

## **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

***November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018***

**At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2018, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.**

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Moderator, with 35 ministers, 52 elders, 1 deacon and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from 8 ministers, 7 elders, 2 deacons and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> being in print and in the hands of members were approved with the addition of the appointment of Alistair Shaw as Depute Clerk.

### **APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

The next meeting was approved as December 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business was approved as printed with an addition from the Ministry Committee and a deletion from the Property Committee.

### **NOTICES**

The Depute Clerk highlighted the notices.

### **PRESENTATION OF READERS**

Readers within the bounds of Presbytery, Mrs Bird, Mr Banks, Miss Boag, Mr Campbell, Mr Davey, Mr Glenny, Mrs Hood, Mrs MacDonald, Miss McFarlan, Mr McHugh, Mr Marshall, Mrs Maxwell, Mr Rankin and Mr Spooner, were thanked for their work throughout the year. Recognition was also made of Mr Geoff Orry, Reader Emeritus.

### **WELCOME REV VALERIE WATSON & REV IAN CURRIE**

Both Mrs Watson and Mr Currie reaffirmed their vows of ordination and signed the formula. The Moderator welcomed them and looked forward to working with them in the years ahead.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Mrs Frances Hume, Senior Development Officer for Interfaith Scotland gave an interesting and thought provoking talk regarding Interfaith work. The Moderator thanked her for her presentation and wished her well in promoting closer working relationships between faith groups.

### **OVERTURE UNDER THE BARRIER ACT**

Presbyters were asked to consider the changes to the Discipline Act which had been sent down under the Barrier Act. After debate a vote was called and there voted in favour of the Overture 77 with 6 voting against. The Clerk was instructed to notify this result to the Principal Clerk's office by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. The Clerk was also instructed to send the report, as in the print, constituting presbytery's comments on the

proposed Act. The Rev Alan Sorensen further suggested that Presbytery expressed grave concern that ministers were no longer afforded the full cost of legal assistance and urged that that be reconsidered. This was agreed. The Rev Ken Gray suggested that legal costs should not be placed on ministers or presbyteries, but should rest with Ministries Council or other appropriate area within the budget of central church. This was also agreed.

## **PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW & VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEES**

*Parties had been cited from Langbank, Port Glasgow St Andrew's, Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney, Port Glasgow St Martin's, Neilston, Paisley Glenburn, Paisley Lylesland, Paisley St Columba Foxbar, Paisley St Luke's, Paisley Martyrs' Sandyford, Greenock St Margaret's and Greenock St Ninian's.*

*Mr Alex Easton spoke on behalf of Paisley Lylesland and Mrs Cathie Dunnachie spoke on behalf of Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney. Thereafter parties were removed.*

Rev Alan Sorensen, Convener of PPRC, presented the joint report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and Vacancy Procedure Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. suspends the plan for Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's, Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney linked with Port Glasgow: St Martin's, Neilston, Paisley: Glenburn, Paisley: Lylesland, Paisley: St Columba Foxbar in deferred linkage with Paisley St Luke's, Paisley: Martyr's Sandyford, Greenock: St Margaret's and Greenock: St Ninian's as provided for in section 9 of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment, as amended), and instructs the committee to confer with local parties with a view to readjustment, and instructs the Clerk to communicate this decision to the Presbytery Planning Task Group for their concurrence;

*An amendment to section 2, proposed by Rev Owen Derrick and seconded by the Rev John Murning, to delete after the phrase 'suspends the plan for' the references to the specific named congregations and to insert in their place 'the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley', was ruled not competent by the Moderator as it would directly affect congregations who had not been cited to appear in their interest.*

*Following that Mr Derrick proposed that Presbytery depart from section 2. This was seconded by Rev John Murning.*

*On being put to a vote, the amendment fell and section 2 was approved.*

*A further amendment to section 2 was proposed by Mr John Armit that the reference to Paisley: Lylesland Church should be deleted, but this was not seconded.*

3. recalls the permissions to call a Minister previously given to the congregations of Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrews, Paisley: Lylesland, Paisley St

Columba Foxbar in deferred linkage with Paisley :St Luke's, and suspends the vacancy processes there;

