

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY***November 12th 2019***

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

SEDERUNT

Mr Jack McHugh, Moderator, with 25 ministers, 51 elders, 2 deacons and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 7 elders, 1 deacon and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on September 10th, the ordination on October 10th and the service of union on November 7th being in print and in the hands of members were approved with a small addition to the minute of 10th October. The Clerk was instructed to add "by the laying on of hands" to the minute of ordination.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as 10th December 2019 in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

WELCOME TO REV DAVID NICOLSON

The Moderator welcomed Mr Nicolson to his new charge at Erskine and said he looked forward to working with him.

PATH OF RENEWAL PRESENTATION

Rev Eileen Ross and Rev John Murning gave a brief report about their experience on the Path of Renewal Project.

REPORT FROM EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

Rev David Burt, currently the Presbytery Representative on Inverclyde Education Committee gave a brief outline of his role and some of the challenges faced in education in the preceding year.

Mr Ian Keith, former Presbytery Representative on Renfrewshire Education Committee had submitted a written report (appendix 1) about his role in an effort to encourage a volunteer to replace him.

PRESENTATION OF READERS:

Mrs Bird, Mr Banks, Miss Boag, Mr Campbell, Mr Davey, Mr Glenny, Mrs Hood, Mrs MacDonald, Miss McFarlan, Mr Marshall, Mrs Maxwell, Mr Rankin and Mr Spooner are all Readers within the Presbytery. Those who were in attendance were presented to the Moderator who thanked them on behalf of Presbytery for all the work they continue to do.

PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS

Mr Douglas Adam was currently a ministry student and, in his absence, Presbytery approved a grant from the Weddell Bursary Fund to assist him with the purchase of books for his course.

VACANCY PROCEDURE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. grants permission to Port Glasgow New Parish Church to call a minister on unrestricted tenure all in terms of the provisions of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment)
3. notes that the Presbytery Plan for Paisley: Barrhead, St. Andrew's is for a FTE Minister of Word and Sacrament on unrestricted tenure; and on this basis, the Committee grants them permission to call a minister on unrestricted tenure all in terms of the provisions of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment).
4. notes that the Presbytery Plan for Paisley: Greenock, Lyle Kirk is for a FTE Minister of Word and Sacrament on unrestricted tenure; and on this basis, the Committee grants them permission to call a minister on unrestricted tenure all in terms of the provisions of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment)

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. appoints an Order of the Day at 7.45pm at the December meeting for the election of Commissioners to the 2020 General Assembly;
3. homologates the appointment of Mr Jack McHugh as Interim Moderator and locum at the united congregation of Port Glasgow New Parish Church from 1st November 2019, the date of union;
4. homologates the appointment of Rev Stuart Steell as Interim Moderator at Langbank from 1st November and notes the congregation is now in Guardianship;
5. appoints Rev Iain Ramsden as the Veteran's Champion for Greenock & Paisley Presbytery and instructs the Clerk to notify the Ministries Council of his appointment;
6. appoints Ms Julie Ferguson as an additional elder from 12th November 2019 and instructs the Clerk to amend her status on the roll;
7. appoints Mrs Dorothy Wallace as a corresponding member of Presbytery and instructs the Clerk to add her name to the roll;
8. notes that Rev Alan Birss has indicated his intention to retire from 8th June 2020;
9. notes that Mr William Boyle has been appointed as locum at Paisley St Columba Foxbar following the resignation of Rev Ian Fraser on health grounds;

10. notes that Bishopton congregation will hold family services in the Cornerstone on 3rd November, 2nd February, 3rd May, 5th July and 6th September and there will be no service in the church on those dates;
11. notes that the Presbytery Office has been having difficulty with their IT systems and urges presbyters to be understanding until things are back on track;
12. notes that discussions are taking place with the Presbytery of Dumbarton with a view to some form of merger;
13. homologates the decision to employ Mrs. Karen Glen for an additional five hours per week to cover extra administrative responsibilities;
14. agrees to the continuation of the Rev. Dr. Alistair Shaw in the role of Depute Presbytery Clerk, but gives him the new title of Presbytery Clerk pro tem;
an addendum to section 14 was proposed and seconded as follows:
on the understanding that a new convener of PPRC will be sought to avoid a potential conflict of interest
on being put to a vote the addendum fell and section 14 was approved as in the print.
15. instructs the Clerk to send intimation of the union of Port Glasgow: St. Andrew's and Port Glasgow: St. Martin's to the Kirk Session of Port Glasgow: New Parish Church;
16. instructs the Clerk to send similar intimation to the Ministries Council of the General Assembly.

