

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

October 11th 2016

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ann McCool, Moderator, with 30 ministers, 45 elders, 2 Deacons and 12 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 13 ministers, 9 elders, 2 deacons and 4 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on September 13th 2016 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as November 8th 2016 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices, including the fire safety notice.

CONGRATULATIONS REV JOHN WHYTE

The Moderator led congratulations to Rev John Whyte who was celebrating 70 years in the ordained ministry. Mr Whyte was unable to be present and the Clerk was instructed to write to him in suitable terms.

LEAVE TAKING OF REV DONALD CAMPBELL

Mr Jim McBeath spoke on behalf of the congregation of Houston & Killellan ahead of the retirement of Mr Campbell. Mr David Pollock spoke on behalf of Bishopton, where Rev Donald Campbell had been Interim Moderator recently. Mr Campbell replied in suitable terms. The Moderator wished Mr Campbell all the best for a long and happy retirement.

WELCOME TO MISS NATASHA MURPHY

Miss Natasha Murphy had recently been employed as the Youth Worker in Greenock Parish Grouping and the Moderator wished her well in her new post.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Grants Paisley: St Columba Foxbar in Deferred Linkage with Paisley: St Luke's an extension of permission to call a minister for a further 6 months from this date in terms of Act VIII 2003, para 26;
3. Notes the call from Bishopton to Miss Yvonne Smith;
4. Grants Gourrock: St John's permission to call a minister on unrestricted tenure in terms of Act VII 2003;

5. Remits the linkage of Howwood and Lochwinnoch to Presbytery Plan Review Committee for its consideration;

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 Robert Craig until 14th October;
3. Agrees to the transfer of Rev Arthur Sherratt from the Presbytery of Ardrossan, welcomes him to Greenock & Paisley and invites him to reaffirm his vows of ordination;
4. Notes that Miss Margaret Crawford has resigned as Presbytery elder from Greenock Westburn;
5. Grants a practising certificate to the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood;
6. Appoints Mrs Margaret Sharp and Mr Richard McWhirter as assessor elders at Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie;
7. Notes the appointment of Rev Eileen Manson as Auxiliary Minister at Greenock: Lyle Kirk from Sunday 2nd October 2016;

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 nomination process for a Presbytery youth representative to the General Assembly 2017, and encourages congregations to make suitable nominations;
3. Notes the work at Johnstone High Parish Church's monthly 'Soul Space', towards which a grant was given from the Oakshaw Mission Fund.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. encourages congregations who are twinned with congregations in other parts of the world to share their experience of twinning with the committee;
3. encourages congregations who have registered as an eco-congregation to share their experience of being registered as an eco-congregation with the committee;
4. notes with pleasure that to date £220,000 has been raised through the World Mission Council's 'Let us build a house' challenge to Presbyteries and encourages congregations that have not yet supported the appeal to consider getting involved in order to help the United Mission in Nepal to offer support to earthquake victims who are still without shelter.

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. Notes the proposed Ministries & Mission contributions for 2017 as detailed in Appendix 1 ;
3. Notes that a copy of the proposed contributions has been sent to congregational Treasurers and that any appeals against these proposed contributions should be made to the Convener by 20 October 2016 ;
4. Notes the changes in the permitted use of the discretionary allowance as agreed at the General Assembly of 2016 ;

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

In the absence of the Convener, Rev Stephen Smith, 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 training organised regarding Local Church Reviews to take place on Thursday 13th October at 7pm in Kilmacolm Old Kirk;

PROPERTY

Mr Ian Russell, Convener, presented the report of the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the installation of a new audio visual system in the church building proposed by the Kilmacolm: Old Kirk congregation at an indicative cost of £16,700, inclusive of VAT and contingencies. The work has been approved by CARTA and funding is available;
3. approves various alterations and general modernisation of the church manse proposed by the Bridge of Weir : St Machar's Ranfurly congregation at an estimated cost of £30,000 inclusive of VAT, funding is available;
4. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £2,040 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Greenock: Westburn congregation to assist with the cost of repairs to the church tower. This grant was noted as approved in principle at the March meeting of Presbytery with the exact amount to be determined on finalisation of the actual cost;

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet for ordinary business on **Tuesday 8th November 2016** in The Cornerstone, Bishopton

Moderator

Clerk