4. advises the Presbytery Planning Task Group of the Ministries Council that it is this Presbytery's view that the numbers of ministries to be allocated to Presbyteries in future planning should be advisory and not mandatory, and instructs the Clerk to also communicate this to the Group.
5. grants permission to Paisley:St Mark's Oldhall to call a minister on unrestricted tenure in accordance with Act VIII 2003;

*Rev John Murning proposed that Presbytery depart from section 5 and this was seconded by Rev Maureen Leitch.*

*There voted in favour of section 5, 28 with 32 votes against and therefore section 5 fell.*

At this point it became clear that business would extend beyond the time limit set in Standing Order number 38. The Moderator proposed that Standing Orders be suspended and there voted in favour 56 with 12 votes against, clearly satisfying the requisite two-thirds majority. Business continued.

## **BUSINESS**

Rev Ken Gray, Convener, presented the report from the Business Committee, apart from section 3 which was proposed by Rev Dr Alistair Shaw, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the resignation of the Rev Karen Harbison as Convenor of the Business Committee;
3. approves the appointment of the Rev Ken Gray as Convenor of the Business Committee;
4. homologates the appointment of Rev Maureen Leitch as Interim Moderator at Neilston from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018;
5. notes that Mr Wes Brandon is currently on a familiarisation placement within Paisley: Sherwood Greenlaw and instructs the Clerk to add his name to the roll of Presbytery as a corresponding member;
6. approves the application from Howwood to adopt the unitary constitution;
7. notes that Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's will host an ecumenical Advent Service at on 2 December 2018 in the St Andrews' sanctuary and agrees that there will be no service of worship at Langbank on that date;
8. reminds Session Clerks that they were meant to have reported completion of their congregational GDPR audits to the Presbytery office by this time and instructs those who have not yet done so to do so forthwith.

## **COMMUNITY INTERESTS**

In the absence of Rev Pamela Gordon, Convener, Rev Ann Knox 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: £700 to 'Talk it Over' held in Paisley Abbey;
3. notes a matter that has been reported to the committee re a recent funeral that took place within the bounds of Presbytery with regard to possible shortcomings in the care of the body such that there was a strong and noticeable odour, and asks that anyone conducting a funeral encountering similar problems informs the committee.

## **MINISTRY**

Rev Ann McCool, Convener, presented the report from the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that we have 61 Worship Leaders being used in congregations throughout the Presbytery, with a further 16 who were validated in September;
3. reminds Ministers of the need to follow the guidelines for encouraging members to undertake the Worship Leaders Course;

*An additional section 4 was proposed by the Convener and approved as follows:*

4. reminds all Readers to return their Readers Report Form by 17th January to [ann.mccool@ntlworld.com](mailto:ann.mccool@ntlworld.com)

## **WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS**

Rev Peter Gill, Convener, presented the report of the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the importance of the World Mission stamp appeal for the people of the Ukraine, and recommends Presbytery supports this important work;
3. notes the date of the Study Tour of Israel & Palestine, 21-31 March 2019 and encourages Presbyters to make this opportunity known amongst congregations;
4. commends congregations to continue holding Zimbabwe in prayer;

5. encourages congregations to take part in Interfaith Scottish Week starting 11th till 18th November 2018;
6. notes that Paisley Wallneuk North have organised a 'Peace Walk' on 11 November at Barshaw Park from the Park entrance to the Peace Garden;
7. notes with interest Anne Considine's planned attendance at Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) autumn conference, to be held on Saturday, 27 October 2018 in the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church.

### **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

In the absence of Mr Leon Marshall, Convener, Mr Douglas Vallance presented the report from the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. agrees that the sum of £4,214 be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2019 Ministries and Mission contribution of Paisley Abbey;
3. approves the proposed 2019 Ministries and Mission contributions for all congregations as detailed in **Appendix 1**;
4. instructs the Clerk to transmit the approved Ministries and Mission allocation schedule to the Stewardship and Finance Department of the Church of Scotland by the due date of 15 November 2018;
5. reminds congregations that applications for assistance from the 5% Discretionary Allowance can be made to the Stewardship and Finance Committee at any time, guidelines for use and the application form being available on the Presbytery website;

### **PROPERTY**

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

*The Convener withdrew section 2 in the print and subsequent sections were renumbered.*

2 (a). approves an application from the Inchinnan congregation for the erection of seven interpretation boards which will be a mix of A2 and A3 size and attached to the mesh and solid walls adjacent to the historic tombstones. This project is being organized by the Inchinnan Historical Interest Group and they are covering the entire cost;

(b). approves an application from the Inchinnan congregation for a programme of repair work to the entrance pathway etc., at an estimated cost of £23,000 inclusive of fees and VAT and funding is available;

(c). approves an application from the Inchinnan congregation to convert a cloakroom within the Inchinnan manse to a shower room, at an estimated cost of £7,500 inclusive of fees and VAT and funding is available;

(d). approves an application from the Inchinnan congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of £7,500 from their capital holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;

3. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Greenock St Ninian's congregation to dispose of their present manse. The General Trustees require the net proceeds of the sale to be held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund and it will be a requirement of Presbytery that such funds are held as restricted funds for the sole purpose of purchasing a replacement manse should that prove necessary, and it is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

4(a). approves, subject to the approval of CARTA, an application by the Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay congregation to form an enclosed area within the sanctuary for multiple uses e.g. meetings, small services etc. involving the erection of moveable 2m high screen walls and the removal of pews within the area concerned. The total cost is estimated at £10,000 inclusive of fees and VAT and funding is available;

(b). approves an application from the Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of £8,000 from their revenue holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;

5(a). approves, subject to the final approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to erect a single storey extension to the Ralston Road church and halls building at a total estimated cost of £635,000 including fees of £87,500 and VAT of £17,500. This project was previously approved in principle at the May meeting of Presbytery and passed to the General Trustees whose Fabric Committee approved the proposals formally on 3 July;

(b). approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to dispose of the former South and Lavern manse. It is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

(c). approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to purchase an area of ground to the West of the St. Andrew's (Ralston Road) building from East Renfrewshire Council. East Renfrewshire Council has approved the sale of the ground at a cost of £4,500 plus fees and funding is available. It is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

(d). Approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to dispose of the former South and Lavern Church and halls once the St Andrew's (Ralston Road) complex is complete. It is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

6. approves the request from the Paisley St Columba congregation to let their manse during the vacancy and instructs the said congregation to liaise with the General Trustees in connection with the arrangements for any lease and to use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

7. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Paisley St Ninian's congregation to dispose of their present Manse. The General Trustees require the net proceeds of the sale to be held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund and it will be a requirement of Presbytery that such funds are held as restricted funds for the sole purpose of purchasing a replacement manse should that prove necessary, and it is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

8. approves the request from the Neilston congregation to let their manse during the vacancy and instructs the said congregation to liaise with the General Trustees in connection with the arrangements for any lease and to use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

9. reminds all congregations, that the standard Church of Scotland Insurance Policy has restricted cover for manses which are unoccupied as detailed in the report;

### **MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP**

In the absence of Mrs Mary Jane Bird, Convener, Rev Hanneke Marshall presented the report from the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes there are no further local Safeguarding Training dates until after the New Year but Kirk Sessions requiring training other than for new volunteers may contact the Presbytery of Glasgow: 0141 332 6606 to access their provision;
3. reminds congregations that completed application forms for each of the 2 funds which fall under the Mission and Discipleship Committee, namely the Smith-Lefevre, and Port Glasgow Newark Mission Fund should be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018;
4. invites applications for the General Assembly Youth Representative for 2019;
5. notes that Emma Vaughan, one of our Presbytery National Youth Assembly representatives has spoken in her own church in Kilbarchan, and also to the Elderslie Guild, about her experience;
6. notes the Church of Scotland initiative Together we Pray and encourages Kirk Sessions to consider a prayer walk;
7. instructs Kirk Sessions to explore what opportunities exist for a fresh expression of church in their parish, as per the General Assembly 2018 remit from the Mission and Discipleship Council

### **SUPERINTENDENCE – TAKEN IN PRIVATE**

Rev Stephen Smith, Convener, presented the report of the Superintendence Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. appoints a Special Committee of Presbytery comprising of the Rev Alistair May, the Rev Valerie Ott and Mrs Katherine Taylor in terms of Section 8 Act 1 (2010) Discipline of Elders, Readers and Office Bearers;

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018 for ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

*Moderator*

*Depute Clerk*