

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

June 21st 2016

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 33 ministers, 45 elders and 11 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 13 ministers, 9 elders, 3 deacons and 2 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on May 10th 2016 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as September 13th 2016 in Port Glasgow St Andrew's Church.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with an additional section from the Mission & Discipleship Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of all Commissioners, the Clerk Reported diligence at the General Assembly

The Clerk then gave a brief report from this year's General Assembly highlighting the main points that would be of interest to Presbytery.

Our Youth Representative, Ailie McDougall, then gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk about her time at Assembly and finished by thanking Presbytery for the opportunity to attend.

GREETINGS TO MINISTERS

The Moderator remembered ministers living outwith the bounds: Messrs Cherry, Chestnut, Hamilton, MacColl, and Stewart and instructed the Clerk to write to them at this time.

THANKS TO RETIRING MEMBERS

The Moderator paid tribute to the Conveners who were retiring from their positions, Mr Peter Bennett, Mr Willie Mathieson and Rev Alan Sorensen and thanked them for their work in the past years.

He also thanked those Elders who were retiring from Presbytery, Mrs Hellyer, Mrs Maxwell, Miss Pearson, Miss Smith and Mr Stewart.

VACANCY PROCEDURE

Rev Jim Cowan, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Grants permission to Renfrew North Church to call a minister without restriction, in accordance with the Presbytery Plan;

2. Grants Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly Church permission to call a Minister on a Basis of Reviewable Charge as per the amended Presbytery plan and remits this to the Assembly Committee for noting.

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Grants a practising certificate to Rev Bill Armstrong, Rev Ian Bell, Rev May Bell, Rev Lilly Easton, Rev Ian Fraser, Rev David Kay, Rev Maureen Leitch, Rev Bill McKaig, Rev David Stewart, Rev Alex Whiteford, Rev Margaret Whyte, in accordance with Act II 2000 and notes they will retain their seat in Presbytery;
3. Grants a practising certificate to Rev Suzanne Dunleavy, Rev Bernard Lodge and Rev Marilyn MacLaine and notes that they will not retain their seat in Presbytery;
4. Approves the Roll of Presbytery as contained in **appendix 1**;
5. notes the Presbytery committee membership for the coming year as contained in **appendix 2**;
6. grants permission for the congregation of Paisley Oakshaw Trinity to worship in their halls for 8 weeks from July 17th to allow redecoration of their sanctuary;
7. grants permission for Barrhead St Andrew's and Barrhead: Bourock to hold a joint service on 17th July in Bourock and 24th July in St Andrew's;
8. grants permission to the congregations of Kilmacolm St Columba and Kilmacolm Old Kirk to hold joint summer services in July and August. These joint services taking place in the St Columba building for the month of July and in the Old Kirk building for the month of August;
9. Appoints Jim Bain as the Presbytery representative to attend the forthcoming Health & Safety Seminar on Thursday 7th July;
10. Notes that Rev Donald Campbell has indicated his intention to demit his charge at Houston & Killellan Kirk from the 31st October 2016;
11. Notes that Rev Dr Glenn Chestnutt has been invited to preach as sole nominee at St Andrew & St Paul in Montreal on Sunday 19th June;
12. Notes that Rev Liz Geddes will resign from her OLM placement at Inverkip linked with Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay on 31st July 2016;
13. Notes that, in conjunction with Hamilton Presbytery, training of new Worship Leaders will be offered in September 2016 and encourages interested parties to contact the Presbytery office in the first instance;
14. Discharges Rev Alan Birss as Interim Moderator at Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie and thanks him for his time there;
15. Appoints Rev Alan Birss as the Presbytery representative on the Community Tension Monitoring Group run by Police Scotland;
16. Commends the Guild's action plan and prays God's blessing upon their endeavours as they seek to reinvigorate the life of this vital institution;
17. Commends the work of the Guild to all congregations within the bounds, and encourages Ministers and Kirk Sessions to consider how they can resource their Guild more effectively, or to consider starting one if their congregation doesn't have presently have a Guild.
18. Notes that the Rev Karen Harbison is on sick leave for two weeks as from the 14th June 2016

TREASURER

Rev Alistair Cook

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees to transfer £2,700 from the Bequest Fund to the Miss Lang Bequest Fund, and £800 from the Bequest Fund to the Eventide Homes Fund to enable the annual grants to Christian social projects and Adam's House to be made by 30 June 2016

Report

The revenue element of both the Miss Lang Bequest and the Eventide Home Fund are now negligible. These transfers will put both these funds in a position for this year's annual grants recommended by Community Interests Committee to be made, and are in accordance with our practice in previous years.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. a) approves in principle, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, a revised programme of roof repairs to their church and halls proposed by the Erskine congregation, in order to tackle those areas worst affected and suffering from water ingress and associated damage;

b) notes that the Property Committee has approved in principle a grant from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Erskine congregation to assist with the cost of their roof repairs. The amount will be confirmed once the detailed cost is known;
3. a) approves a programme of repairs and improvements to be carried out by the Neilston congregation to their church, hall and manse buildings.

