

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

December 10th 2019

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the 10th day of December 2019, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Mr Jack McHugh, Moderator, with 27 ministers, 41 elders and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately. The Moderator welcomed visitors from Dumbarton Presbytery Very Rev John Christie, Rev Alan Hamilton and Mr Robert Kinloch.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 9 ministers, 9 elders, 3 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

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

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as 11th February 2020 in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with four additions to the appointment of commissioners.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

ORDER OF THE DAY AT 7.45PM

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

The Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley, being convened in order to elect its representatives to the ensuing General Assembly as resolved on 12th November, nominates and appoints;

Rev Gordon Armstrong at Paisley Oakshaw Trinity; **Rev Morris Coull**, retired minister; **Rev Gray Fletcher** at Elderslie; **Rev Peter Gill** at Paisley Wallneuk North; **Rev Kenneth Gray** at Bridge of Weir Freeland; **Rev Ann Knox** at Inchinnan; **Rev Ann McCool** at Johnstone High; **Rev David Nicolson** at Erskine; **Rev Gary Noonan** at Houston & Killellan; **Rev Eileen Ross** at Linwood; **Rev Yvonne Smith** at Bishopton; **Rev Alan Sorensen** at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk; **Rev Stuart Steell** at Renfrew Trinity; **Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood**, former Moderator (Ministers 14)

Mr Paul Baird at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk; **Mrs Mary Barr** at Lochwinnoch; **Mrs Gladys Black** at Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay; **Mr Jim Blair** at Bishopton; **Mrs Helen Eckford** at Port Glasgow New Parish; **Mr John Hawthorn** at Old Gourrock & Ashton; **Mr Stephen Henderson** at Bishopton; **Mrs Elizabeth McAdam** at Inchinnan; **Ms Anne McGregor** at Kilmacolm Old; **Dr Ian Morrice** at Kilmacolm Old; **Mrs Mary Pollock** at Greenock Lyle Kirk; **Mr Stewart Renton** at Erskine; **Mr Dennis Taylor** at Bridge of Weir St Machar's Ranfurly and **Mr Ian Waddell** at Paisley Oakshaw Trinity (Elders 14)

its Commissioners to the next General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, appointed to meet at Edinburgh the 16th day of May 2020, and the said Presbytery testifies and declares that all the ministers, elders and deacons above-named have signed the Formula.

Presbytery appoints Mr Callum McMillan of Johnstone High as its Youth Representative to the forthcoming General Assembly.

PRESBYTERY REFORM

The Business Convener gave a detailed report on the background to Presbytery Reform and the various options which had been explored. Time had been set aside for discussion, questions and comments.

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. instructs the Business Committee to progress a Petition to the General Assembly of 2020 to unite the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley with the Presbytery of Dumbarton from 1 September, 2020 or earlier if both Presbyteries agree;

The Clerk called for a vote on section 2 and there voted in favour 66 with 0 votes against. There was 1 abstention.

3. instructs the Business Committee, prior to 1 September, 2020, to make the arrangements required to enable that union to take place;
4. instructs the Business Committee, prior to 1 September, 2020, to make the arrangements required to wind up or transfer any business or aspect of the Presbytery's life and witness which will not transfer to the new, united Presbytery.

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
The Convener withdrew section 2 as in the print and the following sections were renumbered.
2. appoints Rev Ken Gray as Interim Moderator of Paisley: South from 30th January 2020 on the union of Paisley Lylesland and Paisley St Luke's;
3. approves the continuing appointment of Rev Eric McLachlan as locum at Paisley South following the union and notes that locum duties will be shared with Mrs Christine MacDonald, arrangements to be agreed locally;
4. notes that Port Glasgow New Parish Church will change their time of worship from 11.15am to 11.00am from Sunday 5th January 2020;
5. notes that Rev David Stewart will retire as Presbytery chaplain from 31st December 2019 and thanks him for his sterling work in this post;

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

The congregation of Paisley: Stow Brae Kirk had been cited to appear in their interest

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 Guardianship for Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainey;
3. suspends the Presbytery plan for Paisley: Stow Brae, notes that conversations are taking place between Stow Brae and Glenburn with a view to a possible linkage or union, and offers encouragement for these discussions;
4. affirms that the Presbytery plan for Paisley Abbey 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).

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. reminds Kirk Session Mission/Outreach teams to visit the news section on the Presbytery website, which is an overview of Mission initiatives run by our churches;
3. encourages Kirk sessions to pass on information to young adults (18-30) connected to their congregations to apply for places on the new national weekend residential events:
Windmill Christian Centre, Arbroath, 24th-26th January 2020.
Abernethy Centre, Barcaple, 7th-9th August 2020.
4. grants permission for funding for two young adults from this presbytery to attend the above at a cost of £65 per person;
5. nominates Callum MacMillan, Johnstone High for Youth representative at General Assembly of 2020
6. encourages Kirk Sessions to consult the Dementia Friendly Churches guide https://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/news/17693_developing_a_dementia-friendly_church

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Rev Pamela Gordon, Convener, presented the report from the Community Interests Committee and the following deliverance was approved;

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that members of Community Interests Committee visited Erskine Waterfront Campus meeting staff and touring the facility. The campus is part of CrossReach Residential Care and Educational Service;
3. notes an invitation to lunch and conversation with Faith Community in Scotland to discuss with two people from each congregation in Greenock and Paisley Presbytery what's happening in your parish; what's good about it; what are the struggles and how to tackle poverty.

MINISTRY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. nominates the following ministers: Fletcher, Marshall, Murphy, Noonan and Smith to undergo training as Supervisors of candidates for the ministry

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. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Lochwinnoch congregation to sell their manse. The General Trustees may 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, the purpose of which to be laid down in the Basis of Dissolution or accompanying documentation. It is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;
3. approves, subject to the approval of CARTA an application by the Gourock: St. John's congregation for the installation of a new stained glass window. The estimated fully inclusive cost is £30,000 and funding is available;
4. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Port Glasgow: New Parish Church congregation to sell the former Port Glasgow: St. Martin's church and hall buildings. It will be a requirement of Presbytery that the free proceeds of

any such sale shall be credited to the benefit of the united congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund as laid down in the Basis of Union. It is recommended that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department;

5. approves a grant of £1,200 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Bishopton congregation in connection with the installation of an external platform lift for disabled access to the Sanctuary and an Audio Visual system both of which were approved by Presbytery at its November 2019 meeting;

6. notes that the General Trustees Fabric Committee has agreed to make available a grant of £2,500 from the Central Fabric Fund to the Bishopton congregation towards the cost of the installation of the platform lift for disabled access;

7. notes that the Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall manse was inspected on Friday 20th September by representatives of the Property and Ministry Committees and was found to be ready for occupation;

8. notes that the issue of some of the electronic copies of the 2019 quinquennial inspections was delayed and any congregation still awaiting receipt of these reports should contact the convener;

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

Rev Stephen Smith, Convener, presented the report from the Local Church Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. receives the Local Church Review reports of Houston and Killellan, Johnstone St Andrew's Trinity, Johnstone Paul's, Linwood and the Interim Report for Elderslie Kirk as contained in **appendices 1-5**;
3. thanks the visiting teams and team leaders for their diligence in following the timetable to allow these reports to be received;
4. notes that the report for Johnstone High will be presented at the February 2020 meeting of Presbytery;
5. gives thanks to God for the faithfulness of each congregation, office-bearers and ministry teams in terms of their witness and mission in their parishes;
6. encourages each congregation for the many different initiatives being undertaken in each place;
7. agrees the action plans and initiatives for each congregation and encourages their office-bearers as they seek to take initiatives identified forward;
8. notes that it is the committee intentions to conduct Local Church Reviews in six congregations within the Presbytery in the first half of 2020. These

congregations are Bishopton, Erskine, Greenock St Margaret's, Inchinnan, Langbank and Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey.

SUPERINTENDENCE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the annual inspection of records will take place on Tuesday 11th February 2020 between 1.30pm and 3pm in Barrhead: Bourock and Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall, and on Wednesday 12th February 2020 between 1.30pm and 3pm in Greenock: Lyle Kirk, Newark St building and Bridge of Weir: Freeland;
3. instructs Session Clerks to ensure all records are presented at these times.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Thursday 30th January for a Service of Union of Paisley Lylesland and Paisley St Luke's at 6.45pm in Paisley Lylesland and then on Tuesday 11th February 2019 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk

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