

CLYDE PRESBYTERY

November 10th 2020

On the 10th day of November 2020, Clyde Presbytery met via Zoom in line with current restrictions around the Covid-19 virus, and was constituted with prayer.

SEDERUNT

Rev Ian Johnson, Moderator, with 43 ministers, 50 elders and 11 corresponding members, as recorded separately.

APOLOGIES

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

WELCOME

A warm welcome was extended to Rev Tim Mineard, ordained and inducted to Barrhead St Andrew's on September 24th 2020.

CONFERENCE SESSION

Presbyters were assigned a break out room and were asked to consider the following questions:

- a. How is your congregation doing in the time of Covid?
- b. What ideas or plans do you have for advent/Christmas?

Following the discussion groups, one item of feedback was shared from each group. The feedback was encouraging and showed that, despite the current restrictions, there was still a lot going on within our congregations.

READERS

The following Readers, who were in attendance, were invited by the Moderator to introduce themselves:

Mary Jane Bird, Jennifer Boag, Charles Davey, Eleanor Hood, Alex McEwan, Liz McFarlan, Leon Marshall, Sandra Maxwell, Richard Morgan and John Spooner.

The Moderator thanked them, and indeed all the Readers within Clyde Presbytery, for the work they do.

MINUTES

Minutes of ordinary meeting on September 1st 2020, the ordination on September 24th 2020 and service of linking on October 7th 2020 were in the hands of members and were approved.

COMMITTEE POWERS

It was noted that Presbytery approval had been obtained via e-mail on 22nd September 2020 as follows: "a committee has the power to deal with whatever falls within its remit, unless it is a power which is expressly reserved for the presbytery as a whole or unless the committee itself wishes to bring forward a particular matter of concern for discussion by the Presbytery".

APPOINTMENT OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 9th February 2021 in accordance with whatever restrictions were in place at that time.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

There were additional items from the Business Committee, the Planning Committee and the Property Committee. Subsequent sections were renumbered accordingly.

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

Business Committee

1. approved the transfer of Rev David Stewart to the Presbytery of Ardossan, as he lives within their bounds;
2. appointed Rev Gary Noonan as Clyde Presbytery's Ecumenical Relations Officer as this sits within the remit of his committee;
3. agreed to increase the grant from the Port Glasgow Newark Mission Fund from £5170 to £6154 to Port Glasgow New Parish to assist with the installation of live streaming equipment;
4. approved the request from Janette Peel, probationer, to be ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in order to take up a full-time post as chaplain within the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Paisley, the date for ordination has been set as Wednesday 18th November at Paisley St Mark's Oldhall.

Planning Committee

5. approved (on both sides of the river) the use of the Protocol approved by the General Assembly to use postal ballots in place of congregational meetings in cases of readjustment. The committees approved its general use, but recognised that there may be specific situations where its use is not appropriate;
6. carried out a review of the seven-year tenure held by the Rev. Dr. Charles Cameron at Johnstone: St. Andrew's Trinity and decided that the tenure should not be renewed. A letter has now been sent to Dr. Cameron informing him that his tenure will come to an end on 31st July, 2021

Property Committee

7. approved the sale of the manse belonging to Paisley Abbey on the understanding the money will be "ring fenced" to purchase a new manse;
8. approved the request from the General Trustees to promote the Lochwinnoch Glebe as suitable for housing development and for its eventual sale;
9. approved an application by the Greenock: St Margaret's congregation for the installation of a new heating boiler at a cost of £5,300 plus vat and noted that the funds are available from the tranche of funds previously released by the General Trustees from the congregation's holdings in the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

Stewardship & Finance Committee

10. approved the M&M contributions for 2021, subject to the appeals which had been received;

11. urged all treasurers to ensure a suitable method of payment was set up to pay these contributions on a regular basis;

Superintendence Committee

12. In exercise of its duties of support and superintendence, the Presbytery issued the following instructions to the Kirk Session of Luss Church:

Gift Aid

1. instructed the Kirk Session not to make claims to HMRC for payment of Gift Aid for 2019, 2020 or 2021 without the approval of Ian Steven CA, Treasurer of the Presbytery.

Friends of Luss Church, SC049224 ("the SCIO")

2. instructed the Kirk Session:
 - a. to take all steps open to it to ensure that (i) by 31 October 2020 the SCIO passes a resolution to dissolve and to transfer all of its assets to Luss Parish Church and (ii) within 7 days of such resolution being passed the SCIO, through the Church of Scotland Law Department, to submit an application to dissolve to OSCR;
 - b. to ensure that pending the dissolution of the SCIO no payments are made to the SCIO from any source connected with Luss Parish Church;
 - c. pending dissolution of the SCIO and no later than 16 October 2020 to advise the SCIO that it must not hold itself out as acting on behalf of or in the interests of Luss Parish Church; and,
 - d. if the SCIO has not been dissolved by 30 November 2020 to take all necessary steps to obtain immediate repayment from the SCIO of all sums paid to it since it was formed which otherwise would have been rightfully due to Luss Parish Church in terms of Church of Scotland law and practice.
3. instructed the Kirk Session not to set up or to authorise any other SCIO or other body to receive or raise funds for or on behalf of Luss Parish Church without the express written permission of the General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland and Clyde Presbytery.

Luss Parish Church Accounts

4. instructed the Kirk Session to act under the direction of and to co-operate fully with Ian Steven CA, Treasurer of the Presbytery, to prepare and submit the 2019 accounts for Luss Parish Church as required by the Church of Scotland and OSCR.
5. instructed the Kirk Session to act under the direction of and to co-operate fully with Ian Steven CA, Treasurer of the Presbytery, to revise and resubmit accounts for Luss Parish Church for previous years as may be required by the Church of Scotland or OSCR.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Rev Ken Gray presented the report from the Business Committee and the following deliverance was approved:

Presbytery:

1. appoints Rev Dr Peter McEnhill as Clerk to the Presbytery of Clyde from January 2021 following a successful interview process and discharges the *ad hoc* committee set up as a recruitment team;
2. notes that this full-time position will be funded from central funds, the details of which are still being negotiated;
3. delegates powers to the Business Committee to appoint Commissioners to the General Assembly 2021;
4. approves the request from Neilston to designate their sole nominee's address at 22 Elderpark Gardens, Glasgow as their temporary manse, until their own manse has been vacated by the current tenants;

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment to meet on Wednesday 18th November 2020 for the ordination of Ms Jeanette Peel in Paisley St Mark's Oldhall Church, and then on Tuesday, 9th February 2021 at 7 pm., location still to be decided, or on such other date, as will comply with Scottish Government regulations on meetings.

Moderator

Clerk