b) notes that the Property Committee has approved in principle a grant from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Neilston congregation to assist with the cost of their repairs and improvements. The exact amount will be determined once final costs have been established;
4. accepts the tender of £4,375 plus VAT from Allied Scotland, Chartered Surveyors, for the 2016 quinquennial inspections to be carried out at Greenock: Wellpark Mid, Westburn, and The Mount Kirk (including East End), and also the tender of £9,500 plus VAT from DM Hall, Chartered Surveyors for the 2016 quinquennial inspections at Paisley:Abbey, Lylesland, Martyr's Sandyford, St. Columba Foxbar, St. Luke's, Stow Brae and Wallneuk North;
5. instructs any congregations who do not yet have an asbestos survey for their church and hall(s) to comply with this legal requirement for non-domestic buildings and to have this done without further delay;
6. empowers the Convener to authorise essential work over the summer months, subject to later reporting to Presbytery for homologated approval.

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. Agrees to sponsor the fees and transport costs for Robert Cockburn and part fees and transport costs for Rebecca Craig and Callum McMillan to attend the National Youth Assembly;
3. Grants £250 from the Oakshaw East Mission Fund to Gleniffer High School Chaplaincy Team;
4. Grants £275 from the Oakshaw East Mission Fund to Kilbarchan Parish Church, to enable the start-up of Messy Church;

The convener presented a new section 5 and 6 and subsequent sections were renumbered as follows:

5. Grants £250 from the Oakshaw East Mission Fund to Erskine Parish Church to enable the start-up of Messy Church;
6. Grants £500 from the Smith Lefevre Fund to Erskine Parish Church to enable the start-up of a new youth group.
7. Notes the report from the Chair of the West Renfrewshire Youth Trust, on the positive impact on the Trust's work of increased contributions from congregations, made possible by reductions in M&M allocations, through the Mission Support Fund.

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. Approves the allocation of the following grants:
Eventide Home Fund - £800 to Adams House,
Miss Lang Bequest Fund - £600 to Oakshaw Trinity (to be split between Paisley Child Contact Centre and the Counselling Service at the Wynd Centre), £600 Forget-me-Not Café, Renfrew North Church, £1500 Inverclyde Family Contact Centre;
3. Encourages presbyters to get involved in 'Meet Your MSP' and feedback using the form at **appendix 3**

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

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. thanks congregations for their support of the World Mission Council's *Let us build a house* Appeal for earthquake devastated Nepal and notes that to date at least £3,704.59 has been raised by churches within the Presbytery

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. expresses its strongest concern at the ongoing delay in erecting Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie to full-status and instructs the Clerk to write to the General Trustees and Ministries Council in these terms;
3. Notwithstanding the above, and noting that the review of this NCD stated that it could not continue, invokes Section 20.9 of Act 13 2000 and seeks the return of this charge to the care of Presbytery as outlined therein;
4. re-affirms its decision to place this congregation in Guardianship and seeks the concurrence of the Presbytery Planning Task Group to that effect;
5. assures the congregation of Presbytery's ongoing concern and support during this difficult period, and re-affirms its responsibility and indeed desire to care for the congregation;
6. Appoints Mr Geoff Orry as locum there from the 1st July 2016;
7. Approves the Basis of Reviewable Charge for Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly Church and amends the Presbytery plan in those terms and confirms that this has been noted by the PPTG;

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. Attests that the 2015 accounts of the congregations listed in **appendix 4** fulfil the General Assembly's Regulations anent Congregational Finance and the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations;
3. Instructs the Clerk to contact the treasurers of the congregations advising them of the attestation of their accounts and informing them that they may now send their accounts to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator;
4. Instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of (3) above in the designated manner and no later than the due date of 30 June 2016;
5. Agrees that the sum of £5,000 be allocated from the Presbytery's 5% discretionary allowance available for the 2016 Ministries and Missions contributions to reduce the 2016 contribution of Kilmacolm Old Kirk;
6. Notes that a Statement of Contributions made up to 31st May 2016 in respect of Ministry and Mission contributions has been received from the General Treasurer's Department. One congregation has a balance outstanding for 2015 dues and three congregations,

who have not received permission not to pay by monthly bankers standing order, have made no payments towards 2016 dues. The treasurers of all 4 charges have been requested to address these issues urgently or report any circumstances preventing payment to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

7. Notes that any applications for reduction in 2016 Ministry and Mission Fund contributions should be submitted to the Presbytery Office no later than Friday 19th August 2016.

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

In the absence of the Rev Alan Sorensen, Convener, the Clerk presented the report of the Local Church Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the report of the Local Church Review at Gourrock: St. John's as outlined in the relevant **appendix 5** and agrees the action plan contained therein for the congregation;
3. notes the report of the Local Church Review at Greenock: Westburn as outlined in the relevant **appendix 6** and agrees the action contained therein for the congregation;
4. notes that the congregations are in good heart and commends the ministers and office-bearers for their forward-looking plans to further their congregation's mission.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 13th September 2016** in Port Glasgow: St Andrew's Church.

Moderator

Clerk