

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

June 20th 2017

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Ann McCool, Moderator, with 34 ministers, 47 elders, 2 deacons and 7 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 6 ministers, 10 elders, 3 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on May 9th 2017 being in print and in the hands of members were approved

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as September 12th 2017 in Johnstone High Church.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additional sections from the Vacancy Procedure, Business and Property Committees.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Moderator extended her congratulations to the Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood on receiving an OBE and Presbytery instructed the Clerk to write to Mrs Hood in suitable terms.

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, Emma Vaughan, then gave a very interesting and enjoyable talk about her time at Assembly and finished by thanking Presbytery for the opportunity to attend.

LEAVE TAKING

Leave taking the Rev Iain Reid and the Rev Allan McIntyre

Rev Allan McIntyre took leave of Presbytery and the Moderator wished him and Iain Reid, who was unable to be in attendance, all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

GREETINGS TO MINISTERS

The Moderator remembered ministers living outwith the bounds: Messrs Cherry, D Campbell, Chestnut 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 Cowan, Mrs McKenzie and Mrs Ross and thanked them for their work in the past years.

She also thanked those Elders who were retiring from Presbytery, Mr Boyne, Mr Nicol, Ms Slater, Mrs Sommerville and Mr Shaw

VACANCY PROCEDURE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. grants an extension of twelve months of permission to call a minister to Renfrew North Church;
3. grants a further extension of twelve months of permission to call a minister to Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's;

Additional sections 4-7 were proposed by the convener as follows:

4. notes receipt of a valid call to the Rev Jonathan Fleming from Cumbrae linked with Largs St Johns which has been sustained by the Presbytery of Ardrossan;
5. releases Mr Fleming from his current charge, though he will be just short of the five year rule re Ministers in their first charges when he leaves Erskine;
6. grants permission to Mr Fleming to accept the call from Cumbrae linked with Largs St Johns and to await the further instructions of the Presbytery of Ardrossan re his induction there;
7. instructs Mr Fleming that he remains minister at Erskine Parish Church until the date of his induction to his new charge which is set for Friday 13th October at 7.p.m.

Presbytery approved.

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 the Rev Ken Mayne and wishes him a speedy recovery;
3. homologates the appointment of the Rev Mhairi Breingan as Interim Moderator at Paisley Martyrs' Sandyford from 12th June 2017;
4. notes that the Rev Dr Charles Cameron was unable to take up his commission to the General Assembly for personal reasons;
5. grants a practising certificate to the Rev Bill Armstrong, Rev Ian Bell, Rev May Bell, Rev Donald Campbell, Rev Alastair Cherry, Rev Lilly Easton, Rev Ian Fraser, Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood, 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;
6. appoints Mary Jane Bird as an additional elder and instructs the Clerk to amend her details in the Roll of Presbytery;
7. approves the Roll of Presbytery as contained in **appendix 1**;
8. notes the Presbytery committee membership for the coming year as contained in **appendix 2**;

9. notes the proposed categories for the registration of ministers as contained in **appendix 3** and encourages anyone who is unhappy or unclear about what this means to contact the office;
10. appoints the Rev David Burt as Presbytery's representative on Inverclyde Council's Education Committee;
11. invites applications for Safeguarding Training Officers;
12. gives notice of a motion to suspend standing order number 4 ahead of the Presbytery meeting in September: '**Presbytery suspends standing order 4 re the election and installation of the Moderator at the September meeting and resolves to install the Rev James Cowan as Moderator at the October meeting of Presbytery.**'
On moving to a vote to suspend standing orders there were 83 votes in favour with none against therefore fulfilling the requisite two thirds majority
13. grants permission to Kilmacolm Old and Kilmacolm St Columba to hold joint services in the Old Kirk for the month of July and St Columba for the month of August;
An additional section 14 and 15 were proposed by the convener and agreed as follows:
14. grants permission to Bridge of Weir: Freeland and St Machar's Ranfurly to hold joint services on 2nd and 9th of July at Freeland and 16th and 23rd of July at St Machar's Ranfurly Church.
15. notes that St Columba Foxbar have voted unanimously to adopt the Unitary constitution and concurs with this decision, and instructs the Clerk to transmit note of our concurrence to the Law Department of the Church of Scotland.

TREASURER

Mr Peter Bennett presented his report and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

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 Adams House to be made by 30 June 2017

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 -	£400 Barrhead Memory Lane, £300 Starter Packs, £200 Johnstone High Soul Space/Healing Rooms £400 Street Pastors, £400 Supporting Parents, £1000 Inverclyde Family Contact Centre

3. agrees to support the Community Chaplaincy Listening Service (CCL) as it is rolled out across Presbytery bounds and supports appropriately qualified chaplains willing to work in support of the NHS;

4. commends the work of Compassionate Inverclyde and encourages churches in the Inverclyde area to contact Alison Bunce if interested in supporting the Back Home boxes project. Alison can be contacted by e-mail: Alison.bunce@ardhosp.co.uk or by mobile 075 40 766 381

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 appointment of the Rev Eileen Manson as locum at Greenock St Ninian's from 1st July on the demission of the Rev Allan McIntyre;
3. notes with regret the decision of Mr Thomas Blane to cease training as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

The congregations of Howwood linked with Lochwinnoch had been cited in their interest.

In the absence of Rev Ken Gray, Convener, the Clerk presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the result of the votes on the Bases of Severance and Guardianship by the congregations of Howwood and Lochwinnoch, and, in particular, notes that the Lochwinnoch congregation voted against the Basis of Severance;
3. notwithstanding the vote at Lochwinnoch, resolves to sever the linkage in terms of Presbytery's right to effect adjustment in such circumstances as outlined in section 13.2 of Act 7 2003, (Appraisal and Adjustment) and to intimate this decision to the Assembly Committee;
4. resolves that the linkage shall be severed as from the 1st July 2017.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Leon Marshall presented the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report ;
2. agrees that the following sums be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2017 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned :

Greenock East End	£2,750
Houston and Killellan	1,020
Inchinnan	5,000
Johnstone High	1,000

3. instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship & Finance Department and to inform the Congregational Treasurers of this;

4. notes that the congregations of Inverkip l/w Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay propose to employ a part-time Ministerial Assistant for an initial 3-year term at a forecast cost in the current year of £10,728 and agrees in principle to support this project throughout the 3-year term to the extent of £5,000 per annum, funds to be released once an appointment has been made;
5. notes that the final date for applying for assistance from the 5% Discretionary Allowance in the 2017 financial year is 24 August 2017;
6. attests that the 2016 accounts of the congregations listed in appendix 5 fulfil the General Assembly's Regulations anent Congregational Finance and the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations;
7. instructs the Clerk to contact the Treasurers of these 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;
8. instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of (7) above in the designated manner by 30 June 2017;

A notice of motion had been intimated from Mr Douglas Vallance and seconded by Rev Jim Cowan as follows:

9. To support new or existing mission projects for up 75% of the project cost, the minimum award to be £1,000 to a maximum award of £7,500.

This was subsequently withdrawn on the understanding the convener would take the request back to his committee to consider amending the current guidelines used to determine the use of the 5% discretionary allowance.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. accepts the tender of £6,900 plus VAT from Brown and Wallace LLP for the 2017 quinquennial inspections at, Bridge Of Weir: Freeland and St Machars Ranfurly, Elderslie, Howwood, Lochwinnoch, and Paisley: St Ninians;
3. approves an application to the General Trustees by the Inchinnan Congregation for a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of the architect's report in connection with water ingress at the Chancel window;
4. approves, subject to the approval of CARTA, an application by the Paisley Abbey Congregation for the replacement of the existing polycarbonate sheet panels with toughened glass panels and replacement of the existing manually operated door with an automatic sliding door at the cloister area entrance to the sanctuary and cafe / shop and to also provide improved disabled access at an estimated cost of £17,600. It is intended that funding will come from the Landfill Tax and the project has been discussed in principle with that organization;
5. approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation for the installation of an updated heating system comprising an additional boiler to run alongside the existing boiler, new convectors and sundry items. The cost is £49,202 plus £9,840 VAT to give a total of £59,042 and funding is available;

6. approves an application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to move forward to the detailed design stage and to apply for planning consent for their proposed hall extension at an estimated cost of £25,000 plus £5,000 VAT to give a total of £30,000 and funding is available;
7. a. approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by Kilmacolm: Old congregation for the re-slating the church roof at a cost of £38,500 plus £7,700 VAT to give a total of £46,200 and funding is available;
- b. approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by Kilmacolm Old congregation for stonework and dry rot repairs at the Pilot Stained Glass window in sanctuary at a cost of £7,270 plus £1,454 VAT and for dry-rot repairs in a rear church corridor at a cost of £2490 plus £498 VAT to give an overall total of £11,712 and funding is available;
- c. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 to Kilmacolm Old Kirk from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of these works.
8. approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by Kilmacolm: Old congregation for the replacement of central heating boilers in the church and Kidston Hall at a total cost of £10,000 plus £2,000 VAT to give a total of £12,000 and funding is available;
9. approves an application by Kilmacolm: Old congregation for a programme of electrical system tests and 'PAT' testing at a cost of £4,500 plus £900 VAT to give a total of £5,400 and funding is available;
10. notes that a circular was issued earlier this year by Elspeth Annan, Church of Scotland Solicitor, for the attention of Congregational Treasurers, concerning the revaluation of Churches and Church Halls and Presbyters are asked to remind their Treasurers that the last date for lodging appeals against valuations is 30th September 2017;
11. empowers the Convener to authorise essential work over the summer months, subject to later reporting to Presbytery for homologated approval;

Additional sections 12 – 14 were proposed by the convener

12. a) approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application by Kilbarchan Parish congregation for a programme of roof, stonework and window repairs and dry rot treatment to the church and hall buildings. Estimated cost of works is £ 237,300 plus £ 47,460 VAT, £27,053 for fees etc and £15,000 contingencies to give a total of £326,813 and funding is available;
- b) approves an application from Kilbarchan Parish congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of £236,000 from their Capital holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;
13. approves the sale of the current manse for Paisley:Oakshaw Trinity at 16 Golf Drive and reminds the congregation that any prospective new manse must have prior approval of the Presbytery's property committee;
14. notes that the congregation desire to have the minister's own house at 52 Balgonie Avenue, Paisley designated as the manse whilst a new manse is found, and instructs the congregation to seek approval for this proposal from the Manse Adjudication Committee;

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 that the annual Pray Across Scotland service took place as arranged on 16th May 2017 at Wellpark Mid Kirk, with thanks for the welcome and hospitality provided;
3. agrees the application to the Oakshaw Mission Fund from Glenburn, requesting £300 for outreach work in Gleniffer High School;
4. agrees the application to the Smith Lefevre Fund from Martyrs Sandyford, requesting £740 for a "Going Bananas" holiday Bible club at Montgomery Road;
5. notes the range of LEARN resources available and commends them to Kirk Sessions and congregations;
6. notes that new resources on Children, Youth and Young Adults are available on the Church of Scotland website, and instructs Kirk Sessions to give this information to all in their congregation working with Children, Youth and Young Adults;
7. notes that the next date for grant applications to be submitted to the office is 12 noon on Friday 22nd September 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7.00pm** for ordinary business in Johnstone High Church.

Moderator

Clerk