

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

June 19th 2018

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the 19th day of June 2018, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Jim Cowan, Moderator, with 29 ministers, 46 elders, 2 deacon and 4 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 9 ministers, 6 elders, 1 deacon and 2 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on May 8th 2018 being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as September 11th 2018 in Barrhead St Andrew's Church.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On behalf of all Commissioners, the Clerk Reported diligence at the General Assembly

The Clerk then gave a brief report from this year's General Assembly highlighting the main points that would be of interest to Presbytery.

REPORT FROM YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Shahrukh Gill gave presbyters an insight into the General Assembly from a youth representative's point of view and thanked Presbytery for the opportunity to attend.

THANKS TO CONVENERS RETIRING FROM COMMITTEES

The Moderator thanked Mr Alastair Shaw, Mr Alan Birss and Mr Ken Gray who had completed their time as committee conveners and wished them well as they continued to serve Presbytery and the church in other ways.

THANKS TO ELDERS WHO ARE RETIRING FROM PRESBYTERY

The Moderator gave thanks for the work of Mr Robert Brown, Mrs Aileen Clerk, Mr Peter Marshall and Mrs Joan Taylor who had served as presbytery elders and were now retiring from post. He wished God's blessing on their continued service to the church.

GREETINGS TO MINISTERS OUT WITH BOUNDS

The Moderator at this time remembered ministers living outwith the bounds, Rev David Stewart, and instructed the Clerk to write to Mr Stewart with the good wishes of Presbytery.

LEAVE TAKING OF REV ROBBIE MCFARLANE AND REV KEN MAYNE

The Moderator gave a brief report on the work of Messrs McFarlane and Mayne and ways in which they had served their respective congregations and Presbytery. It was unfortunate that neither was able to be present but he wished them well for a long and happy retirement.

BUSINESS

Rev Dr Alistair Shaw presented the report from the Business Committee,(apart from section 19 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 the continuing sick leave of Rev Robert Craig;
3. notes the sick leave of Mr Duncan Ross;
4. notes that Rev Eileen Ross will be on compassionate leave for 2 weeks commencing Monday 18th June 2018;
5. approves the new Roll of Presbytery from 1st July 2018 as contained in **appendix 1**;
6. notes the Presbytery committee membership for the coming year as contained in **appendix 2**;
7. approves the Register of Ministries as contained at **appendix 3** following the annual review;
8. instructs Session Clerks to report completion of the GDPR audit and to return the completed pro-forma checklist to the Presbytery office by the 30th October 2018;
9. agrees that the previously noted intention of the Rev Ken Mayne to retire from Paisley Martyrs' Sandyford will take effect on the 12th August 2018;
10. agrees that the previously noted intention of the Rev Robbie McFarlane to retire from Paisley: St Mark's Oldhall will take effect on the 19th August 2018;
11. notes the intention of Rev Morris Coull to retire from Greenock: St Margaret's on October 12th 2018 and grants him permission so to do;
12. notes that Jack McHugh has resigned as Interim Moderator and locum at Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey linked with Port Glasgow St Martin's and thanks him for his work there;
13. appoints Rev Francis Murphy as Interim Moderator at Port Glasgow Hamilton Bardrainey linked with Port Glasgow St Martin's from 1st July 2018;
14. notes that Paisley St Luke's will worship with Paisley Lylesland at Lylesland on Sunday 8th July and that they will both worship in St Luke's on Sunday 12th August 2018 ;
15. notes that Barrhead St Andrew's will worship with Barrhead Bourock Church on 1st and 8th July in Bourock and that Bourock will worship in St Andrew's on July 15th and 22nd 2018;
16. notes that Kilmacolm Old Kirk will worship in Kilmacolm St Columba's for the months of July and August due to the rewiring works being undertaken in the Old Kirk sanctuary;

