

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

March 12th 2019

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the 12th day of March 2019, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

In the absence of Rev Dr Alistair Shaw, the Rev David Burt was appointed as depute clerk *pro tem* and took the *oath de fideli*

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Moderator, with 29 ministers, 40 elders, 2 deacons and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 7 ministers, 10 elders, 1 deacon and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on February 12th being in print and in the hands of members were approved

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as May 14th 2019 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additional items from the Treasurer and the Property Committee.

NOTICES

The Depute Clerk highlighted the notices.

TRIBUTE TO LATE MISS HELEN SMITH

The Moderator paid tribute to the life and service of Miss Helen Smith, long serving Presbytery elder for Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk. A copy is held on file.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

Rev Yvonne Smith advised of the candidates who had completed the leading worship training course and the Moderator presented them with a certificate and extended his congratulations to;

June Burgess, Gillian Clements, Lesley Davidson, Hugh Duff, Elizabeth Evans, Lynn Hennie, Morag McCracken, Roberta McFarnon, Robert Purse, John Robertson and Muriel Smith.

GUEST SPEAKER

Rev Stuart Davidson, a Pioneer Minister in the North End of Paisley, gave a report on what he has achieved in his first year and his goals for the future.

RADICAL ACTION PLAN

Rev Ken Gray and Rev Teri Peterson gave a brief synopsis of the Radical Action Plan which would be coming to the General Assembly 2019. Details had been circulated at appendix 1. They dealt with questions and urged anyone who wished to comment on the proposals to notify the Presbytery Office by the end of the week so that their comments could be transmitted to the Council of Assembly in due course.

ORDER OF THE DAY AT 7.45PM

Presbytery elected the following Commissioners to the General Assembly 2019

Rev Dr Peter McEnhill Presbytery Clerk; **Rev William Armstrong**, retired minister; **Rev David Burt** at Old Gourrock & Ashton; **Rev Jim Cowan** at Barrhead:St Andrew's; **Rev Peter Gill** at Paisley Wallneuk North; **Rev Pamela Gordon** at Barrhead Bourrock; **Rev Kenneth Gray** at Bridge of Weir Freeland; **Rev Henneke Marshall** at Bridge of Weir St Machar's Ranfurly; **Rev John Murning** at Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw; **Rev Gary Noonan** at Houston & Killellan; **Rev Teri Peterson** at Gourrock St John's; **Rev Stephen Smith** at Kilbarchan; **Rev Alan Sorensen** at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk; and **Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood**, former Moderator (Ministers 14)

Mr Derek Bisset at Paisley Wallneuk North; **Mr Alistair Boyd** at Paisley St Mark's Oldhall; **Mr Kenneth Carmichael** at Paisley St Luke's; **Mrs Elspeth Cochrane** at Barrhead St Andrew's; **Mrs Anne Considine** at Neilston; **Mrs Fiona Cumming** at Langbank; **Mr William Fleming** at Elderslie; **Mr Graeme Harris** at Bridge of Weir Freeland; **Mr James Jack** at Paisley Martyrs; Sandyford; **Miss Anne Love** at Gourrock St John's; **Mr Jack McHugh** at Bridge of Weir Freeland; **Mrs Ann McLeod** at Kilbarchan; **Mr James Pettinger** at Kilmacolm St Columba, **Mrs Patricia Robertson** at Greenock Westburn and **Mr Jack Winch** at Renfrew North. (Elders 15)

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

Presbytery

1. receives the report;
2. grants permission to Rev Robert Craig to demit his charge at Paisley: Stow Brae in order to take up the charge of Glasgow: Hillington Park;
3. reminds Mr Craig that he remains minister at Paisley Stow Brae until the date of his induction on 21st March 2019;

BUSINESS

Rev Ken Gray, Convener, presented the report from the Business Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the sick leave of Rev Eileen Ross, Rev Eileen Manson and Rev Peter Gill;
3. homologates the appointment of Rev Stuart Stevenson as Guardian at Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie during the sick leave of Rev Peter Gill;
4. notes that Rev Stuart Stevenson will act as Convener *pro tem* of the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations Committee during the sick leave of Rev Peter Gill;
5. homologates the appointment of Rev Dr Charles Cameron as Interim Moderator at Paisley Wallnuek North during the sick leave of Rev Peter Gill;
6. appoints Rev Philip Wallace as Interim Moderator at Paisley Martyrs' Sandyford from 12th March ahead of the translation of Rev Robert Craig;

7. appoints Rev Mhairi Breingan as Interim Moderator at Paisley Stow Brae from 21st March 2019 following the translation of Rev Robert Craig;
8. approves the request from Paisley St Mark's Oldhall to adopt the Unitary Constitution;
9. notes the determination from the General Trustees with regard to the sale of the manse of Greenock St Margaret's and credit their respective Consolidated Fabric Funds with the free proceeds of the sale;
10. notes the determination from the General Trustees with regard to the sale of the manse of Greenock St Ninian's and credit their respective Consolidated Fabric Funds with the free proceeds of the sale;
11. urges the Council of Assembly to introduce a more equitable and sustainable system for funding the needs of the church;
12. recommends that any such a system should recognise the significant burdens being placed upon congregations by the current system of allocations;
13. suggests that any system introduced should place some form of limit on what can be taken from congregations when they are in vacancy;
14. believes that no increasing burden should be placed on congregations without a rationalisation of the central programmes and Councils of the church;
15. instructs the Clerk to convey sections 11 – 14 to the Council of Assembly ahead of the General Assembly 2019

TREASURER

The Moderator, as a Trustee of Inverclyde Family Contact Centre, declared an interest in sections 3 and 4 of the deliverance

Mr Peter Bennett, Treasurer, presented the accounts for 2018 and the following deliverance was approved:

1. receives the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2018;
2. notes that the Independent Examination of the Annual Accounts of the Presbytery for the year ended 30 June 2018 (as approved by Presbytery on 11th December 2018) has been completed. The final signed accounts have been lodged at the General Treasurer's Department of the Church of Scotland and the Annual Return to OSCR has been submitted;

an additional section 3 and 4 was proposed and seconded as follows:

3. approves the award of emergency grant funding from Presbytery General Funds in the sum of £2,000 to Inverclyde Family Contact Centre;
4. encourages congregations to consider holding a retiring offering or fund raising event for Inverclyde Family Contact Centre in the near future to support the valuable service they offer.

PROPERTY

In the absence of Mr Ian Russell, Convener, Mr Jim Bain presented the report from the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved;

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2(a). approves an application by the Paisley: St Columba Foxbar congregation to carry out a full renovation of their manse. The estimated cost is £15,000 plus £3,000 VAT to give a total of £18,000 and some funds are available with grant aid being sought for the remainder;

2(b). approves an application to the General Trustees from the Paisley: St Columba Foxbar congregation for financial assistance from the Central Fabric fund in connection with the above project;

2(c). notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £1,800 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of these works;

3. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application in principle by the Gourrock: St John's congregation for essential major repairs to the clock tower. The estimated cost is £245,144, inclusive of £40,857 VAT (recoverable) and fees etc. and an application has been made for a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund;

4. approves an application by the Elderslie Kirk congregation for the refurbishment of the manse property. The estimated cost is £45,000 inclusive of VAT etc. and funds are available;

5. approves an application in principle by the Greenock St Margaret's congregation to replace a flat roof and install an accessible toilet. The estimated total cost is approximately £36,000 inclusive of VAT and fees etc, fund raising is underway and grant aid is being pursued;

6. encourages presbyters to make the forthcoming Health and Safety presentation on Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 19:00 known to their congregations;

7. notes the availability of financial aid for property repairs by way of grants under the Historic Environment Scotland Repair Grant Scheme;

An additional section 8 was proposed and seconded as follows:

8. instructs congregations seeking to carry out works during the summer, where Presbytery approval may be required, to make application so that such matters can be brought before the June meeting of Presbytery at the latest

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 that the safeguarding training in Renfrew Trinity on Sunday 17 March is fully booked;
3. notes 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 Fund should be submitted by 12 noon on Friday 17 May 2019;
4. notes that no applications have been received for the General Assembly Youth Representative;
5. invites Kirk Sessions to nominate a young person as delegate to the National Youth Assembly in August 2019;
6. reminds 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;
7. invites all interested (elders, members, prospective partnership partners) to a Mission Conference 2-4 12 May, The Cornerstone, Bishopton;
8. notes the feedback from the Mission and Discipleship Committee questionnaire outlining their existing provision of mission and outreach initiatives.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

Rev Alan Sorensen presented the report from the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that a conference has been organised for congregations within the Paisley, Neilston and Barrhead area on 30th March at the Cornerstone

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

In the absence of Mr Leon Marshall, Convener, Mr Peter Bennett 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 2019 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned;

▪ Bridge of Weir St Machar's Ranfurly	£5,000
▪ Houston and Killellan	3,000
▪ Inverkip	6,345

- Paisley St Mark's Oldhall 7,500
- Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney 1,500

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

SUPERINTENDENCE (taken in private)

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the annual Inspection of Records has taken place and that the committee is satisfied as to the generally high level of record keeping;
3. thanks all those who assisted in the Inspection of Records, and the congregations who made premises available for that purpose;
4. notes that the Special Committee appointed by Presbytery at its meeting on November 13th 2018 to consider a possible disciplinary offence under Act 1 2010, (Discipline of Elders, Readers and Office Bearers), has completed its investigation and found that there was no offence prosecutable in terms of the aforesaid Act;
5. instructs the Superintendence committee to pursue the recommendations of the Special Committee with regard to safeguarding and governance matters with the congregation concerned;
6. discharges the Special Committee and thanks them for their diligence.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 14th May 2019 for ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Depute Clerk