TREASURER

Mr Peter Bennett presented the accounts for year ended 30th June 2019 and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019;
2. approves the Annual Accounts of the Presbytery, as contained in **appendix 2**, for the year ended 30 June 2019, subject to any amendments which may be required following the Independent Examination which is currently being carried out;
3. approves the Budget for 2019/2020 as detailed at **appendix 3**;
4. approves the proposed Presbytery assessments for 2019/2020 as detailed in **appendix 4** and instructs congregations to make payment as soon as possible but no later than 31st May 2020;
5. approves the award of grant funding in the sum of £6,000 to the Joint Youth Work Project in the Ferguslie Park area. Grant will be disbursed equally from the St. James Fund and Hill Memorial Fund.

PROPERTY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves an application by the Bishopton congregation to install an external platform lift for disabled access to the Sanctuary. The estimated cost is £30,450, the project is VAT exempt, funds are available and CARTA has approved the project;
3. approves an application by the Bishopton congregation to install an Audio Visual system at an estimated cost of £15,300 inclusive of fees and VAT. Funds are available and CARTA has approved the project;
4. notes that the General Trustees have approved the application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's Congregation for their Community Hall Project. Following a review of the Project, the estimated cost is now £731,409 of which £106,409 comprises fees etc. inclusive of such VAT as appropriate and the project is fully funded;
5. approves the request from the Barrhead: St Andrew's 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;
6. notes that the Erskine manse was inspected on Friday 20th September by representatives of the Property and Ministry Committees and was found to be ready for occupation;
7. notes that the manse of the former Port Glasgow: St Andrew's congregation was inspected on Wednesday 23rd January by representatives of the Property and Ministry Committees and was found to be ready for occupation. That manse has been identified as the manse for the Port Glasgow New Parish Church and remains ready for occupation;
8. notes that the Church of Scotland Insurance Services (COSIS) have indicated that cover is available for water damage and other risks at empty manses including where the heating is left on;
- 9a) notes that the electronic copies of the 2019 quinquennial inspections for Barrhead: St. Andrew's and Bourrock, Johnstone: High, St Andrews and St Paul's, Kilmacoll: Old and St Columba, Linwood, Neilston, Paisley: Glenburn and Sherwood Greenlaw and Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainey, St Andrew's and St Martin's, carried out by Graham & Sibbald, are in the process of being issued to the congregations concerned;
- b) instructs the foregoing congregations to complete the items identified in the reports as urgent within the prescribed period of 1 year, and to report on progress to the December 2020 meeting of Presbytery. Also instructs the foregoing congregations to arrange to carry out work identified as essential in the same reports within the next 5 years, and to undertake as much of the work identified as desirable as possible

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. encourages members to consider applying for the vacant safeguarding trainer post to share the burden of training throughout the Presbytery;
3. notes the new Safeguarding Training for volunteers dates as follows:
Sunday, 24 November, 2019, Barrhead Bourock Parish Church, Main St Barrhead, G78 1SL. 14.00-16.30hrs.
4. notes Presbytery of Glasgow's safeguarding training for Safeguarding co-ordinators and for Kirk Sessions may be accessed – see **appendix 5**;
5. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 15 November;
6. encourages Kirk Sessions to register representatives for the Culture of Invitation Roadshow, organised by the Church of Scotland Mission Resources team;
7. encourages Kirk Session Mission/Outreach teams to look at the new webpage on the Presbytery website, which is an overview of Mission initiatives run by our churches;
8. encourages presbyters to visit the Church of Scotland web pages on prayer for the work of the Church on Radical Action Plan by following a Season of Prayer as Kirk members are called to do so by Rt Rev Colin Sinclair. 8. encourages presbyters to visit the Worship during Brexit page on the Church of Scotland website;
9. Invites presbyters from Paisley/Renfrewshire to participate in 2gether Renfrewshire's prayer initiative – see notices;
10. Encourages congregations to nominate a suitable person for the Youth Representative at the General Assembly 2020;

