

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

February 13th 2018

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the thirteenth day of February 2018, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator, with 27 ministers, 47 elders, 2 deacons and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 8 ministers, 9 elders, 1 deacon and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting December 12th 2017 being in print and in the hands of members were approved

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as March 13th 2018 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additions from the Vacancy Procedure Committee, Business Committee and Property Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV JOHN WHYTE

Tribute was paid to the life and doctrine of the late John Whyte, retired minister, who died on December 14th 2017.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. appoints Rev. Stephen Smith as Interim Moderator at Elderslie and notes that Rev Donald Campbell will act as locum;
3. appoints Rev. David Stewart as Interim Moderator at Erskine and notes that Mr. Duncan Ross will act as locum;
4. homologates the appointment of Rev. Liz Geddes as Interim Moderator at Langbank I/w Port Glasgow: St. Andrew's, and notes that Rev David Stewart will provide support as she completes her training as an interim moderator;
5. notes that the VPC received a valid call to the Rev Robert Allison, Minister of Elderslie, from Cockenzie and Port Seton: Chalmers Memorial Church in the Presbytery of Lothian, and duly agreed to Mr Allison's translation to that charge;

6. notes and advises all interim moderators that from 1st Jan. 2018 the Vacancy Procedure Act now requires that a minister nominated to a charge exhibits evidence of Category O registration;

An additional section 7 was proposed and accepted as follows:

7. notes that Rev. Teri C Peterson, minister of the Presbyterian Church USA, has preached as sole nominee for the vacant charge of Gourrock: St. John's; that the congregation voted 176 For and 3 Against with 222 persons signing a call; and, as she is from outwith the EEA, presbytery calls her in terms of Act 8 2003 to the charge of Gourrock: St. John's, subject to the approval of the vacancy schedule by the Ministries Council and remits to the Moderator and Clerk all arrangements for her induction which has been arranged provisionally for 28th February at 7.00pm;

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. subsequent to the notice of motion presented at the Presbytery meeting on the 12th December 2017, amends Standing Order 28 to read ' The Ordinary Meetings shall be held at 7pm on the second Tuesday of September, November, December, February, March, May, and on the third Tuesday of June. There shall be no Ordinary Meetings in October, January, April, July and August';
on putting this to a vote there voted in favour 76 with no votes against therefore fulfilling the two thirds majority required to amend Standing Orders.
3. appoints an Order of the Day at 7.45pm at the March meeting for the election of Commissioners to the forthcoming General Assembly;
4. nominates Rev Dr Peter McEnhill as the next Moderator for the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley from September 2018, on the understanding that a Depute Clerk will need to be appointed at that time;
5. notes that Kilmacolm St Columba and Kilmacolm Old Kirk had a joint service with St Fillan's Episcopal Church, in St Fillan's Church, on Sunday 21st January to celebrate "the week of prayer for Christian Unity"
6. notes that Port Glasgow: St Martins were unable to hold a service on Sunday 21st January due to the treacherous road conditions surrounding the church;
7. notes that Mrs Anne Thomson and Mrs Georgette Whitelaw have now retired from the position of Safeguarding trainers and instructs the Clerk to write thanking them for their service over previous years;
8. notes the arrangements (**as detailed at appendix 1**) for safeguarding training being provided by Glasgow Presbytery until such times as a new training officer has been appointed;
9. notes that Greenock Westburn church worshipped in their halls on Sunday 28th January 2018 due to an unexpected problem with the building;
10. approves the appointment of Rev Owen Derrick of Greenock Lyle Kirk as part-time chaplain at Greenock HMP.
11. reminds Presbyters of the change to the regulation regarding the date by which Stated Annual Meetings of congregations need to be held. They now have to take place by the 30th June in the relevant year rather than as previously the 31st March;
12. further notes that this change with respect to the date of Stated Annual Meetings does not affect the date by which duly inspected annual accounts need to be formally received by Presbytery. This remains the 31st March.

13. gives notice that there will be a special meeting of Presbytery on the 17th April 2018 at 7.p.m. This meeting will consider the future of presbytery planning in the light of the expected future reduction in the number of ministries available to the Church.

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the committee's concern that the Presbytery has no Safeguarding trainer;
3. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 2 March 2018;
4. invites Kirk Sessions to nominate a youth representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2018 in Edinburgh;
5. encourages Kirk Sessions to be involved in the Year of Young People;
6. invites Robbie Morrison Mission Development Worker (west) from Church of Scotland to talk about Future Focus

MINISTRY

In the absence of Rev Ann McCool, Convener, Rev Maureen Leitch presented the report from the Ministry committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. supports Rev Alan Sorensen's application for Study Leave to attend the Leadership Programme for Senior Faith Leaders which is run by the Cambridge Interfaith Centre located within the Divinity Faculty of the University of Cambridge;
3. notes the update on worship leader training and is encouraged by the positive response so far;

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, subject to approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application by the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation for the first phase of a two phase programme of repairs to the stonework and roofing and stained glass conservation and repair works at a cost of £215,000 plus £43,000 VAT. In addition there are fees totalling £12,950 plus £2,590 VAT (Architect) and £4,000 - VAT exempt (Quantity Surveyor). Funding is available but fund raising is underway and grant aid is being pursued;

b) approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application by the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation for the installation of a replacement and updated audio visual system for £24,250 plus £4,850 VAT. Again funding is available but fund raising is underway;

c) approves an application from the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation for the release of £107,939 of funds held by the General Trustees, namely £45,174 held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; and a Credit Balance of £62,765 in the Revenue Account;

d) approves an application from the Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation to the General Trustees Fabric Committee for grant aid in the amount of £40,000 from the Central Fabric Fund in connection with the above projects;

3. approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Paisley: Glenburn Parish congregation to let the manse during the present vacancy. They are aware of the legal situation and are liaising with the General Trustees and the Law Department;

4. approves an application by the Renfrew North congregation for repair and refurbishment works to the manse at an estimate cost of £30,000 inclusive of VAT, funding is available. The formal manse inspection is provisionally scheduled for the week beginning 19 February;

5.a) approves, subject to the approval of the general Trustees and CARTA, an application by the Paisley Abbey congregation for the repair of a stone pad within the St Mirin Chapel and redecoration of the Chapel at an estimated cost of £8,800 plus £1,760 VAT to give £10,560 in total. It is intended that funding will come from the Landfill Tax;

b) approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application in principle by the Paisley Abbey congregation for the installation of a replacement audio system at an estimated cost of £30,000 inclusive of VAT. Fund raising is underway and will include a Lenten Appeal and application to the Landfill Tax;

c) approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application in principle by the Paisley Abbey congregation for the installation of an automatic fire alarm system for the Place of Paisley at an estimated cost of £25,000 inclusive of VAT. Fund raising is underway and will include the Lenten Appeal and application to the Landfill Tax;

6. approves, following the approval of CARTA, an application by the Inverkip congregation for a new audio-visual system at a cost of £31,233.10 including VAT, funding is available;

7. homologates a decision taken under powers, to approve the purchase of a replacement manse at 9 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, by the Bridge of Weir: *St.Machar's Ranfurly* congregation at a cost of £357,500. The purchase is being initially funded by a short term loan from the General Trustees, to be repaid by the sale of the existing manse and locally held funds. The Church of Scotland Law Department is acting on behalf of the congregation in the purchase and sale of the respective properties;

8. notes with concern, the refusal of the Church of Scotland Insurers to meet claims for water damage to three unoccupied manses within this Presbytery. All three manses suffered water damage following burst pipes but the insurers refused the claims due to the properties being unoccupied. This was despite the congregation in one particular case taking instructions from the insurers on care of the empty property and following these instructions. Correspondence with the General Trustees is ongoing on this matter but all congregations are specifically reminded that the standard Church of Scotland insurance policy has restricted cover for manses which are unoccupied as detailed in the report;

9. notes that a new temporary fund, the Garfield Weston Foundation 60th Anniversary Fund, is open to historic buildings which are places of worship providing grants up to £150,000 to assist in providing new, or improving existing, community facilities, the General Trustees or the fund website have more information;

An additional section 10 was presented as follows:

10. notes that the Gourock: St John's manse was inspected on Friday 9th February and found to be ready for occupation;

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on **Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 7.00pm** for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton

Moderator

Clerk