

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

October 13th 2015

At Bishopton and within the Cornerstone there, the thirteenth day of October 2015, the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley met as appointed and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Dr Ken Forrest, Moderator, with 32 ministers, 56 elders, 2 deacons and 14 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from 17 ministers, 5 elders, 1 deacon and 2 corresponding member, as recorded separately.

MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting on September 8th and the service of introduction on September 15th being in print and in the hands of members were approved.

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

The next meeting was approved as November 10th 2015 in The Cornerstone, Bishopton.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The order of business was approved as printed with additions from the Business Committee, Mission & Discipleship Committee and the Presbytery Plan Review Committee.

NOTICES

The Clerk highlighted the notices, including the fire safety notice.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

The Moderator welcomed Rev Sandra Black who had recently been introduced as Interim Minister at Port Glasgow St Martin's and Rev Owen Derrick who was doing a familiarisation placement at Paisley St Mark's Oldhall.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Moderator warmly congratulated Rev Alan Birss of Paisley Abbey on being appointed as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant for the Paisley area and wished him well as he carried out the duties of that particular office.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV ANDREW MACLEAN, DEPUTE CLERK AND RETIRED MINISTER

The Moderator led a tribute to the late Andrew Maclean, who died on Sunday 4th October 2015. A copy is held on file.

BUSINESS

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the sick leave of Rev Robert Craig and appoints Rev Robbie McFarlane as Interim Moderator from 13/10/15 during the sick leave;
3. Gives notice that at its meeting on the 10th November 2015, a deliverance re the suspension of standing orders (with particular reference to 38 e and f) will be brought forward in order that Presbytery can go into conference session for the visit of the Rev Dr Alistair Bull, Secretary of the Mission and Discipleship Council.

4. Notes the list of candidates accepted into training for the ministry for 2015/2016 as contained in **appendix 1**
5. Approves the request of Howwood and Lochwinnoch churches to worship together in Lochwinnoch Church on Sunday 6th December 2015;
6. Encourages Presbyters of their responsibility to attend all Presbytery services when possible;

Additional sections 7 and 8 were proposed by the convener as follows:

7. Appoints Mrs Elizabeth Evans as the representative elder for Paisley Martyrs' Sandyford following the resignation of George Houstoun;
8. Notes the death of Mr David Smith, additional elder, and gives thanks for his service to Presbytery in recent years;

PROPERTY

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

1. receives the report;
2. notes that the 2015 quinquennial inspections for Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay, Inverkip, Gourrock: St. John's and Old Gourrock & Ashton, Greenock: St. Margaret's, Paisley: St. Mark's, Oldhall and Oakshaw Trinity, Renfrew: North and Trinity, Langbank, Bishopton, Inchinnan, and Houston & Killellan have all been timeously completed by Brown & Wallace, Construction Consultants;
3. approves necessary roof repairs to the Greenock: Wellpark Mid church building at a current estimated cost of of £30,000, following 5 recent separate instances of lead theft. Funds are available, and grant funding will also be pursued;
- 4a. approves the Erskine congregation's initiation of a tender process to obtain firm quotations for carrying out the essential roof repairs identified in the feasibility study already funded by the General Trustees earlier this year. The study anticipated an estimated cost of £130,000;
- 4b. approves an application from the Erskine congregation to the General trustees for a grant of £10,000 from the Central Fabric Fund in order to meet the cost of professional fees and production of a Business Plan relating to their essential roof repairs;

MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP

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 the Annual Conference for Safeguarding Co-ordinators will take place at Erskine Parish Church on Saturday 24th October, from 10am to 4pm; that training for Co-ordinators will take place on Saturday 14th November at Erskine Parish Church, from 10am to 4pm; and that training for Volunteers will take place on Saturday 14th November at Erskine Parish Church between 10am and 12 noon;
3. Reminds Kirk Sessions that to comply with the law of the land, every person undertaking regulated work with children and / or protected adults, as a volunteer or paid worker, must have completed a PVG form before 31 October 2015;
4. Reminds Kirk Sessions that any individual who is to be appointed as Safeguarding Co-

ordinator must attend a Church of Scotland full day Safeguarding Coordinator's training course authorised by the Safeguarding Service, and become a member of the PVG Scheme as a Church of Scotland volunteer;

5. Notes that Presbytery Safeguarding Trainers Mrs A. Thomson and Mrs G. Whitelaw are available for advice on all Safeguarding matters including PVG Scheme membership;
6. Reminds Kirk Sessions that BB members who will be remaining in the Company as NCOs beyond the age of 18 must become members of the PVG scheme before their 18th birthday;
7. Approves the retrospective application from Erskine Parish to the Oakshaw East Fund for a grant of £115 towards expenses of their Summer 2015 Holiday Club;
8. Notes the arrangements for the November conference session on Mission;
9. Appoints Mrs Mary Jane Bird as Presbytery's Learning Disability Contact from 13/10/15

PRESBYTERY PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

The congregation of Paisley St James' had been cited to appear in their interest.

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Notes the progress of our proposal for Pioneer Ministry in Ferguslie Park;

The convener proposed an additional section 3 and 4 as follows and renumbered the subsequent sections:

3. Amends the Presbytery plan with respect to the congregation of Paisley St James's to seek re-adjustment by way of dissolution for this congregation, and seeks the concurrence of the Presbytery Planning Task group of Ministries Council, as per the requirements of Act 7 2003 Appraisal and Adjustment;
4. Instructs the committee to prepare a draft Basis of Dissolution for Paisley: St James's;
5. Notes the on-going discussions in Paisley; St Ninians Ferguslie and Paisley: Wallneuk North and instruct the committee to report to the November meeting of Presbytery.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

In the absence of Mr Peter Bennett, Convener, Mr Leon Marshall presented the report of the Stewardship & Finance Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. Agrees that the balance of the 4% discretionary allowance available for the 2015 Ministries and Missions contributions be used to reduce the Ministries and Missions contributions of congregations as detailed in **Appendix 2**;

3. If the deliverance is accepted (a) instructs the Clerk to send an extract minute of this decision to the Church's Stewardship and Finance Department by Friday 16th October 2015 and (b) instructs the Convener to inform the congregational treasurers;
4. Notes the proposed Ministries and Mission contributions for 2016 as detailed in **Appendix 3**;
5. Notes the date of 23rd October 2015 by which congregations should make representations regarding the proposed 2016 contributions to the Convener;
6. Notes that the following information has been sent to congregational treasurers :
 - Proposed contributions for 2016 with average income for the relevant years as detailed in Appendix 3
 - Copy of scale table for 2016 used by "121" to determine initial proposed contributions.
7. Notes that application forms for Mission Support Fund for 2016 are available from the Presbytery Office and Presbytery website.

ZIMBABWE

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

Presbytery:

1. Receives the report;
2. thanks God for the journey that we have undertaken with the Presbytery of Zimbabwe and for the encouragement and prayerful support we have received from them;
3. acknowledges that for both Presbyteries it appears that this is an appropriate time to bring the covenant to a close;
4. agrees that the most effective way to give expression to the aims of the covenant in future is to encourage twinning of congregations within the bounds with congregations in the Presbytery of Zimbabwe and urges all members of presbytery to encourage their kirk session to consider some form of twinning with Zimbabwe;
5. thanks the World Mission Council in particular for Carol Finlay's help in facilitating the process of evaluation;
6. agrees that the Zimbabwe Committee should be a sub-section of the World Mission and Ecumenical Relations committee and be renamed the Zimbabwe network;
7. 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 and friendship;
8. Agrees to wind up the presbytery's Zimbabwe Fund and instructs the treasurer to disburse any balance in consultation with the new Zimbabwe Network and the presbytery of Zimbabwe;

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Tuesday 13th October 2015 at 7.00pm for ordinary business in **The Cornerstone, Bishopton**

Moderator

Clerk