

OPRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

September 12th 2017

At Johnstone and within the High Church there, the twelfth day of September 2017, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ann McCool, Moderator, with 28 ministers, 36 elders, 2 deacons and 6 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 8 ministers, 14 elders, 2 deacons and 2 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on June 20th 2017 being in print and in the hands of members were approved

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as October 10th 2017 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additions from the Business Committee and Mission & Discipleship Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rev Stuart Davidson, Pioneer Minister, was welcomed to Presbytery whereon he reaffirmed his vows of ordination and signed the formula. The Clerk was instructed to add his name to the Roll of Presbytery.

Presbytery also welcomed Mrs Cowie, Mrs Sharp and Miss Smith, as newly appointed representative elders.

LEAVE TAKING REV JONATHAN FLEMING

Mr Fleming took leave of the Presbytery ahead of his translation to Largs and the Moderator wished him well in his new charge.

25 YEARS SERVICE

The Moderator offered sincere congratulations to Rev Karen Harbison, Rev Dr Peter McEnhill and Rev Stuart Steell celebrating 25 years as Ordained Ministers.

NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Two delegates from Johnstone High Church, Mr Callum McMillan and Miss Rowan Houston, gave a short report on their time at the National Youth Assembly 2017 and finished by thanking Presbytery for the opportunity to attend.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Mrs Georgette Whitelaw and Mrs Ann Thompson, the current training personnel, gave a short presentation on their role in an effort to encourage someone to replace them when they retire in February 2018.

BUSINESS

Rev Dr Alistair Shaw, Convener, presented the report of the Business Committee, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the sick leave of Rev Stuart Stevenson and Rev Dr Ken Forrest;
3. notes the resignation of Rev Dr Ken Forrest as Interim Moderator and locum at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow St Andrew's on health grounds;
The Convener proposed a new section 4 which was approved with subsequent sections being renumbered:
4. appoints Rev David Stewart as Interim Moderator at Langbank linked with Port Glasgow St Andrew's from 12th September 2017 and thanks him for his willingness to act in this capacity;
5. appoints Rev Robin Allison as Interim Moderator at Erskine from the date of this meeting ahead of the translation of Rev Jonathan Fleming;
6. agrees the General Assembly instructions be remitted to the committees noted in **Appendix 1**
7. notes that Kilbarchan congregation will be worshipping in the church hall from 27th August to 29th October to allow for building repairs within their sanctuary;
8. notes that Kilmacolm Old congregation will be worshipping in their church hall from 3/9/17 to allow for necessary building works to be carried out;
9. notes the resignation of Mr Jack McHugh as assessor elder at Paisley St Ninian's from 1st October 2017;
10. approves the final categorisation of ministers as detailed in **Appendix 2** in accordance with the provisions of Act 2 Registration of Ministers 2017;
11. appoints Rev Robert Craig as Veterans' Champion for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley and instructs the Clerk to notify the Chaplain to HM Forces of this decision;
12. sets the date of the 21st September at 7.p.m. in Neilston Church for the service of Admission to the Office of Reader of Mr John Spooner, and instructs the Clerk and the Moderator to make all necessary arrangements;
An additional section 13 was proposed and seconded as follows:
13. notes the resignation of Deaconess Miss Isobel McCully as a member of Presbytery with immediate effect and thanks her for her service in previous years;

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Leon Marshall presented the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report ;
2. attests that the 2016 accounts of the congregations listed in **Appendix 3** fulfil the General Assembly's Regulations anent Congregational Finance and the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations ;
3. instructs the Clerk to contact the treasurers of the congregations advising them of the attestation of their accounts and informing them that these may now be sent to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator ;
4. instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of (3) above in the designated manner by 30 September 2017 ;
5. notes that final accounts have still to be received from the congregation of Kilmacolm St Columba and grants powers to the committee to attest these accounts in the name of Presbytery once they have been examined and found to be in order ;

6. agrees that the following sums be awarded from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the 2017 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned :

▪ Bishopton	£ 2,500
▪ Bridge of Weir Freeland	5,000
▪ Kilmacolm Old	5,000
▪ Linwood	1,000
▪ Paisley Abbey	5,000
▪ Paisley Stow Brae	5,000
▪ Renfrew Trinity	5,000

7. agrees that the balance of the 5% Discretionary Allowance be used to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions of congregations as detailed in **Appendix 4** ;

8. instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship & Finance Department by 30 September 2017 and to inform the congregational treasurers of this by the same date ;

9. agrees to amend Clause 1 of the Guidelines for Use of the Ministries and Mission Fund Discretionary Allowance to read :

“To support new or existing mission projects for up to 50% of the project cost, the minimum award to be £1,000 to a maximum award of £7,500”

PROPERTY

Mr Ian Russell, Convener, presented the report from the Property Committee apart from section 4 which was proposed by the Clerk, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2 a. homologates the approval granted in June under powers by the Convenor to the Paisley: Wallneuk North congregation to carry out roof repairs to the church halls at an estimated maximum cost of £31,130 plus £6,226 in VAT to give a total of £37,356;

2 b. approves an application from the Paisley: Wallneuk congregation to the General Trustees' Fabric Committee for the release of £30,000 from their capital holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund;

3. instructs the congregations of Paisley Wallneuk North and Paisley St Luke's, whose property records were incomplete at the Annual Inspection of Records, to provide the missing information from their property register and the manse condition schedule immediately to allow these records to be attested;

4. notes that the new manse of the Paisley: Stow Brae congregation at 290 Glasgow Road, Paisley, has now been formally occupied and the previous manse at 25 John Neilson Avenue, Paisley is now in the process of being put up for sale;

5. notes the issue of the Health and Safety Toolkit (red folder) by the General Trustees to all congregations, recommends that they appoint a Health and Safety Administrator and reminds all congregations that they should follow the principles of Health and Safety contained within the toolkit;

6. notes the forthcoming 'How to make your church buildings work for you' seminars organised by the General Trustees;

7. reminds congregations of the circular that was issued earlier this year by Elspeth Annan, Church of Scotland Solicitor, for the attention of Congregational Treasurers concerning the revaluation of Churches and Church Halls and noting that the last date for lodging appeals against valuations is 30th September 2017.

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the presbytery prayer co-ordinator sends out details of prayer events being held in this presbytery, and also sends ideas for prayers to each church;
3. encourages each kirk session to nominate a prayer promoter and let Douglas know the name and contact details;
4. notes that there will be a conference 'Growing Wide and Deep: Ministry with Children and Young Families' on 23 September 10-4 in Stirling;
5. notes the Safeguarding Training dates as follows:

• Volunteers	Sun 24 Sept	Houston and Killellan Kirk	1.30-4.00pm
• Volunteers	Sat 28 Oct	Erskine Parish Church	10-12.30pm
• Co-ordinators	Sat 28 Oct	Erskine Parish Church	1.00 – 3.30pm
• Kirk Session	15th October	Erskine	2-4.00pm
• Panel Training	25th October	Erskine	7-9.00pm
6. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 22 September 2017;
7. encourages churches to invite the NYA delegates in their congregation to speak about their experience;
8. notes that Mhairi Breingan attended the NYA and met young people from this presbytery (8 of the 70+ delegates);
9. commends Presbytery- involvement in the year of Young People, (Bliadhna na h- Òigridh), 2018. 2018 has been declared to be a Year of Young People by the Scottish Government;
10. notes that autumn retreats, on the theme Being Disciples, are being run across Scotland the next date is 7 October, 2017;

An additional section 11 was proposed by the Convener and accepted as follows:

11. encourages presbyters to invite their congregational prayer co-ordinator (and anyone interested) to attend the annual communion meeting scheduled for Monday, 18th September at 2.00 at Westburn Parish Church. the Minister will be Archie Speirs

At this point the Moderator vacated the chair in order to present the report of the Ministry Committee and Rev Ken Gray took over as Moderator

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 the appointment of Mr Jack McHugh as locum at Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney linked with St Martin's from 5th October 2017;
3. agrees to fund Afternoon Tea in the Lynnhurst Hotel in Johnstone on Sunday 5th November at 2pm for those in our Presbytery currently serving as OLM's, Auxiliary Ministers, Readers, Diaconate, Presbytery Chaplains, and the remaining members of the Ministry Committee. The maximum invited would be 37 with a maximum cost of £590.15
4. notes the timetable for those wishing to apply for Study Leave;
5. congratulates Mr John Spooner on successfully completing all elements of his training for the office of Reader, and further notes that as he passed his final worship practice assessment on the 20th August 2017 he is now able to be admitted to the office of Reader;
6. notes the request for a second paid day of locum cover for Howwood and forwards this to Ministries Council for their consideration, and further notes that the congregation will be responsible for meeting the cost of this locally until Ministries Council approves this request.

Mrs McCool resumed the chair.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Rev Alan Birss, 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 encouragement given by the General Assembly to the whole church to take part in the Thursdays in Black campaign and draws the attention of all churches within the bounds to the campaign;
3. encourages presbyters and all church members to use the forthcoming centenary of the Balfour declaration to reflect on the current situation in Israel / Palestine and to pray for a just peace for all who live in Israel / Palestine today;
4. noting the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and drawing on the vision expressed in the Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation in Lund, affirms the aspiration that by drawing close in faith to Christ, by praying together, by listening to one another, by living Christ's love in our relationships, all Christians will open ourselves to the power of the Triune God. 'Rooted in Christ and witnessing to him, we renew our determination to be faithful heralds of God's boundless love for all humanity.'

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

Rev Ken Gray, Convener, presented the report of the Presbytery Plan Review Committee and the following deliverance was proposed:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2. notes the committee's intention to hold further meetings with the churches in south Paisley;
3. notes our intention to review the plan for Paisley: Glenburn and instructs the committee to liaise with local parties;
4. approves the draft job description for the MDS post in Paisley: St Ninians Ferguslie as contained in **appendix 5**;

A further section of deliverance was proposed and seconded as follows:

5. regrets that the Ministries Council has seen fit to develop and take forward Hub Ministry in rural areas and not used a more diverse model, missing an opportunity for a wider pilot study and instructs the Clerk to write to them in these terms.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Thursday 21st September 2017 at 7.00pm** for a service of Setting Apart and thereafter for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton on Tuesday 10th October 2017 at 7.00pm.

Moderator

Clerk