

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

September 13th 2016

At Port Glasgow and within Port Glasgow St Andrew's church there, the thirteenth day of September 2016, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 30 ministers, 45 elders, 2 Deacons and 7 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 8 ministers, 11 elders, 2 deacons and 4 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on June 21st 2016 being in print and in the hands of members were approved with a couple of minor amendments.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as October 11th 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additions from the Business, Property and Ministry Committees.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR

The Business Convener, Rev Alistair Shaw, thanked the retiring Moderator, Rev Dr Ken Forrest, for his service to Presbytery over his year in office and presented him with a gift from the court. Dr Forrest replied in suitable terms.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, having completed his period of office as Moderator proposed the Rev Ann McCool, nominated at the meeting of the Presbytery on 9th February last, as the next Moderator of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery approved and resolved accordingly.

Dr Forrest offered Mrs McCool congratulations and good wishes and led the Presbytery in prayer.

Mrs Mc Cool took the chair and expressed her thanks to the Presbytery for the privilege entrusted to her.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY,

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Clark, Mrs Cross, Miss Slater and Mr Shaw and said she looked forward to working with them in the coming months and hoped they would feel free to participate fully in Presbytery meetings and committee work.

LEAVE TAKING OF VERY REV DR LORNA HOOD

Mr Jack Winch spoke on behalf of the congregation of Renfrew North about Mrs Hood's lengthy service to the congregation. Mrs Hood replied in suitable terms. The Moderator then wished Mrs Hood well for a long and happy retirement.

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 sick leave of Rev Karen Harbison;
3. intimates our intention to cancel the Presbytery meeting scheduled for 11th April 2017 as it falls during Holy Week;
4. notes the Ministries Council appointment of Natasha Murphy as Youth Worker in the Greenock Parish Grouping from 29th August 2016;
5. appoints Rev David Burt as Interim Moderator at Gourrock St John's from 1/9/2016 during the vacancy there;
6. approves the appointment of Rev Dr Johnstone McKay, from the Presbytery of Ardrossan, as locum at Gourrock: St John's church from 11/9/2016;

The convener proposed a new section 7 as follows:

7. notes the appointment of Miss Yvonne Smith as locum at Renfrew North from 3rd October 2016;

This was approved and subsequent sections renumbered.

8. appoints Rev Stuart Steell as Interim Moderator at Houston & Killellan from 30/10/16 during the vacancy there;
9. grants Rev Elizabeth Geddes a practising certificate;
10. notes that Mr Sandy Smith has resigned as representative elder from Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey and thanks him for his long service to Presbytery;
11. agrees that the former manse at 38 Woodland Avenue, Paisley should be sold at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by the General Trustees in consultation with the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley;
12. agrees that the net proceeds of sale of the former St James' manse shall in the first instance be applied towards the cost of maintaining and repairing the former St. James' church and hall premises, Underwood Road, Paisley until these are disposed of with and any balance remaining thereafter shall be credited to the Central Fabric Fund of The Church of Scotland;
13. agrees the General Assembly instructions be remitted to the committees noted in **appendix 1**;

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 for Safeguarding Training in September and October, and the need to pre-register;
3. notes that Prayer Promoters meetings have begun for the winter, and commends their faithfulness in prayer for the Presbytery and its congregations;
4. grants £405 from the Oakshaw East Mission Fund to Johnstone High Parish, to enable the running of an Alpha Course;

5. notes that the next closing date for grant applications from the Oakshaw East Fund, the Smith Lefevre Fund, and the Newark Mission Fund, is 12 noon on Friday 18th November 2016;
6. commends the young people of the Presbytery on their participation in the National Youth Assembly and is pleased to receive their thoughts on the experience.

Miss Rebecca Craig, Mr Robert Cockburn and Mr Callum McMillan spoke of their experience at the National Youth Assembly and thanked Presbytery for assisting with the cost of their attendance.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Leon Marshall, 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 2** 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 these may now be sent 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 by 30 September 2016 ;
5. notes that accounts have been received from the congregation of Kilmacolm St Columba which have not yet been signed off by the Independent Examiner ; Instructs the Clerk to contact their treasurer advising that these accounts should now be sent to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on an interim basis and instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of this course of action ;
6. notes that the support offered to Paisley Glenburn from the Mission Support Fund of a sum not to exceed £1,980 has been deferred until 2017 ;
7. agrees that the following sums be awarded from the Mission Support Fund to reduce the 2016 Ministries & Mission contributions of the congregations concerned :

▪ Johnstone High	£1,000
▪ Paisley St Mark's Oldhall	5,000
8. agrees that the following sums be awarded towards the purchase and installation of audio visual and multimedia systems from the 5% discretionary allowance to reduce the 2016 Ministries & Mission contributions of the congregations concerned :

▪ Gourock St John's	£5,000
▪ Greenock St Margaret's	1,805
▪ Paisley Lylesland	1,440
9. agrees that the following sums be awarded from the 5% discretionary allowance to reduce the 2016 Ministries & Mission contributions of the congregations concerned :

