

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

November 11th 2014

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the eleventh day of November 2014, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ritchie Gillon, Moderator, with 37 ministers, 53 elders, 2 deacons and 8 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 6 ministers, 4 elders, 1 deacon and 2 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting on October 14th being in print and in the hands of members were taken as read and approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as December 9th 2014 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with an additional item from Property and Community Interests.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices.

PRESENTATION TO STUDENTS

The Moderator presented a gift from the Weddell Book Fund to ministry students Yvonne Smith, Annette Gordon, Ann Knox and William Boyle and to readership students, John Spooner and Kenneth Rankin and hoped the small token would assist with the purchase of books for their studies.

PRESENTATION OF READERS

The following Readers were presented to the Moderator, who thanked those present for the work they carried out both in preaching and pastoral care within the Presbytery;

Douglas Allan, Mary Jane Bird, Russell Banks, Tom Campbell, Charles Davey, Jack Glenny, Eleanor Hood, Christine MacDonald, Elizabeth McFarlan, Jack McHugh, Leon Marshall, Margaret Maxwell, Geoff Orry and Jennifer Boag

LEAVE TAKING REV PAM NOONAN

The Moderator thanked Mrs Noonan for her dedicated work within the Presbytery both as a reader and more recently as an Ordained Local Minister. He wished her well as she moved to the Presbytery of England. Mrs Noonan replied in suitable terms.

VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

The Clerk reminded ministers of the need to adhere to the regulations as laid down in Act VIII 2003 re Vacancy Procedure, which needed to be followed when translating to a new charge and also when calling a minister.

Rev Jim Cowan, Convener, presented the report of the Vacancy Procedure Report and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;

2. grants permission to Langbank linked with Port Glasgow: St Andrew's to call a minister on the basis of unrestricted tenure in terms of Act VII 2003;

BUSINESS

In the absence of Rev Alistair Shaw, Convener, Rev Karen Harbison presented the report of the Business Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the continuing sick leave of Rev Fiona Maxwell and appoints Rev Maureen Leitch as Interim Moderator at Neilston from November 4th 2014;
3. Approves the application from Erskine Church to adopt the Unitary Constitution;
4. Notes the findings of the recent Presbytery Survey as contained in **Appendix 1**;
5. Approves the appointment of Mr John Armit as Representative Elder from Paisley: Lylesland and welcomes him;
6. Appoints Mrs Helen Eckford as a Corresponding Member of Presbytery, representing the Greenock Guild Presbyterial Council and instructs the Clerk to add her name to the roll of Presbytery;

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Mr Peter Bennett, Convenor, presented the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the Report;
2. Approves the proposed 2015 Ministries and Mission contributions for all congregations as detailed in **Appendix 2**;
3. If the deliverance at (2) above is accepted instructs the Clerk to transmit the approved Ministries and Mission allocations schedule to the Stewardship and Finance Department of the Church in Edinburgh by the due date of 15th November;
4. Notes that the deadline date for submission of applications for consideration for awards from the first distribution of funds for 2015 from the Mission Support Fund is 21st November 2014;
5. Notes that the Stewardship and Finance Committee is considering organising a seminar to assist congregational treasurers with a range of topics and that letters inviting treasurers to notify interest in this event have been sent out.

PROPERTY

In the absence of Mr William Mathieson, Convener, Mr Robert Nicol presented the report of the Property Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. receives the report;
2. formally approves the installation by the Bishopton congregation of the replacement organ obtained at net zero cost, following approval from CARTA;
3. approves the request from Kilbarchan West to sell their manse;

4. approves the request from the congregation of Paisley: St. James to let their manse during their vacancy, following advice obtained from the Church of Scotland Law Department;
5. approves the installation of a new audio-visual system in Renfrew North, as previously approved by CARTA, at an estimated cost of £12,500. Funds are available;

An additional section 6 was proposed and approved as follows:

6. approves as required by Presbytery Standing Orders expenditure in excess of £20,000 by Renfrew North

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

Sharook Gill gave a short report on his time at the Youth Assembly and thanked Presbytery for the opportunity to represent them at this event.

Rev Eileen Ross, Convener, presented the report of the Mission & Discipleship Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes that further dates for Safeguarding training have been arranged and instructs presbyters to encourage eligible people to attend.

Volunteers Training - Saturday 15th November at Neilston Church, 10 am till 12 30
Safeguarding Training for Elders - Sunday 23rd November at Renfrew North Church, 2pm - 4pm.

COMMUNITY INTEREST

Mrs Alison McKenzie, Convener, presented the report of the Community Interest Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Commends the work of the Counselling Service at The Wynd Centre, Paisley

An additional section 3 and 4 was proposed and approved

3. Commends the work of Inverclyde Family Contact Centre and invites you to attend their 20th anniversary celebrations on Sunday 7th December at 3.00pm in Wellpark Mid Kirk, Cathcart Square, Greenock;
4. Encourages congregations to pray for the staff and volunteers at Inverclyde Family Contact Centre to ensure its continued success.

MINISTRY

Rev Jonathan Fleming, Convener, presented the report of the Ministry Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the appointment of Mr Geoff Orry as locum at Paisley: St James' from 1st November 2014 during the vacancy there;

3. Notes the appointment of Rev Bill McKaig as locum at Bishopton from 9th November 2014 during the vacancy there;
4. Notes the appointment of Ms Liz McFarlan as locum at Paisley: St Columba Foxbar from 10th November 2014 during the vacancy there;

WORLD MISSION & ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

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

Presbytery:

- 1 receives the report;
- 2 commends to congregations the Study Document "God's Gift and Call to Unity – and our Commitment"

ZIMBABWE

Rev Archie Speirs, Convener, presented the report of the Zimbabwe Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Thanks God for the recent visit by the delegation from the Presbytery of Zimbabwe and for the encouragement and prayerful support we received from them;
3. Nevertheless acknowledges that for both Presbyteries it is clearly acknowledged that this is an appropriate time for reflection and a re-evaluation of the covenant relationship;
4. Recognises that such an evaluation might very well conclude that this is an appropriate time to bring this covenant to a close- its work completed;
5. Accepts with gratitude the offer of the World Mission Council to help facilitate such a process of evaluation, drawing upon their wide experience of similar partnerships and twinning relationships;

An addendum to section 5 was proposed and accepted as follows:

6. Accepts with gratitude the offer of the World Mission Council to help facilitate such a process of evaluation, drawing upon their wide experience of similar partnerships and twinning relationships and instructs the Zimbabwe Committee to consult with other interested parties including the Business Committee and those involved in the visits;
7. Resolves to bring an interim report re this process to the February meeting of Presbytery;
8. Records with deep appreciation all that the covenant relationship has meant to this Presbytery thus far, and instructs the Clerk to write to the Presbytery of Zimbabwe assuring them of our continuing prayerful support as both parties reflect on the future of our relationship together.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Thursday 27th November for a service of induction at Gourock: Old Gourock & Ashton Church and then on Tuesday 9th December 2014 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in the Cornerstone, Bishopton.

Moderator

Clerk