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 Readers can now arrange for a Ministerial Development Conversation through the Ascend Programme;
3. invites those who would like a copy Funerals that Challenge to email ann.mccool@ntlworld.com;

4. invites those who would like to put themselves forward for training as Supervisors of ministerial candidates to email ann.mccool@ntlworld.com before 21st November;
5. a) notes the change of date for the next Worship Leaders Training Course which will be held in the Cornerstone, Bishopton, from Sunday 2nd February until Sunday 8th March from 2-4pm
 b) notes that there are still some places left for those who wish to attend
 c) notes that completed Application Forms should be returned to Rev Maureen Leitch maureen.leitch@ntlworld.com
6. approves the Study Leave of Rev Eileen Ross from Monday 24th February 2020 until Sunday 1st March inclusive, to attend Sanctuary 2020: Rest, Receive, Restore.
7. notes the Study Leave of Rev Stuart Davidson which he is undertaking in his own time;

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

In the absence of Rev Peter Gill, Convener, Rev Eileen Ross presented the report from the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations Committee and the following deliverance was approved;

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. encourages congregations to support Scottish Interfaith Week 2019 and notes the International Interfaith Event in Wallneuk North Church on Sunday 17th November 2019;
3. Notes the dates of Committee meetings for the remainder of 2019-20;
 - Wednesday 27th November
 - Wednesday 29th January
 - Wednesday 26th February
 - Wednesday 29th April
 - Wednesday 3rd June

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

Parties from Lylesland, St Luke's, Lochwinnoch, St Margaret's, St Ninian's, Old Gourock & Ashton, Martyrs' Sandyford, Kilmacolm Old and St Columba had been cited to appear in their interest.

Mr Jim Hempsey, Session Clerk at Old Gourock & Ashton spoke on their behalf to support the proposed change in the Presbytery Plan as it affected them.

Rev Alistair Shaw presented the report from the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2. approves the Basis of Union between Paisley: Lylesland and Paisley: St. Luke's and remits it to the Law Department to gain OSCR approval of the new name;
3. amends the Presbytery plan for Lochwinnoch to read that the congregation shall be dissolved and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Dissolution in consultation with local parties;
4. amends the Presbytery plan for Greenock: St. Margaret's to read that the congregation shall be put into guardianship of the Presbytery and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Guardianship in consultation with local parties;
5. amends the Presbytery plan for Greenock: St. Ninian's and for Old Gourock and Ashton to read that the congregations shall be linked and instructs the committee to draft a Basis of Linkage in consultation with local parties;
6. amends the Presbytery plan for Paisley: Martyrs Sandyford to read that the union shall be dissolved and the emerging congregations shall be united or linked with two other congregations and instructs the committee to try and find the means by which this union may be severed;
7. suspends the Presbytery plan for Kilmacolm: Old Kirk and instructs the committee to meet speedily with Kilmacolm: St. Columba's to discuss their long-term future;
8. affirms that the Presbytery plan for Barrhead: St Andrew's is for a FTE Minister of Word and Sacrament on unrestricted tenure all in terms of the provisions of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment);
9. affirms that the Presbytery plan for Greenock: Lyle Kirk is for a FTE Minister of Word and Sacrament on unrestricted tenure all in terms of the provisions of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment);
10. notes the resignation of Natasha Murphy, Youth Worker for Greenock Parish Grouping, from January 2020, and sists the post in the meantime.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the 2018 accounts of Linwood have been attested by the committee in the name of Presbytery and the congregation authorised to submit these to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator;
3. approves the proposed 2020 Ministries and Mission contributions for all congregations as detailed in **Appendix 6**;
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 2019;

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

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 10th December 2019 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk