

CLYDE PRESBYTERY

Tuesday 20th June 2023 at 7.00pm

On the 20th day of June 2023, Clyde Presbytery met in person in Helensburgh Parish Church, with some members joining via zoom, and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Christine Murdoch, Moderator, with 34 ministers in person and 15 on zoom; 43 elders in person with 24 joining on zoom and 6 corresponding members in person with 2 on zoom, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 3 ministers, 5 elders and 4 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed Rev Mark Boshoff, appointed as Assistant Minister in the Dumbarton triple linkage. Mark was unfortunately unable to attend this evening.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations were extended to Rev Gordon Armstrong and Rev Philip Wallace, both celebrating 25 years as ordained ministers this year.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

The minutes from the ordinary meeting on 14th February 2023 and the special meeting on 18th March 2023 were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next ordinary meeting was approved as 12th September 2023.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

Martyna Bakon of Barrhead St Andrew's had attended the General Assembly as the youth representative from Clyde Presbytery. She gave a brief report about her experience and thanked presbytery for allowing her the opportunity to attend.

RETIRING CONVENERS

Thanks were extended to conveners who were retiring from post Douglas Thomson, Stephen Smith, Ian Russell, Carol Moore, Jonathan Fleming, Christine Cavanagh and John Armit. The Moderator thanked them for their work since the inception of Clyde Presbytery and hoped they would continue to serve the Presbytery in some capacity.

RETIRING ELDERS

The Moderator thanked the elders retiring from Presbytery at the end of this session; Alexander Anderson, Mabel Baillie, Mary Jane Bird, Margaret Brook, Sandy Fergusson, Steven Lee, Malison Ndau, Fiona Nicolson, Kim O'Neil, Derek Reid, Stuart Renton, Ann Robertson, Davis Robertson, Grace Rogerson, David Still, Elspeth Talbot and Neil Turnbull.

DECISION PREVIOUSLY MADE VIA E-MAIL CIRCULATION

1. In the case of the application of the Kirk Session of Greenock Lyle Kirk congregation, the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of the hall building on Newark Street, formerly known as the Finnart St Paul's building, at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Kirk Session and (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulation 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

2. In the case of the application of the Kirk Session of Greenock: Lyle Kirk congregation, the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of the manse at 39 Fox Street, Greenock, at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Kirk Session and (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall be used to purchase a new manse or repay the General Trustees any loan funds extended to buy one in the meantime. Any balance remaining thereafter shall, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulation 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

3. In the case of the application of the Kirk Session of Linwood congregation, the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of the manse at 1 John Neilson Avenue at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Kirk Session and (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulation 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

4. In the case of the application of the Kirk Session of Paisley West, the General Trustees (1) authorise the sale of the church/hall building. Amochrie Road, Paisley, at such price and on such other terms and conditions as may be decided by them in consultation with the Kirk Session and (2) determine that the free proceeds of sale shall, subject to the operation of the Levy under Regulation 8 2008, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

EXCERPT FROM ACT OF ASSEMBLY ANENT POWERS DELEGATED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Trustees will be bound, upon making a determination hereunder, to intimate such determination forthwith by notice in writing to the Presbytery or Presbyteries concerned and also to the Financial Board or Boards of the Congregation or Congregations directly affected, on receipt by the Clerk of Presbytery of the notice of the determination of the General Trustees, it will be his duty to give sufficient intimation of the same to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery thereafter, any determination authorising the sale or disposal of property will be final and not subject to appeal; but any Presbytery concerned or any Financial Board having title or interest may within two months of the date of the meeting of Presbytery to which intimation has been made as aforesaid and subject to compliance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly, lodge with the Clerks of Assembly a Petition to the General Assembly for review of any such other determination; provided always that in such circumstances a review will be competent only if the Petition therefore is lodged timeously with the Clerks of Assembly and written intimation thereof given at the same time to the General Trustees.

DECISIONS MADE UNDER POWERS (S/O 61) for noting

Appointed Rev Ian Bell as Interim Moderator at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk from 13th March 2023, following the resignation of Rev William Boyle

Noted the appointment of Rev May Bell as locum at Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk from 7th May 2023

Approved the Rev David Hood and Rev Teri Peterson to be considered as prospective Placement Supervisors of candidates for ministry

Noted that the congregations of Bonhill and Renton: Trinity worshipped with Lomond on the morning of Sunday 16th April as the Moderator led worship there.

Appointed Rev David Nicolson as Interim Moderator at Arrochar linked with Luss from 2nd May 2023 following the resignation of Grace Rogerson

Appointed Rev Maureen Leitch as Interim Moderator at Barrhead Bourock from 28th April 2023 during the sick leave of Pamela Gordon

Appointed Rev Gordon Armstrong as Interim Moderator at Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw from 24th April 2023 during the sick leave of John Murning

Approved a 12 month extension to Rev Mark Boshoff's contract, on the understanding the contract can be ended with a 1 month notice period should Mark be called to a charge.

Appointed Rev Dr Sonia Blakesley, Ms Jennifer Boag and Mrs Sandra Maxwell to the Commission of Assembly, should it be required in the coming year

Noted that Mrs Elizabeth Usher and Mr Stuart Wilson were unable to take up their commissions to the General Assembly and Mrs Helen Eckford of Port Glasgow New and Mrs Ann McGregor of Kilmacolm Old were appointed as replacements

COMMITTEE DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER POWERS (S/O 60) for noting

Property (south)

Approved, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Linwood Parish Church congregation to sell their Manse at 1 John Neilson Avenue, Paisley. It was a requirement of Presbytery that the congregation use the services of the Church of Scotland Law Department in connection with legal works. Any free proceeds of the sale shall be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

Approved an application by the Port Glasgow New congregation to replace the windows at their Manse. The estimated cost is £10,918 inclusive of VAT and funding is available.

Approved an application to the General Trustees from the Port Glasgow New congregation to access a maximum of the total cost of the above project from their holdings in the consolidated fabric fund.

Approved an application by the Gourock: Old Gourock and Ashton congregation to refurbish the manse kitchen. The total cost including VAT is £14800 and funding is available.

Approved the application from Kilmacolm Old Kirk to sell their current manse and purchase a new one

Approved, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Barrhead: St Andrew's congregation to undertake the following two projects:

Project 1 – improvement to the acoustics within the new Community Hall at an estimated fully inclusive cost of £7,000 and funding is available.

Project 2 – refurbishment of the Session Room including decoration and provision of digital facilities at an estimated fully inclusive cost of £15,000 and funding is available.

Approved, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Greenock: St Margaret's congregation for the refurbishment of the kitchen in the large hall. The estimated maximum total cost is £10,000 and funding is available.

Approved an application to the General Trustees by the Greenock St Margaret's congregation to access the total cost of the above project up to a maximum of £10,000 from their holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

Approved, subject to the approval of the General Trustees, an application by the Renfrew Trinity Church congregation to carry out a refurbishment of the Ladies Toilet. The estimated total cost is £10,600 and funds are available.

Property (north)

Approved the application from Bearsden Baljaffray congregation to let their manse during the vacancy, using the services of the CofS Law Department

Approved the application from Milngavie St Paul's to replace the old timber windows in their hall with new PVC ones at a cost of £12,564.00

Ministry

Noted the granting of study leave for Rev Ramsay Shields to attend the 40th Proclamation Trust Evangelical Ministry Assembly, plus time for study, reflection and networking between June 26th to July 3rd 2023.

Stewardship & Finance

Approved the following awards from the discretionary fund:

£5000 to Renfrew Trinity to assist with employment of church worker.

£25000 to presbytery to offset building officer costs.

£50000 to presbytery to be core monies for an ongoing fund to help with special projects in Presbytery going forward

£5000 to Kilbarchan for AV upgrade

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Rev Ken Gray, Convener, presented the report from the Business Committee, apart from section 18 which was moved by the Clerk, and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes the sick leave of Rev Pamela Gordon and Rev John Murning;
3. gives notice of motion to amend standing order number 10 to revise standing committees as follows: Business, Mission, Ministry, Local Church Review (incorporating Superintendence), Mission Plan Implementation/Review (incorporating Vacancy Procedure), Property, Stewardship & Finance;

4. approves Rev Tommy Goodwin for sacramental ministry at Helensburgh Parish Church
5. notes the resignation of the Presbytery Clerk, Rev Dr Peter McEnhill, from 31st August 2023;
6. appoints an interview panel of Ken Gray, Maggie McArthur, Jonathan Fleming, Carol Moore and Sheena McFarlane to consider applications and interview potential candidates;

an addendum to section 6 was proposed and seconded as follows:

and instructs the panel to seek advice from the HR department at '121' and the Principal Clerk before interviews take place

This was put to a vote and the addendum carried.

A new section 7 was proposed and seconded as follows with subsequent sections renumbered:

7. *should the appointment of a new Clerk not be made by 31st August, consideration should be given to the appointment of a Clerk pro tem until such time as a Clerk is in post.*

The Convener accepted

8. approves the demission of Rev Dr Alistair Shaw from 31st August 2023 on the grounds of age;
9. proposes the dates/venues for future Presbytery meetings as follows:

Presbytery Business	12/9/23 - Craigrownie/ St Modan's
	13/2/24 - Dumbarton Riverside
	18/6/24 - Bearsden Baljaffray
Presbytery Conference	4/11/23 - Bishopton Cornerstone
	2/3/24 - Inchinnan
10. approves the Register of Ministries contained at **appendix 1**
11. approves the Roll of Presbytery for 2023-2024 as contained at **appendix 2**
12. approves the committee membership for 2023-2024 at **appendix 3**
13. notes the success of the visit from the Moderator of the General Assembly, Right Rev Dr Iain Greenshields
14. approves the application from Gourock St John's to recruit a part-time parish assistant for an initial period of 12 months, funding is available locally;
15. approves an application from the Barrhead churches to hold joint summer services as follows:

joint service with Barrhead St Andrews and Bourock to be held in Bourock on Sunday 2nd July
and a joint service of the 2 Churches to be held in Barrhead St Andrews on Sunday 6th August

16. approves the arrangements for services over the summer months as follows:

Sundays in June Services in St Modan's, Rosneath at 0945.
Sundays in July Services in Craigrownie at 1115.
Sundays in August Services in Garelochhead at 1115.

17. approves the arrangements for joint services for Kilmacolm St Columba and Old Kirk over the summer months as follows:

All July services will be held in the Old Kirk and all August services in St. Columba.

18. approves the arrangements for joint services for Bridge of Weir Freeland and St Machar's Ranfurly as follows:

July 2nd, 9th and 16th - Joint services in Freeland Church
July 23rd and 30th - Joint services in St. Machar's Ranfurly

19. notes that from 1st June 2023, the pulpit supply fee has increased from £60 to £100 for the first service and £30 to £50 for any additional service.

20. notes that Inverclyde Family Contact Centre plans to become an SCIO in the summer of 2023 and that from September 12th 2023 Presbytery will no longer appoint Trustees to the Governing body and the Moderator of Presbytery will no longer be a Trustee *ex officio*.

An additional section 20 and 21 was proposed

21. approves the arrangements for joint services for Bearsden Cross and New Kilpatrick as follows:

Bearsden New Kilpatrick on Sundays 25th June, 2nd, 9th & 16th July
Bearsden Cross on 23rd & 30th July, 6th & 13th August.

22. approves the arrangements for joint services from Greenock Westburn and Lyle Kirk as follows:

Westburn on 2nd July and 9th July
Lyle Kirk on 16th and 23rd July

TREASURER

Mr Ian Steven, Treasurer, presented his report and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. approves the accounts for year ending 31st December 2022 as tabled at **appendix 5**;

3. thanks Mr Jim Gibson for acting as Independent Examiner for 2022 and appoints him for another year;

MINISTRY

Rev Yvonne Smith, Convener, presented the report from the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. supports the nomination of Ms Charlene Mitchell for Diaconate Ministry and welcomes her as a corresponding member of Clyde Presbytery;
3. notes the intention to run Worship Leader courses later in the year and ask for expressions of interest to be made to YSmith@churchofscotland.org.uk
4. seeks three members of Presbytery to train as Formation Partners, as detailed below, further information and expressions of interest to YSmith@churchofscotland.org.uk

MISSION

Rev Ann Knox, Convener, presented the report from the Mission Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. urges Presbyters to fill in the short questionnaire asking for preferences for future Clyde Presbytery Mission Conferences <https://forms.office.com/e/fjSQT5sNbG>
3. notes that a presbytery weekend/overnight conference is being explored and encourages presbyters to engage with this once more detailed arrangements are suggested;
4. urges congregations to look at the work of 'Prospects Across Scotland' and to either encourage people with additional needs to join with JAM worship or for congregations/cluster groups to look at setting-up a similar worship event. <https://www.prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk>
5. notes the date for a Session Clerk Training Day hosted by Inchinnan PC on August 26th 2023 and facilitated by Faith Action Forum for those in, and those who might be taking up, this post please email aknox@churchofscotland.org.uk to confirm attendance

PLANNING

Parties from all congregations affected by the amendments in the Extract Minute had been cited in their interest. The following people spoke:

Barbara Wilson of Neilston

Helen Stephen of Paisley North
Graeme Simpson of Paisley Sherwood Greenlaw
Shaw Anderson of Milngavie St Lukes

Parties were then removed and Presbytery moved to debate.

Rev Jonathan Fleming, Convener, presented the report from the Planning Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes receipt of the amendments made to the draft Presbytery plan by Faith Nurture and the General Trustees as set out in their Extract Minute of the 19th May 2023 (**appendix 6**) and the terms described therein;
3. approves those amendments to the draft Mission Plan entirely as stated in the Extract Minute and adopts the amended plan as the Presbytery Plan for Clyde Presbytery a summary of which is included at **appendix 7**;

counter motions in the name of Neilston, Paisley North and Renfrew North had been received opposing section 3 of the deliverance. After some debate, and a short recess, these congregations withdrew their motions and accepted a further counter motion in the name of Eleanor McMahon as follows:

Pause all re-categorisations and amendments with regard to the Presbytery Mission Plan by PMPIG and GTs until meetings can take place between congregations so affected, in order that a greater understanding regarding these amendments may be discussed and localised meetings taking place within 90 days with PMPIG and the GTs.

The Moderator called for a vote on the counter motion, including a poll on zoom, and there voted for the motion 27 in person and 14 on line and against 38 in person with 24 on line. Total 41 for with 62 against therefore the motion fell.

The Moderator then called for a vote on the original section 3 and the votes were as follows: votes for 37 in person and 27 on line with 23 against in person and 9 on line. Total 64 for with 32 against so section 3 was approved.

4. notes that at the adoption of the amended Presbytery plan the fourteen day period for lodging Mission Plan Review requests begins;
5. instructs the Clerk to send to the Faith Action Leadership Team an Extract Minute of this decision noting Presbytery's acceptance of the plan as amended;
6. instructs the Clerk to write to every congregation within the bounds informing them that the fourteen day period for lodging Mission Plan Review requests has begun.

Additional sections 7-12 under the heading of Milngavie St Luke's were proposed and seconded as follows:

7. recognises the essential missional opportunities in the St Luke's Parish area;

8. agrees that the matter of building is distinct from the task of the congregation's mission, worship and pastoral care and encourages the Kirk Session in their commitment to continuing to have a worshipping presence and provide service to the community on this strategic site;
9. recognises that the congregation partners with other Milngavie churches in Gospel and ecumenical initiatives in Milngavie and urges them to promote this in the future;
10. encourages the congregation in consultation with the presbytery and the General Trustees to explore the possibilities relating to sustaining and developing mission opportunities during the next stage of the Mission Planning Process;
11. encourages the congregation to seek the appropriate support from the Central Services of the Church;
12. affirms the congregation in its commitment to seeking positive and sustainable outcomes for the future.

The Convener accepted the sections above and proposed a further section 13 as follows:

13. affirms the mission of all congregations within the Presbytery and looks forward to working together with our congregations in growing the Kingdom of Jesus Christ

Presbytery approved

PROPERTY

Mr Ian Russell, Convener (south) presented the report from the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the annual tranche of Quinquennial Inspections will be carried out by the Presbytery's Building Officer – Jamie McNamara – over the next few months. Office bearers of the congregations concerned are advised that they will be contacted by the Building Officer soon for details of their properties and to arrange access.
3. approves in principle an application by Oakshaw Trinity to replace their heating system and instructs the Clerk to send the relevant papers to the General Trustees for their approval.

new sections 4 to 8 were proposed and seconded

4. notes that the Property Committee has approved a grant of £5,000 from the Cargill Bequest Fund to the Paisley: Oakshaw Trinity congregation in connection with their proposed new heating system.
5. approves in principle an application by Paisley: Abbey to carry out a programme of urgent and essential repairs to the Abbey building and instructs the Clerk to send the relevant papers to the General Trustees for their approval.

6. approves in principle an application by Paisley: Abbey to the National Churches Trust for grant aid in connection with the above project.
7. approves an application to the General Trustees by Paisley Abbey to access their holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund in connection with the above project.
8. approves in principle an application by Renfrew: North to carry out a repair to the stained glass window above the entrance doors to the church building and instructs the Clerk to send the relevant papers to the General Trustees for their approval.

SAFEGUARDING

Miss Carolyn Lockhart, Convener, presented the report from the Safeguarding Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the required initial round of sessions required to meet the June deadline for completion of safeguarding training by Trustees and Ministers has now completed and urges anyone who has not completed the mandatory training to make contact with the committee re future dates for doing so.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Robert Kinloch, Convener, presented the report from the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. thanks treasurers for their work in producing their 2022 accounts and encourages the congregations whose accounts are outstanding to finalize them as soon as possible;
3. encourages all congregations to make their "giving to grow payments" up to date as this is part of the process reported on when a congregation is in vacancy;
4. notes that all financial aspects of the dissolving of Paisley Martys Sandford are now complete and thanks those who contributed to this complex process;
5. notes that there are still monies available in the Discretionary Fund if you have a project you would like to submit please fill in the form on the Presbytery web site and return it to Robert Kinloch (rkinloch@blueyonder.co.uk)

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 congregational office bearers responsible for maintaining church records;
4. thanks all those who assisted in the Inspection of Records and the congregations who made premises available for that purpose;

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.00pm for ordinary business, venue to be advised in due course but either Craigrownie or St Modan's.

Moderator

Clerk