

# **PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY**

*March 13<sup>th</sup> 2018*

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

## **SEDERUNT**

Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator, with 29 ministers, 49 elders and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from 10 ministers, 6 elders, 2 deacons and 3 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 and the induction service on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

## **APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING**

The next meeting was approved as May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The order of business was approved as printed with an amendment to the VPC report and an addition to the BC report.

## **NOTICES**

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

## **TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV EFFIE IRVINE**

The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood led the tribute to the late Rev Effie Irvine, the first female minister to be ordained in the Church of Scotland.

## **TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV ARTHUR SHERRATT**

The Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood also led the tribute to the late Rev Arthur Sherratt recently retired minister of Saltcoats: St Cuthberts.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO REV STEPHEN SMITH**

The Moderator offered the congratulations of the court to Rev Stephen Smith who was celebrating 25 years as an ordained minister this month.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY AT 7.45PM TO ELECT COMMISSIONERS FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS CONTAINED IN APPENDIX 1**

## **VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Rev Alan Sorensen, Convener, Mr Jim McBeath presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. sustains the call from Renfrew North Church to the Rev. Philip Wallace, Minister of Campbeltown Lorne and Lowland to be Minister there, and instructs the Moderator and Clerk to make all necessary arrangements for the service of induction to take place in Renfrew North church on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 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. invites presbyters to a meal before the May Presbytery meeting in order to foster a greater sense of fellowship, support and communion, details in the notices section;
3. notes that the congregations of Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney and Port Glasgow St Martin's will exchange their current worship times from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April as per the provisions outlined in the basis of linking;
4. expresses deep concern at the ongoing situation regarding the continued occupancy of the Hamilton Bardrainney manse by the current tenants and instructs the Clerk to liaise with the Law Department and the General Trustees at 121 regarding this, particularly with regard to apprising them of the consequential delay in bringing this linkage into vacancy;
5. notes that the congregation of Paisley Glenburn worshipped in their halls on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March due to a failure in their heating system;
6. notes that the congregation of Paisley St Ninian's Ferguslie worshipped in their halls on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March due to a failure in their heating system;
7. notes that the congregation of Bishopton worshipped in the Cornerstone on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March as it was more accessible than the church building;
8. notes that the following congregations were unable to hold a service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March due to adverse weather conditions:  
  
Johnstone High, Kilmacolm Old Kirk, Kilmacolm St Columba, Langbank  
linked with Port Glasgow St Andrews, Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainney  
linked with St Martin's, Paisley Wallneuk North, Greenock Lyle  
Kirk, Greenock: East End; Erskine; Martyrs' Sandyford King Street, Greenock St  
Ninian's, Greenock: St Margaret's and Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay.
9. notes the determination from the General Trustees regarding the sale of the manse at Howwood as detailed in the report:

## **PROPERTY**

In the absence of Mr Ian Russell, Convener, Mr William Mathieson presented the report from the Property Committee, apart from section 3, in which he declared an interest, this was proposed by the Clerk, and the following deliverance was approved;

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the Renfrew: North manse was inspected on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and found to be ready for occupation;
- 3.a) approves in principle an application by the Johnstone: High Congregation for the replacement of 19 windows in the front hall building, subject to planning permission if required and the availability of grant funding to assist with the cost;

b) approves in principle an application by the Johnstone: High Congregation for the installation of wi-fi provision, with associated wiring and equipment, in the church halls at an estimated cost of around £4,000, subject to the availability of grant funding to assist with the cost;

4. approves an application by the Langbank Congregation to engage the John Russell Partnership Ltd, (Architects) to carry out a feasibility study with regard to the re-modelling of the church sanctuary to allow greater flexibility and community use of the building. No construction work will take place. The estimated cost is £3,000 inclusive of VAT and funding is available although the Church of Scotland "Go For It" fund is being approached for financial aid;

5. notes that with the changes in legislation with regard to letting out private houses, the tenant of a manse let out during a vacancy period requires to be given a minimum of 84 days notice of termination of the lease and this should be factored in when making arrangements for the occupation of a manse by an incoming minister. As previously stated it is vitally important that congregations contact the General Trustees for advice and guidance before entering into any letting agreement;

6. notes that the annual Presbytery Diligence Return re the Care of Ecclesiastical Properties was completed and returned to the General Trustees on the 21st February and duly acknowledged;

7. notes that at the recent Annual Inspection of Records almost all the property records were satisfactorily attested and only a small number of minor items remain outstanding. There may be some changes to the checking of property records in the future and any feedback is welcomed;

8. notes the attendance by Ian Russell (Property Committee Convenor) at the Property Seminar, held on Friday 16 February 2018 at the Engine Shed, Forthside Way, Stirling. This was hosted by the General Trustees for Presbytery Clerks and Property Conveners, as a follow-up to the recent Church Building Seminars;

### **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 Safeguarding dates offered by the Presbytery of Glasgow:  
Volunteers  
Wed 14 March 7-9.30pm St Paul's 30 Langdale St, G33 1DP  
Wed 25 April 7-9.30pm Croftfoot, 318 Croftpark Ave G44 5NS  
Kirk Sessions  
Thurs 15 March 7-9pm Partick South 259 Dumbarton Road,, G11 6AB  
Co-ordinators  
Sat 12 May Part 1 & Volunteers 9.30- 3.30 Ibrox Church G51 1QL  
Part 2 afternoon
3. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 18 May 2018;
4. thanks Wallneuk North for recommending a youth representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2018 in Edinburgh;
5. encourages Kirk Sessions to maintain involvement in the Year of Young People;
6. notes that Rev Hanneke Marshall will take over administration duties for COSY Facebook page for this Presbytery;

7. encourages Sessions to make COSY Facebook page know to the young people in their churches;

*The Convener withdrew section 8 as in the print*

### **COMMUNITY INTERESTS**

Miss 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 the children's ward closure at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley has now happened;
3. expresses concern over the affordability of transport for families of limited means travelling to the Royal Hospital for Children in Govan and instructs the Clerk to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde accordingly;

*An addendum was proposed, seconded and accepted by the Convener as follows;*

3. expresses concern over the affordability of transport for families of limited means travelling to the Royal Hospital for Children in Govan and instructs the Clerk to write to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, *the Health Minister and all MSPs accordingly;*
4. notes that the committee has £3,500 available to support community projects, with a deadline for applications set for 11th May, 2018 with application forms accessible on the Presbytery website.

### **MINISTRY**

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report
2. thanks Rev Maureen Leitch and Rev Yvonne Smith for facilitating the Worship Leaders Course.

### **PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW**

The Congregation of Paisley Glenburn had been cited to appear in their interest and Mr Robert Brown spoke on their behalf.

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2. suspends the plan for Paisley Glenburn as per the provisions laid down in section 9 of Act 7 2003 (Appraisal and Adjustment);
3. instructs the committee to confer with local parties at Paisley Glenburn regarding an amendment to the Presbytery plan for that congregation;
4. notes the intention of the committee to engage in a wider consultation with Paisley Southside churches with a view to bringing forward an amended plan for that area.

### **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

Mr Leon Marshall, Convener, presented the report from 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 :
 

▪ Bridge of Weir St Machar's Ranfurly	£5,000
▪ Kilbarchan	2,000
▪ Linwood	1,000
▪ Paisley St Mark's Oldhall	7,500
3. instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship and Finance Department and to inform the Congregational Treasurers of this;
4. reminds congregations that a copy of their examined Financial Accounts for 2017 should be submitted to the Presbytery Office and to the Church's Stewardship and Finance Department no later than 31 March 2018

### **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 has taken place and that the committee is satisfied as to the generally high level of record keeping;
3. thanks all those who assisted in the Inspection of Records, and the congregations who made premises available for that purpose;

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourn to meet at 6.45pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March for a service of Induction at Renfrew North and then on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton

*Moderator*

*Clerk*