▪ Greenock St Margaret's	£ 4,000
▪ Kilbarchan	15,000

- Kilmacolm St Columba 5,000
- Port Glasgow St Martin's 1,700

10. agrees that the balance of the 5% discretionary allowance be used to reduce the Ministries & Mission contributions of congregations as detailed in **Appendix 3** ;
11. instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship & Finance Department by 30 September 2016 and to inform the congregational treasurers of this by the same date ;
12. reminds congregations that applications for assistance from the Mission Support Fund can be made at any time of the year and urges presbyters to encourage their congregations to consider this source of funding when planning Outreach work on their own or in partnership with neighbouring churches

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
- 2a. homologates the approval granted in July under powers by the Convenor to the Linwood congregation to carry out repair and renewal work to the church halls and toilets totalling £24,142 incl. VAT, funds are available;
- 2b. homologates the approval granted in July under powers by the Convenor to the Linwood congregation to carry out repair and renewal work to the Manse en-suite toilet totalling £5154 incl. VAT, funds are available;
- 3a. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, a revised programme of roof repairs to their church and halls proposed by the Erskine congregation, at a total cost of £74,400 incl. VAT, funds are available. This was also previously approved at the June meeting but with the exact amount to be finalised;
- 3b. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Erskine congregation to assist with the cost of their roof repairs;
- 3c. approves an application in principle, subject to approval by CARTA, by the Erskine congregation for the installation of a fire alarm system at a total estimated cost of £3,700. Incl. VAT. The congregation is seeking financial assistance from the Central Fabric Fund;
4. homologates the approval granted in July under powers by the Convenor to Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity congregation to repaint the inside of the church at a total cost of £40,000 following completion of stonework and roof space repairs, funds are available. As the repaint is in the original colours, there is no input needed from CARTA;
- 5a. approves various repairs and upgrades to the flat roof, emergency exits and disabled access, proposed by the Paisley:Glenburn congregation at a total cost of £15,282. This item incorporates disabled access works approved by Presbytery in May;
- 5b. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £1,528 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley:Glenburn congregation to assist with the cost of this work;
6. approves an application from the Greenock: St Ninian's congregation for financial assistance amounting to £5,500 from the General Trustees' Fabric Committee to fund the feasibility study already instructed to recommend the way ahead for the congregational buildings;

7a. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, a programme of stonework repairs by the Paisley: Stow Brae congregation for a tendered cost, inclusive of fees and VAT of £209,051, funds are available. This confirms the details given approval in principle in February 2016;

7b. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley:Stow Brae congregation to assist with the cost of this work;

8. notes that the Inchinnan manse has been inspected and found to be ready for occupation;

9. notes the attendance by Jim Bain (Renfrew:North) at the Health and Safety Seminar of 7 July;

An additional section 10 was proposed as follows:

10. homologates approval under powers of the decision to sell the Glebe at Inverkipp by the General Trustees

MINISTRY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the appointment of Mr. Geoff Orry as Locum at St Ninian's, Ferguslie from 1st August 2016;
3. is delighted to present Mr John Spooner, a Student for the Readership, as he begins his final placement at Inchinnan under the supervision of Rev. Maureen Leitch;
4. notes that two people from within our Presbytery are currently journeying through the discernment process as they seek to make sense of their call to serve Christ and the Church.

An additional section 5 was proposed as follows:

5. approves the transfer of supervision of Ms Hannah Rankin to the Presbytery of Hamilton where she will complete her probationary year

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. suspends the Presbytery plan for Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainey and Port Glasgow: St Martin's;
3. intimates that the intention is to amend the plan for these congregations to read that they will be linked rather than united as the plan presently states;

4. instructs the committee to draw up a draft Basis of Linking in consultation with local office bearers and to send same to Ministries Council for their comment;
5. notes that Ministries Council at its last meeting agreed to raise Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie NCD to full status as from the 1st October 2016;
6. notes that we still await an extract minute from the General Trustees agreeing to take responsibility for the buildings at St Ninian's: Ferguslie;
7. awaits confirmation from the Law Department of the Church of Scotland that St Ninian's Ferguslie has been granted a unitary constitution;
8. appoints Jack McHugh, Mary Jane Bird, and xxxxx as assessor elders at Paisley: St Ninian's Ferguslie as it is raised to full status;
9. instructs the committee thereafter to present the Basis of Guardianship contained in **Appendix 4** to the office bearers and congregation of St Ninian's Ferguslie at meetings duly constituted for that purpose to seek their approval of said Basis;
10. thanks the members of the NCD Commission as they stand down and acknowledges with grateful thanks to God their long, diligent and faithful work in bringing this congregation to this point;

The Convener withdrew section 11 as in the print and subsequent sections were renumbered

11. notes that the Rev Peter Gill will be Interim Moderator of the Kirk Session of St Ninian's Ferguslie after it comes into full status as part of his ongoing commitment to spend 30% of his ministerial time there;
12. notes that a completed job description for the Pioneer Ministry post for Paisley North End/ Ferguslie Park has been submitted to Ministries Council and will be advertised shortly; (**Appendix 5**)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 11th October 2016** in The Cornerstone, Bishopton

Moderator

Clerk