17. in light of the continuing difficulties in securing pulpit supply, encourages congregations to think about shared worship with neighbouring congregations over the summer months if appropriate;
18. approves the application from Bridge of Weir St Machar's Ranfurly to adopt the Unitary Constitution;
19. approves the determination from the General Trustees in relation to Johnstone St Paul's land as follows:

In the case of the application of the Congregational Board of Johnstone St Paul's congregation, the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of a portion of the church grounds to a neighbouring proprietor as a garden extension at such price and on such terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Kirk Session (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulations 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the Congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund, and (3) discharge so far as the Church of Scotland is concerned the whole provisions, restrictions and trust purposes in the titles to the property including any provision whereby it should not be in the power of the trustees holding the same to sell the same or any part thereof or whereby the subjects should in all time coming be used in connection with the Church of Scotland or for the purposes or trusts specified in any Deed of Constitution but that only in respect of the part of the subjects which it is proposed to sell.

TREASURER

In the absence of Mr Peter Bennett, Treasurer, the Clerk presented the following deliverance which was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. agrees to transfer £2,200 from the Bequest Fund to the Miss Lang Bequest Fund, and £800 from the Bequest Fund to the Eventide Homes Fund to enable the annual grants Christian social projects and Adam's House to be made by 30 June 2018

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Rev Pamela Gordon, Convener, presented the report from the Community Interests Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the allocation of the following grants:
 - Eventide Home Fund - £800 to Adams House
 - Miss Lang Bequest Fund -
 - £825 - Inverclyde Family Contact Centre
 - £75 – Paisley Stowbrae Students in Poverty
 - £500 – Railway Pastors
 - £200 – Renfrewshire Interfaith Group
 - £400 – J.A.M. (Jesus and Me, Prospects)

A late addition was proposed by the convener to include a grant of £200 to the Oakshaw Trinity Friendly Hour

An amendment was proposed and seconded that the amount awarded to Inverclyde Family Contact Centre should be increased to £1000

On being put to a vote the amendment was defeated and section 2 approved as it stood.

3. notes that £700 of the budget remains and it is recommended by the committee there should be a second round of applications to allocate funding;

an amendment to section 3 was proposed to advise that £500 remained in the budget following the additional grant award

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 the Worship Leaders Course planned for the Autumn is now full;
3. notes the availability of a Leaflet containing general information for the Worship Leaders Course, copies on the signing in table, one per congregation;
4. encourages those Ministers, Locums, and Interim Moderators who haven't already done so, to fill in and return the Worship Leaders Survey, even if it's a negative return;
5. asks Ministers to send the names of all Worship Leaders validated in the past to Karen in the Presbytery Office, so that they can update their records;
6. agrees to fund an Afternoon Tea for all Readers, OLMs, Deacons and Ministry Committee members to be held in the Cornerstone Bishopton on Sunday 16th September 2018;
7. approves the study Leave of Rev Peter Gill to Chiang Mai Thailand for the World Council of YMCA's and notes that he will be away from his parish from Thursday 5th July until Friday 20th July;

an additional section 8 was proposed by the Convener as follows with subsequent sections being renumbered:

8. approves the study leave for Rev John Murning from 28th August to 31st August to attend a Leader's Retreat;
9. reminds Ministers to submit applications for study leave to the Presbytery as soon as possible.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Leon Marshall, Convener, presented the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee (apart from section 2 in which he declared an interest, this being proposed by Rev Dr Alistair Shaw) 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

Barrhead St Andrew's	£6,000
Bridge of Weir Freeland	5,000
Inverkip	5,000
Kilmacolm Old	5,000

3. instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship & Finance Department and to inform the Congregational Treasurers of this;
4. notes that the congregations of Inverkip l/w Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay propose to employ a part-time Ministerial Assistant for an initial 3-year term at a forecast cost of £12,690 per annum and agrees in principle to support this project throughout the 3-year term to the extent of £6,345 per annum, funds to be released once an appointment has been made;
5. notes that the final date for applying for assistance from the 5% Discretionary Allowance in the 2018 financial year is 23 August 2018;
6. attests that the 2017 accounts of the congregations listed in **appendix 4** fulfil the General Assembly's Regulations anent Congregational Finance and the requirements of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations;
7. instructs the Clerk to contact the Treasurers of these congregations, advising them of the attestation of their accounts and informing them that they may now send their accounts to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator;
8. instructs the Clerk to advise the General Treasurer's Department of (7) above in the designated manner by 30 June 2018

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, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Greenock: Westburn congregation to redevelop the foyer area of the main hall at Westburn Parish Church to make it a more welcoming, informal gathering space.

The estimated cost is £21,360 inclusive of all fees and VAT and funding is available;

3. approves an application from the Renfrew: Trinity congregation for the upgrading of the kitchen at the church and halls building with new units etc., at a cost of approximately £17,000 inclusive of VAT and funds are available;
4. approves an application by the Renfrew: North congregation for the electrical rewiring of the Church and buildings at an estimated cost of £20,000 inclusive of VAT and funds are available to cover the cost although grant aid is also being sought from various sources including the 5% M & M Discretionary Allowance;
- 4(b).notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £2,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to assist with the cost of these works;
5. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £3,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Renfrew: North congregation to assist with the cost of the manse renovation works, approved by Presbytery at their meeting in February;
6. notes that the Property Committee has approved in principle a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to assist with the cost of the Community Hall extension. This project was approved in principle by Presbytery at their meeting in May and the grant will be confirmed once the formal approvals are in place;
7. approves, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Bridge of Weir: St Machars Ranfurly congregation to replace the existing disabled access ramp with a new ramp at an estimated cost of £7,017 plus £1,403 VAT to give a total of £8,420 and although some funding is available, grant aid is being pursued;
- 7(b). approves an application to the General Trustees from the Bridge of Weir: St Machars Ranfurly congregation for financial assistance from the Central Fabric fund in connection with the above project;
8. approves subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity congregation to replace the access paths to the church and hall and incorporate a disabled access. The cost is estimated at £16,000 plus VAT £3200.VAT to give a total of £19,200 and funding is available
9. notes the updated position of the insurance situation with regard to empty manses and other matters, as reported by the General Trustees at the General Assembly in May and awaits further information;
10. empowers the Convener to authorise essential work over the summer months, subject to later reporting to Presbytery for homologated approval;

an additional section 11 was proposed by the Convener as follows:

11. notes that the Houston and Killellan Kirk manse was inspected on Friday 15th June and was found to be ready for occupation;

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

In the absence of the Convener, Rev Hanneke Marshall presented the report from the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the new Safeguarding Trainers for this Presbytery have commenced their own training for the role;
3. notes that the next deadline for receipt of grant applications is 12 noon on Friday 15 September 2018;
4. invites Kirk Sessions to encourage one of their young members (17- 25 years) to apply to become a representative at the National Youth Assembly 17-20 August;
5. notes with thanks a notice of interest from Johnstone High Parish Church for a representative to the NYA as above;
6. reminds Kirk Sessions to maintain involvement in the Year of Young People;
7. thanks Rev Teri Petersen for speaking at the Presbyter's Prayer Across Scotland for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on Wednesday 16 May at Greenock Lyle Kirk;

section 8 in the print was withdrawn

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

Rev Stephen Smith, Convener, presented the report from the Local Church Review Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that both completed forms and conversations during the visit indicate that the Kirk Session of Paisley Abbey are committed to and engaged in the ongoing work of review and development of the life, work, worship and witness of their congregation;
3. encourages the Kirk Session and congregation in their vision of seeking to develop the Abbey as a place of welcome and sign of God's love for residents of and visitors to the town of Paisley;
4. encourages the Kirk Session and congregation, in 2018, this Year of Young People, in their work with children and young people through music and in seeking to develop and strengthen relationships with schools , both primary and secondary.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th September 2018 for ordinary business in Barrhead St Andrew's Church.

Moderator

Clerk