

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

November 14th 2017

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the fourteenth day of November 2017, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator, with 26 ministers, 43 elders, and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 12 ministers, 12 elders, 4 deacons and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting October 10th 2017 being in print and in the hands of members were approved

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as December 12th 2017 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

PRESENTATION OF READERS

Rev Ann McCool, Convener of the Ministry Committee, presented the following Readers to the Moderator: Mary Jane Bird, Russell Banks, Jennifer Boag, Tom Campbell, Charles Davey, Jack Glenny, Eleanor Hood, Christine MacDonald, Elizabeth McFarlan, Jack McHugh, Leon Marshall, Margaret Maxwell, Geoff Orry, Kenneth Rankine and John Spooner. The Moderator thanked those present for all their work for Presbytery in the preceding year and asked God's blessing on them in their future work for the church.

PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS

The Moderator presented Mr William Boyle with a small grant from the Weddell Bursary Fund to assist in the purchase of books during his training for the Ministry.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Rev Alan Sorensen presented the report from the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. grants permission to the congregation of Erskine to call a minister on unrestricted tenure in terms of Act 7 2003;
3. grants permission to the congregation of Gourock St John's to consider applications from candidates outwith the EEA and Switzerland in terms of section 27 of Act 8 2003 (Vacancy Procedure), and lists the congregation accordingly, advising the nominating committee to take cognizance of the Government's visa requirements and restrictions;
4. instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this listing to Ministries Council as per the terms of Act 8 2003.

BUSINESS

In the absence of Rev Dr Alistair Shaw, Convener, the Vice Convener, Rev Karen Harbison presented the report of the Business Committee, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the request from Lochwinnoch to have a joint service with Calder Free Church on Sunday 17th December for a joint Sunday School Nativity Service;
3. approves the request from Paisley: St Ninian's not to have their regular worship service on Sunday 19th November in order to attend an Inter-faith service at Paisley Wallneuk North Church;
4. approves the request from Kilmacolm Old Kirk and Kilmacolm St Columba Church to have a joint service of worship in St Columba Church on Sunday 19th November;
5. suspends standing order 38, (Order of debate), in order to go into conference session.

The Moderator called for a vote suspending standing order 38. There voted in favour of suspending, 69 with no votes against therefore fulfilling the necessary two thirds majority of those present and voting.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

In the absence of Mr Leon Marshall, Convener, the Vice 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 2018 Ministries and Mission contributions of the congregations concerned :

▪ Greenock St Margaret's	£2,366
▪ Greenock St Ninian's	4,000
▪ Paisley Abbey	4,973
▪ Port Glasgow St Martin's	5,000
3. approves the proposed 2018 Ministries and Mission contributions for all congregations as detailed in **Appendix 1**
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 2017

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 from the Greenock: Mount Kirk congregation for the installation of an upgraded audio-visual system at a cost of £4,475 plus £896 VAT to give a total of £5,571, funds are

available plus financial assistance was given from the 5% Discretionary Allowance to reduce the Ministries and Mission contributions and CARTA has approved the installation;

3. a) approves an application by the Greenock: St Ninian's congregation for urgent roof repairs to stop water ingress at a total cost of £11,532 inclusive of VAT and fees, some funds are available and the congregation is fundraising and seeking financial assistance from the Central Fabric Fund:

b) notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £1,707 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Greenock: St Ninian's congregation to assist with the cost of this work;

4. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Greenock: Westburn congregation for major repairs to the clocks and their tower installation at an estimated total cost of £40,000 plus £8,000 VAT to give a total of £48,000, some funds are available and the congregation is fundraising and seeking financial assistance from other sources including the General Trustees;

5. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Howwood congregation to dispose of their present Manse. The General Trustees 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 for the sole purpose of purchasing a replacement manse should that prove necessary, and it is recommended that the congregation use the Church of Scotland Law Department;

6. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Johnstone: St Paul's congregation to sell a small area of grassland within the curtilage of the St Paul's property to the adjoining proprietor for the purposes of a small garden extension and it is recommended that the congregation use the Church of Scotland Law Department;

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 the Safeguarding Training for Volunteers will take place on Sunday 19th November at Oakshaw Trinity at 1.30pm;
3. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 17 November 2017;
4. invites Kirk Sessions to nominate a youth representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2018 in Edinburgh;
5. requests that Kirk Sessions discuss reimbursing young people who attend Glasgow COSY;
6. encourages Kirk Sessions to take up the pledge to be involved in the Year of Young People;
7. commends the Church of Scotland's National Day of Prayer on **25 November**

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 all Readers have submitted their annual Reader's Report
3. notes that our Auxiliary Ministers and OLM's have undergone their annual review which includes consideration of their Continuing Ministerial Development.
4. notes that a Worship Leaders Training Course will take place in the Cornerstone, Bishopton, over a 6 week period beginning on Sunday 21st January from 2-3.30pm
5. invites those who haven't already indicated their interest in the Worship Leaders Training Course to email: Rev Maureen Leitch, maureen.leitch@ntlworld.com
6. notes the thanks and benefits of those who attended Afternoon Tea;

CONFERENCE SESSION

Thereafter Presbytery went into Conference Session to consider the remit handed down from the General Assembly's Council of Assembly calling all in the Church to "pray that God will do a fresh work amongst us as God's people"

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday 12th December 2017 at 7.00pm** for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton

Moderator

Clerk