

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

May 8th 2018

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

SEDERUNT

Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator, with 28 ministers, 40 elders, 1 deacon and 5 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 6 ministers, 7 elders, 1 deacon and 1 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on February 13th 2018, the induction service on March 8th 2018 and the service of introduction on May 1st 2018 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as June 19th 2018 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed Mr Graham McCallum, recently appointed MDS worker in Ferguslie Park and instructed the Clerk to add his name to the roll of Presbytery as a Corresponding Member.

THE GUILD

Mrs Marion Berekis and Mrs Helen Eckford presented the report from The Guild, a copy of which is held on file. They highlighted the six projects which the Guild had supported in the year, Street Pastors, Care for Family, Christian Aid, Feed the Minds, Mission International and Prospects and advised that a total of £689,577.26 had been raised

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

The Clerk highlighted some of the key elements of the new legislation regarding data protection. An audit sheet had been sent to all Session Clerks for completion and it was hoped the audit could be completed in the early Autumn for review and confirmation that it has been done before their deadline for registration in February 2019.

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the sick leave of Rev Robert Craig;
3. homologates the appointment of Rev David Kay as Interim Moderator at Paisley: Stow Brae during the period of sick leave of their minister;
4. homologates the appointment of Rev Archie Speirs as Interim Moderator at Old Gourrock & Ashton Church during the study leave of Rev David Burt;
5. notes that the Bishopton congregation worshiped in the Cornerstone on Sunday 18th March due to the weather;

6. approves the appointment of Mrs Gail Abraham and Mrs Anne Craig as Presbytery safeguarding training officers and notes that they will take up post in September once they have completed their training;
7. notes that Rev Ken Mayne has indicated his intention to retire in August 2018;
8. notes that Rev Ken Mayne has declined his commission to attend the General Assembly 2018;
9. notes that Rev Robbie McFarlane has indicated his intention to retire on 19th August 2018;
10. after election, homologates the appointments of Rev Yvonne Smith, Rev Philip Wallace and Rev Stuart Davidson as commissioners to the General Assembly 2018 and thanks them for their willingness to take up the unfilled commissions;

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:

<u>Volunteers</u>	Tues 15 May 7-9.30	Cardonald 2155 Paisley Rd West G52 3PF
	Mon 4 June	This session is fully booked with a waiting list
<u>Co-ordinators</u>	Sat 12 May	Part 1 & Volunteers 9.30- 3.30 Ibrox G51 1QL
		Part 2 afternoon
3. approves the application from Glenburn Church for £300 from the Oakshaw East Fund to fund their outreach programme at Gleniffer High School;
4. approves the joint application from Erskine and Inchinnan Churches to the Oakshaw East fund for a grant of £525 to run a Prospects course for young adults with learning difficulties to meet in worship and fellowship;
5. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 18 May 2018;
6. notes the application for financial support to enable Emma Vaughan from Kilbarchan Church to attend the National Youth Assembly 2018;
7. agrees that Presbytery will pay full fees of £85 and travel costs to Stirling for the applicant above and looks forward to hearing their report in September;
8. invites Kirk Sessions to encourage young people (17-25) to consider application to the National Youth Assembly;
9. reminds Kirk Sessions to maintain involvement in the Year of Young People;
10. encourages Kirk Sessions to invite members to attend the Prayer Across Scotland for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland event Wednesday 16 May at Greenock Lyle Kirk (Union St building) – guest speaker Rev Teri Petersen;
11. notes the 3rd Learning Disabilities Conference Saturday 16th June 2018;

12. invites Debbie Meehan, Prayer 24/7 , to talk about Prayer Spaces wherever, whenever, however, whoever.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

In the absence of Rev Pamela Gordon, Convener, Rev Ann Knox presented the report from the Community Interests Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. reminds all presbyters that the closing date for receipt of funding applications is 11th May 2018;
3. notes the response from the Health Secretary regarding the closure of ward 15 at the RAH in Paisley.

MINISTRY

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

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. reminds those who will be assessing potential Worship Leaders in the coming weeks to send their reports to the convener, ann.mccool@ntlworld.com so that she can let the candidates know the result as soon as possible;
3. notes that the next Worship Leaders Training Course for this Presbytery will take place in the Cornerstone, Bishopton, on Sundays from 2-4pm. It will run for 6 weeks from Sunday 30th September until Sunday 4th November. Please encourage your congregations and send details of prospective participants to the Rev Maureen Leitch, maureen.leitch@ntlworld.com;
4. requests that Ministers, or Interim Ministers and Locums, complete the Survey regarding Worship Leaders and those who participate in worship, so that we can get an overall picture of what is happening throughout the Presbytery;
5. reminds Interim Moderators that part of their role is to ensure that the workload of Locums is managed so that they are not expected to work more hours than those for which they are paid;
6. urges Interim Moderators to make congregations aware of the number of days in the week for which their Locum is paid, and to encourage them to adjust their expectations as to what can be achieved in the allotted time;
7. instructs the Presbytery Clerk to write to the Ministries Council expressing our concern about the projected reduction in the number of ministries in the future and the effect it will have on our Presbytery;

an amendment to section 7 was proposed and seconded as follows:

instructs the Presbytery Clerk to write to the Ministries Council sharing the expressed concern about the projected reduction in the number of ministries in the future and the effect it will have on this and other Presbyteries;

On moving to a vote there voted in favour of the amendment 34 with 25 votes against therefore the amendment carried and became the new section 7.

An addendum to the end of the new section 7 was proposed and seconded as follows:

... assuring the Council of our support, encouragement and prayers as they seek the way forward

Presbytery approved.

A new section 8 was proposed and seconded as follows:

Instructs the Clerk to write to the Ministries Council with regard to the increasing burden being placed on Readers, OLMs and others who are regularly conducting worship and to ask what further training and support they might need in the future;

There was some resistance from the Convener regarding the wording and subsequently the proposal was withdrawn.

8. invites someone from the Ministries Council Pastoral Support Team to speak to Presbytery about the resources available to support Ministers.

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Rev Alan Birss, Convener, presented the report from the World Mission & Ecumenical Relations committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes with satisfaction the success of the 'Let us build a house' campaign for the victims of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal whereby £310,000 has been raised to date and commends the Appeal to any church that has not as yet supported the Appeal;
3. commends the World Mission Council's 2018 Stamp Appeal to support the work of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia in Ukraine in running day centres providing educational, emotional and physical support for children and young people with disabilities;
4. notes that an order of service for a Prayer Vigil for the Middle East has been produced and that copies are available in paper format and on the Resources section of the Presbytery website.

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW

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. notes the intention of the committee to hold a meeting with ministers before the summer break to help determine how our current ministers might respond to changes in the plan;
3. notes the intention of the committee to hold meetings for the congregations in each planning zone in early autumn to help determine how congregations might respond to changes in the plan.

PROPERTY

In the absence of Mr Ian Russell, Convener, Mr William Mathieson presented the report from the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved;

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;

2. approves a retrospective application from the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity congregation for the installation of a new heating system at a cost of £14,750 plus £2,950 VAT. In the course of the works, asbestos was discovered and removed at a cost of £7,010 plus £1,402 VAT to give a total cost of £26,112 and funds are available;

3.a) approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, a retrospective application from the Old Gourrock & Ashton congregation for the increased spend on a programme of works to the chancel area and adjacent parts, previously approved by Presbytery at their December 2016 meeting. The original estimated cost of works was £54,500 plus £11,000 VAT and £10,000 Professional and other fees to give a total of £75,000. However the final figures inclusive of fees were: £123,675.42 plus £24,735.09 VAT to give a total of £148,410.51 and funds were available;

b) approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application by the Old Gourrock & Ashton Parish congregation for the provision of a toilet in the entrance area of the church at an estimated cost of £8,000 inclusive of fees etc., and funds are available;

4. approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Kilmacolm Old congregation for the rewiring of the church building at a cost of £35,246 inclusive of VAT and funds are available to cover the cost although application is being made for assistance from the Discretionary Allowance;

5. approves an application by the Houston and Killellan congregation for the refurbishment of the manse property. The estimated cost is a maximum of £40,000 inclusive of VAT etc. and funds are available;

6. approves subject to the approval of the General Trustees and CARTA, an application by the Neilston congregation for the installation of an updated and expanded AV system to include three new LED screens, additional speakers, new amplifier, loop system, wiring new microphone system and control lap top. Total cost is £9,166.67 plus £1,833.33 VAT to give a total of £11,000 and funds are available;

7.a) approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Bishopton congregation for the replacement of a gas supply pipe at the Cornerstone, Bishopton, at an estimated cost of £8,000 inclusive of VAT. Funds are available for this project but grant aid is also being sought from various sources;

b) approves, subject to approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Bishopton congregation to carry out phases 1 and 2 of a staged, programme of major stonework repairs to their church buildings at a cost of £80,000 plus VAT and fees at 10 per cent to be spread over two years with £30,000 plus VAT being the budgeted cost of phase 1. Part of the funding is available and grants from various sources will be pursued.

It is recommended that the congregation also seek technical advice from the General Trustees in relation to the entire programme of repair, including these initial first 2 phases."

c) approves an application to the General Trustees by the Bishopton congregation for financial assistance from the Central Fabric fund in connection with the above project;

d) notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £3,800 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of these works;

8. approves in principle, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Barrhead St Andrew's congregation to erect a single storey extension to the Ralston Road, church

and halls building at a total estimated cost of £635,000 including fees of £87,500 and VAT of £17,500. Part of the funding is available, and the remainder will be financed from the disposal of the former South & Levern manse and buildings, existing funds, a legacy, ongoing fundraising and grants from various sources will be pursued. Also approves in principle an application to the General Trustees for an appropriate grant to cover the shortfall, plus a short term loan from Central Funds;

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th June 2018 for ordinary business in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk