

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

May 9th 2017

At Bishopton and within The Cornerstone there, the ninth day of May 2017, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ann McCool, Moderator, with 32 ministers, 52 elders, 3 deacons and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 7 elders, 2 deacons and 4 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on March 14th 2017 being in print and in the hands of members were approved with a minor amendment to the Property deliverance. Minutes of the ordination service on March 16th and minutes of the linking service on April 6th 2017 were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as June 20th 2017 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with an additional item from the Business Committee and Property Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV STAN PALMER

A tribute was read by Rev Stephen Smith and a copy is held on file in the Presbytery Office.

VISITING SPEAKER FROM CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

Mrs Marion Berekis gave a report from the Church of Scotland Guild on their various projects in the preceding year. The Moderator thanked her for the comprehensive report and wished the Guild well in the year ahead.

PATH OF RENEWAL – REPORT

Rev John Murning and Rev Eileen Ross gave a presentation about their experience of the Path of Renewal Pilot Project. The Moderator indicated this was a timely report as there had been an appeal to extend the project and ministers were encouraged to think carefully about it.

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 Iain Reid and notes his intention to demit his charge on 26th June 2017;
3. homologates the appointment of Rev Fiona Maxwell as Interim Moderator at Paisley Glenburn ahead of the retirement of Iain Reid;
4. homologates the appointment of Rev Bill McKaig as Interim Moderator at Paisley: St Luke's to replace Rev Iain Reid;

5. notes the resignation of Mr Stuart Boyne as an additional elder and thanks him for his service to Presbytery;
6. re-appoints Mr Ian Keith as Presbytery's representative on Renfrewshire Education & Children Policy Board;
7. notes the resignation of Mr Tom Macdougall from Inverclyde Council's Education Committee and seeks applications to replace him;
8. notes that Rev Alan Sorensen, having served for some time, needs to be replaced as a Trustee on Renfrewshire Education Trust and seeks a minister to replace him in this post;

an amendment was proposed and seconded following clarification about the appointment and reads as follows:

8. re-appoints Rev Alan Sorensen to serve as Presbytery's representative on Renfrewshire Educational Trust for a period of 5 years
9. approves the request from Barrhead Bourock to have joint services with Barrhead St Andrew's on Sunday 9th and 16th July in Bourock at 9.30am and 11.00am and then on 23rd and 30th July in St Andrew's at 11.00am;
10. approves the request from Greenock St Ninian's to move to the Unitary Constitution;
11. appoints Mr Jack McHugh as Interim Moderator at Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey linked with St Martin's from the date of this meeting;
12. homologates the appointment of Rev Karen Harbison as Interim Moderator at Greenock St Ninian's from 11th April 2017 ahead of the retirement of Rev Allan McIntyre;
13. notes that Paisley St Ninian's voted by 22 votes to 0 to adopt a basis of guardianship;
14. notes that Rev Stuart Davidson has been appointed as Pioneer Minister for Paisley North End and will take up his position on 14th August 2017.
15. approves the appointment of the Rev Dr Peter McEnhill to Action for Churches Together in Scotland (Acts) as an advisory Consultant on 'Ecumenical Ministerial Formation' for a three year project period;
16. agrees to the request from Langbank to change the time of their service on Sunday 14th May from 10.00am to 11.00am for a special service celebrating their 150th anniversary;
17. approves the request from Port Glasgow St Andrew's to cancel their diet of worship on Sunday 14th May and attend worship in their linked charge of Langbank;
18. notes the appointment of Rev Fiona Maxwell as Deputy Lieutenant and congratulates her on this honour;

An additional section of deliverance was proposed by the convener as follows:

19. Grants permission to Robin Allison to decline his commission to the General Assembly on personal grounds

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 bequest fund. Application forms (see appendix 1) should be returned to Alison McKenzie, Convener by 16th May 2017.

MINISTRY

Rev Jonathan Fleming presented the report from the Ministry committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the receipt of an application for study leave from Rev. David Burt, Gourrock: Old & Ashton;
3. notes the resignation of the Rev Liz Geddes as locum at Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney linked with St Martin's'
4. notes the appointment of Mrs Eleanor Hood as locum at the charge of Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney linked with St Martin's from May 1st 2017;
5. notes the appointment of Mr Russell Banks as locum at Paisley Glenburn from 1st May 2017;
6. encourages all members of Presbytery to consider the work of 'Tomorrow's Calling' and to explore ways of sharing this information with their congregations in the future.

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. notes that the 'Let us build a House' appeal for Nepal has now raised over £300,000 and commends the project to congregations who have not yet contributed to the Appeal;
3. notes the joint initiative between the World Mission Council and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan in working together to provide and develop training in counselling, trauma healing, peace and reconciliation and commends to the prayers of all within the bounds of Presbytery this venture and the desperate situation in South Sudan.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

The congregations of Johnstone High, Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity, Paisley Martyrs' Sandyford, Langbank linked with Port Glasgow St Andrew's, Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch, Greenock Lyle Kirk, Greenock St Margaret's, Greenock St Ninian's, Inverkip linked with Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay, Paisley St Lukes in deferred linkage with Paisley St Columba Foxbar, Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie and Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney linked with Port Glasgow St Martin's had been cited in their interest.

Rev Ken Gray, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was proposed:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. amends the Presbytery Plan by deleting all reference to the appointment of Ordained Local Ministers to particular charges;

A counter motion was proposed by Ken Carmichael, Paisley St Luke's and seconded by Rev Archie Speirs as follows:

2. agrees to retain the reference to Ordained Local Ministers in the current Presbytery Plan and instructs the committee to seek clarification as to why people are not coming forward to take up these positions within the church

On moving to a vote Presbytery voted against this counter motion and therefore the counter motion fell.

An additional section 3 to the original motion was proposed and seconded as follows:

3. instructs the committee to review the entire Presbytery Plan in light of recent developments as well as taking account of new initiatives like hub ministry

On moving to a vote there voted in favour of the amendment 45 with 9 votes against. Mr Ian Russell of Paisley Stow Brae Kirk asked for his dissent against this decision to be recorded

For the avoidance of doubt the deliverance from the Presbytery Plan Review Committee was approved as follows:

Presbytery:

1. **receives the report;**
2. **amends the Presbytery Plan by deleting all reference to the appointment of Ordained Local Ministers to particular charges;**
3. **instructs the committee to review the entire Presbytery Plan in light of recent developments as well as taking account of new initiatives like hub ministry**

PROPERTY

Mr Ian Russell, Convener, presented the report from the Property Committee and section 1 – 4 of the deliverance which was approved as follows:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves, subject to the approval of CARTA, an application by Inchinnan for the installation of a new audio visual system in the church building at a cost of £12,349 including VAT;
3. approves an application from the Inchinnan congregation to the General Trustees Fabric Committee for the release of £12,349 from their holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund, to meet the cost of their new AV system;
4. approves, subject to the approval of CARTA, an application by Bishopton congregation for the installation of a replacement heating system, powered by gas-fired condensing boilers with the gas supply is to be from an external LPG tank. The cost is £27,400 including fees and VAT, funding is available although grant aid is being sought;

The Convener declared an interest and additional sections 5 and 6 were presented by the Clerk and approved as follows:

5. Homologates the decision of the Presbytery Property Committee to approve the purchase of a new manse for Stow Brae Kirk at 290 Glasgow Road, Paisley and confirms that said property conforms to the requirements re manse regulations

6. Approves the request to the General Trustees by the office bearers of Stow Brae Kirk for a short term loan of £346,000 for the purchase of said property, this loan to be repaid upon the consequent sale of the current manse and a withdrawal from investments held in the consolidated fabric fund of the congregation

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 arrangements for the annual "Pray Across Scotland" evening on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.30pm in Wellpark Mid Kirk; encourages presbyters to make the event known and to support it;
3. commends to Kirk Sessions the dvd produced by the Church of Scotland Learning Disability Working Group, which can be obtained from the LDWG, or viewed on you tube;
4. notes that the Safeguarding Training in May are all fully booked;
5. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 19th May 2017;
6. notes the application for financial support to enable Mr Callum McMillan and Miss Rowan Houston, both of Johnstone High Parish Church, to attend the National Youth Assembly 2017;
7. agrees that Presbytery will pay full fees of £85 per person and travel costs to Stirling for both applicants above and looks forward to hearing their report in September;
8. notes that bookings are open for National Youth Assembly until 25th June 2017, and encourages presbyters to publicise the event to all who are eligible to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 7.00pm** or ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk