

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

May 14th 2019

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the 14th day of May 2019, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, Moderator, with 28 ministers, 48 elders, 2 deacons and 7 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 3 elders, 1 deacon and 2 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

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

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as June 18th 2019 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Moderator highlighted the notices.

GUEST SPEAKER – THE GUILD

Mrs Helen Eckford presented a report from the Church of Scotland Guild, representing both Paisley and Inverclyde Branches, indicating the work done in the past year. She provided information leaflets detailing the various Guild projects this year and encouraged participation. The Moderator thanked her for report and all the work that is done by the Guild.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Moderator congratulated Rev Bill Armstrong on his 40th anniversary in ordained ministry. Mr Armstrong was ordained on 16th May 1979 and although retired he was currently Interim Moderator at Kilmacolm St Columba.

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 continuing sick leave of Rev Eileen Ross and Rev Peter Gill;
3. notes the appointment of Rev Ian Ramsden as locum at Erskine from 26th March 2019;
4. notes the appointment of Rev May Bell as locum at Greenock St Margaret's from 22nd April 2019;

5. notes the appointment of Mr Jack McHugh as locum at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's from 1st April 2019;
6. homologates the appointment of Rev Alistair Shaw as Interim Moderator at Howwood from Monday 22nd April 2019;
7. appoints Rev Alan Birss as Interim Moderator at Paisley: Lylesland from 1st July 2019 following the resignation of Rev John Murning;
8. after election, appoints Mr Denis Wadsworth from Elderslie as a commissioner to the General Assembly to take the place of William Fleming who had to step down;
9. notes that Rev Alan Sorensen has stepped down as Convener of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and that Rev Ken Gray and Rev Dr Peter McEnhill will oversee the work of the PPRC until a new convener is appointed in July 2019;
10. notes that Rev Jim Cowan has indicated his intention to retire on 6th July 2019;
11. notes the determination from the General Trustees with regard to the sale of the former manse of Barrhead South & Levern and credits the respective Consolidated Fabric Funds with the free proceeds of the sale after meeting the cost of refurbishing Barrhead St Andrew's Church and Halls;

PROPERTY

Mr Ian Russell, Convener, 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: Wallneuk North congregation to carry out repairs to the car park surface with a total estimated cost of £8,000 inclusive of VAT, incidentals, etc and funding is available;
- 2.b approves an application by the Paisley Wallneuk North congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of the sum of £8,000 from their capital holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;
3. instructs the Property Committee to obtain tenders for the 2019 quinquennial inspections at, Barrhead: St. Andrew's and Bourock, Johnstone: High, St Andrews and St Paul's, Kilmacollm: Old and St Columba, Linwood, Neilston, Paisley: Glenburn and Sherwood Greenlaw and Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainey, St Andrew's and St Martin's. A total of fourteen congregations;
4. notes that the Health and Safety Seminar, which took place on Tuesday 2nd April 2019, attracted over 50 representatives of congregations in Presbytery and was well received;

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

Mrs Mary Jane Bird, Convener, presented the report from the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2. notes that safeguarding training has been progressing well within the Presbytery;
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. invites Kirk Sessions to nominate a young person as delegate to the National Youth Assembly in August 2019;
5. invites presbyters to the Presbytery service at 7.30 in at the Union Street Building of Lyle Kirk, Greenock to pray for those involved at the General Assembly;
6. notes the Moderator's call to take part in the Thy Kingdom Come initiative from Ascension to Pentecost (30 May - 9 June)

MINISTRY

In the absence of the Convener, the Depute Clerk presented the report from the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

- 1 receives the report
- 2 nominates Mr Dougie Adam as a candidate in training for the full time Ministry of Word and Sacrament

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Rev Stuart Stevenson, Convener, pro tem, presented the report from the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. commends "Thy Kingdom Come" Prayer Event 30th - 9th June;
3. commends and encourages attendance at the upcoming Heart & Soul event on Sunday 19 May, 2019, in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh;
4. notes the date of the 'Journeying Together-Empowering Teenage Mothers In Zambia' trip, 28 February-7 March 2020, and encourages members of Presbytery to make this opportunity known amongst congregations, especially Guilds;
5. encourages congregations to take part in the national Weekend of Invitation from Friday 15-Sunday 17 June.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

The congregations of Paisley St Lukes; Lylesland; St Columba Foxbar; Langbank; Port Glasgow St Andrews; Hamilton Bardrainey and St Martin's had been cited in their interest. They elected not to speak on the proposed motions.

Rev Ken Gray presented the report from the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. amends the Presbytery plan for Paisley St Luke's and Paisley St Columba Foxbar by severing the linkage there and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Severance in consultation with local parties;
3. amends the Presbytery plan for Paisley Lylesland and Paisley St Luke's to read that the congregations shall be united and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Union in consultation with local parties;

a counter motion was proposed and seconded in place of section 3 as follows:

notes the committee's intention to enter detailed discussions with Paisley Lylesland and Paisley St Luke's towards effecting a union between them;

on being put to a vote there were 6 votes for the counter motion with the remainder of those present and entitled to vote voting for the original motion. Therefore section 3 as in the print stands.

4. amends the Presbytery plan for Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey and Port Glasgow St Martin's by severing the linkage there and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Severance in consultation with local parties;
5. amends the Presbytery plan for Langbank and Port Glasgow St Andrews by severing the linkage there and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Severance in consultation with local parties;
6. amends the Presbytery plan for Port Glasgow St Andrews and Port Glasgow St Martins to read that the congregations shall be united and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Union in consultation with local parties;
7. notes the committee's intention to enter detailed discussions with
 - (a) Neilston and Barrhead Bourock towards effecting a union or linkage between them.
 - (b) Paisley Glenburn and Barrhead St Andrew's towards effecting a union or linkage between them.
 - (c) St Mark's Oldhall and Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw towards agreeing a deferred union or linkage with the aim of allowing an unrestricted call to the deferred union or linkage.
 - (d) Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey with a view to readjustment
 - (e) Langbank with a view to readjustment

8. further notes the committee's intention to work towards a series of unions in Paisley designed to bring the overall number of posts down to 8 for the town and to plan for no more than 6 buildings in the town;
9. also notes the ongoing discussions in the West End of Greenock and Gourrock which may result in the creation of a Hub style arrangement.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 18th June 2019 for ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Depute Clerk