prayerful support at this time and affirms that Presbytery will do all that it can to assist them in the process of transferring their membership to other congregations within the Presbytery;
10. Thanks the Rev Lilly Easton for acting as Interim Moderator at Paisley St James's in what is undoubtedly a stressful and difficult time for all concerned, and notes that her role there ceases with the formal dissolution of the congregation;
11. Instructs Presbyters to notify the Presbytery office if they require a hard copy of the new Presbytery Handbook for 2016-2017 by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016, the handbook will be available from September 2016;

*The convener withdrew section 12 as in the print and proposed a new section 12 as follows:*

12. Intimates the determination of the General Trustees regarding the sale of the former Kilbarchan West church and halls as follows:

*In the case of the application of the Congregational Board of Kilbarchan Parish Church Congregation, the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of the former West church and hall, Church Street, Kilbarchan at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Congregational Board and (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall in the first instance be applied towards the cost of refurbishing the former East church and hall buildings and any balance remaining thereafter shall, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulations 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the Congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.*

*The General trustees will be bound, upon making a determination hereunder, to intimate such determination forthwith by notice in writing to the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned and also to the Financial Board or Boards of the Congregation or Congregations directly affected, on receipt by the Clerk of Presbytery of the notice of the determination of the General Trustees, it will be his duty to give sufficient intimation of the same to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery thereafter, any determination authorising the sale or disposal of property will be final and not subject to appeal; but .... any Presbytery concerned or any Financial Board having title or interest may within two months of the date of the meeting of Presbytery to which intimation has been made as aforesaid and subject to compliance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly, lodge with the Clerks of Assembly a Petition to the General Assembly for review of any such other determination; provided always that in such circumstances a review will be competent only if the Petition therefor is lodged timeously with the Clerks of assembly and written intimation thereof given at the same time to the General Trustees.*

## **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 that the sum of £4,750 be allocated from the Presbytery's 5% discretionary allowance available for the 2016 Ministries and Missions contributions to reduce the 2016 contribution of Greenock East End Parish Church;

3. Agrees that the sum of £2,314 be allocated from the 5% discretionary allowance available for the 2016 Ministries and Missions contributions to reduce the 2016 contribution of Barrhead : St. Andrew's Church;
4. Instructs the Convener to inform the congregational treasurers of the assistance, if above contributions approved;
5. Notes that the attestation process for 2015 Annual Accounts is in process;
6. Notes that guidance on completion of the new OSCR Annual Return Form (effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016) has been circulated to congregational treasurers;

## **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 Property Committee has approved a grant of £1,331 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Greenock: Wellpark Mid congregation to assist with the cost of roof repairs following several incidences of lead theft from the church building;
3. a) notes that the Greenock: St. Ninian's congregation has asked for a site visit from representatives of the General Trustees' Fabric Committee to provide advice on the future of their current church and hall buildings, following an extensive survey recently completed by a local chartered surveyor;
- b) notes that since a recent extensive and intrusive survey report has been produced for the Greenock: St. Ninian's buildings, and will be available for examination by the General Trustees' Fabric Committee representatives, the Property Committee has determined it appropriate to remove Greenock: St. Ninian's from the list of congregations to be inspected as part of this year's tranche of quinquennial surveys;
4. a) approves alterations by the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation to their A-listed Newark Street church building to form an internal entrance porch, to renovate the existing toilet at the church entrance, to form a servery area adjacent to the sanctuary which will be serviced by a dumb waiter from the kitchen located on the lower floor of the building, together with the construction of a disabled toilet, all as previously approved by both Historic Scotland and CARTA, and at a total estimated cost of just under £40,500. Funds are available;
4. b) notes that within the next few months the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation will have extensive surveys of all their buildings completed by their appointed architect, and that the Property Committee has removed them from this year's tranche of quinquennial surveys;
5. notes that following last month's Presbytery approval of an application from the Barrhead: St. Andrew's congregation for financial assistance from the Central Fabric Fund to carry out Window repairs to the former South & Levern church building, a grant of £9,000 has been approved by the General Trustees' Fabric Committee;
6. approves an upgrade to the audio – visual system in the Renfrew Trinity church building, which will involve pew alterations, subject to the approval of CARTA being obtained. Funds are available;
7. approves in principle the replacement of the church and hall windows by the Linwood congregation, subject to the approval of CARTA, and the availability of Funds;

8. approves a programme of repairs and redecoration to the currently unoccupied Howwood manse at an estimated cost of £20,000, along with water ingress repairs to the church at an estimated cost of £5,000, a repair to the hall heating system costing around £2,000, and the installation of an audio-visual system estimated at £5,000. Funds are available;
9. approves in principle alterations to the existing fire doors at the Paisley: Glenburn hall, to make them suitable for disabled and wheelchair use. Detailed costs are being investigated;

*The convener proposed a new section 10 as follows:*

10. approves the suitability of the house at 41 Shuttle Street, Kilbarchan, which satisfies the accommodation criteria for manses and which lies within the parish boundary, for use as a new manse by the Kilbarchan congregation, and instructs the congregation to liaise with the Law Department regarding the submission of a formal offer to purchase

### **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 date of Safeguarding Training for Kirk Sessions;
3. Notes the change of dates for the National Youth Assembly and encourages congregations to offer eligible young people the opportunity to attend this event;
4. Commends the "Pray Across Scotland" meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May to congregations;
5. Encourages members and congregations to pray for the Moderator Elect's focus on 'People of the Way', with special emphasis on the homeless and encouraging people into the ministry;
6. Commends the Learn publication "Learning Disabilities: Creating Communities of Belonging" to Kirk Sessions and congregations for discussion, action and further study;
7. Commends the "**Top Tips for Churches: Welcoming People with Learning Disabilities**" produced by the Church of Scotland Learning Disabilities Working Group for the attention of Kirk Sessions and congregations as contained at **appendix 1**.

### **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's bequest fund; Application forms (**see Appendix 2**) should be returned to Alison McKenzie, Convenor deadline extended to 24th May 2016.

### **MINISTRY**

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes an application for Study Leave for Rev Ann McCool of Johnstone: High, John Murning of Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw and Rev Fiona Maxwell of Neilston

### **PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE**

*Parties from Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie and Paisley Wallneuk North had been cited in their interest.*

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. Alters the Presbytery Plan for the area to read;

St Ninians Ferguslie; Guardianship  
Staffing 1 fulltime MDS post plus 0.2 guardianship allowance and 30% of the time of the Wallneuk North minister

Wallneuk North: Unrestricted  
Staffing; Minister of Word and Sacrament who devotes 30% of time to St Ninians Ferguslie

3. Instructs the committee to prepare a Basis of Guardianship for St Ninians Ferguslie;
4. Instructs the Clerk/PPRC to recruit a number of assessor elders;
5. Instructs the Clerk to take the necessary steps to raise St Ninians to Full Status before it enters Guardianship;
6. Instructs the PPRC in consultation with the Commission to prepare a job description for the Ministry Development Staff post;
7. Notes that the congregation may require some financial help;

*The Convener proposed a new section 8 which was approved as follows:*

8. Notes that at the congregational meeting held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly church there were 108 votes for the Basis of Reviewable Charge and none against, and instructs the Clerk to remit this result to the PPTG for their concurrence.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016** in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

*Moderator*

*Clerk*