

At Saltcoats, and within New Trinity Parish Church on Tuesday 5th December 2006, which place and date the Presbytery of Ardrossan met and was constituted.

SEDERUNT Revd W R Johnston (Moderator), Revds J R McKay (Clerk), I W Benzie, J AS Boag, M S Cameron, A Davidge, R J Grahame, D J H Harbison, D J Hebenton, M L K Howie, J M M Lafferty, R Leask, A M McCance, R I T McDonald, A D McCallum, E McKinnon, A F McGurk, A B Noble, B H Oxburgh, I M Roy, S J Smith, M Thomson, E R L Watson, Ministers; J Aitken, L Borwick, S Brown, A Buick, A Campbell, J Cameron, G Cunningham, H B Gibson, I Hackney, E Halliwell, A C D Hamilton, R Jarvie, M G Kellock, R Kelso, J Laurie, A MacDonald, V Macdonald, S Macleod, J Martin, G K McConnell, S McLellan, D McMurray, J McSwan, S Marr, C Massie, T Muston, J Porter, R A Richardson, G Ross, A K Saunderson, J S Scott, E Sillars, N Smith, E Stevenson, A Tomlinson, A C Watt, C Welch, K S Welch, R F Welch, H Young, Elders; M A Broster, J C Q Hunter, M Massie, R McCool, Revd A Montgomerie, M Nimmo, M M B Ross, Corresponding Members.

APOLOGIES were received from N Cruickshank, J Drysdale, M H Mackay, Dr I MacLeod, F C Ross, J Selfridge, J Whyte, Ministers; L S Campbell, M Duff, R Lavalette, E Taylor, W F Turner, Elders; A Currie, Corresponding Member

MINUTES The Minute of the meeting of 7th November, having been circulated, was approved.

ORDER OF BUSINESS With the addition of correspondence intimating appeals against the Presbytery Plan, the order of business was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk reported receipt of communications from the Principal Clerk of the General Assembly enclosing an extract minute of the determination of the recent Commission of Assembly in the case of Mr Gary Sproat; from the Secretary of the Committee on Parish Appraisal, concurring with the revised Presbytery Plan; from the Kirk Sessions of Beith: High, Beith: Trinity, Fairlie, Kilwinning: Old, Saltcoats: North, Saltcoats: St Cuthbert's, West Kilbride: Overton and West Kilbride: St Andrews'

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the extract minute of the Commission of Assembly should be engrossed in the minute of this meeting.

At Edinburgh, and within Palmerston Place Church, the second day of November 2006 at 10.30 am, which place and date the Commission of Assembly appointed by the last General Assembly in terms of Act VI 1997, being met, was constituted with prayer

Inter alia

Appeal of Mr Gary Sproat against a decision of the Presbytery of Ardrossan And the Ministries Council

The Commission of assembly took up consideration of the Appeal in the name of Mr Gary Sproat against a decision of the Presbytery of Ardrossan and the Ministries Council, dated 15 July 2005, to terminate his candidature for the ministry in terms of Section 21(5)(d) of Act X 2004 as amended.

The Principal Clerk read the relevant part of Standing Order 72

Parties were called.

Mr Sproat appeared for himself, accompanied by Mr Gary Caldwell. Rev Johnston McKay, Clerk, appeared for the Presbytery of Ardrossan. Rev James Dewar, Vice-Convener, Rev Donald Macleod, Convener of the Candidates Supervision Committee And Mrs Moira Whyte, Associate Secretary, appeared for the Ministries Council

Rev Professor David Fergusson, Convener of the Investigating Committee, was in Attendance.

The commission called for the Report of the Committee on Overtures and Cases,

which was given by the Principal Clerk. It was moved seconded and agreed

The Commission of Assembly

- i. Receive the Report
- ii. Approve the actions of the Committee

The Commission received the Report of the Investigating Committee appointed by the Legal Questions Committee in terms of Section 5(d)(iii) of Act VI, 1997, which was given in by Rev Professor David Fergusson, Convener.

Parties were heard

Questions were asked

Parties were removed.

It was moved and seconded

The Commission of Assembly

Refuse the Appeal in the name of Mr Gary Sproat and uphold the decision of the Presbytery of Ardrossan and the Candidates Supervision Committee of the Ministries Council, dated 15 July 2005, to terminate his candidature for ministry in terms of section 21(5)(d) of Act X 2004 as amended.

The Principal Clerk read the relevant part of Standing Order 72.

On a vote being taken For or Against, there voted For 65 and Against 4 and the Commission of Assembly resolved accordingly

Parties were recalled and judgement intimated.

Extracted from the Minutes of the Commission of Assembly by me this Ninth Day of November 2006.

FINLAY A J MACDONALD

Cl Eccl Scot

OVERTURES UNDER THE BARRIER ACT

Presbytery took up consideration of the Act anent Ministries Appeal Panel.

Following discussion there voted Approve 52 Disapprove 4 and the Presbytery resolved accordingly.

Presbytery took up consideration of the Act anent Civil Partnerships, and the report of the Presbytery's Special Committee, which had concluded that it was unable to recommend Approve or Disapprove.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that Presbytery receive the Report of the Special Committee.

Following discussion there voted Approve 35 Disapprove 22 and the Presbytery resolved accordingly.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business Committee

For the Committee the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

- i. Note that it has proved impossible to predict the presbytery dues for 2007 at this time but they will be submitted for approval in February
- ii. Approve as the Advisory Committee in the vacancy at West Kilbride: Overton: Miss J McSwan, Revd J A S Boag, Mrs C Welch
- iii. Instruct ministers requiring cover for absence to report arrangements to the Clerk in advance
- iv. Appoint as auditors Miss J McSwan and Mr S Brown
- v. Resolve to amend the Presbytery Plan to state that the parish assistance in Kilwinning shall be for the parish of Kilwinning Old and not the parish grouping in accordance with the Basis and Plan of Union of Kilwinning: Abbey and Kilwinning: Erskine which provided for assistance to be available exclusively for the united parish, and invite the General Assembly's Committee on Parish Appraisal to concur.

Stewardship and Finance

For the Committee, the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that presbytery

- i. Approve Voluntary Additional Payments as follows

Largs: Clark Memorial £3031

Largs: St Columba £1290

Largs: St John £3031

Saltcoats: St Cuthbert £1290

- ii. Note and commend material from the General Assembly's Stewardship Committee which has been sent to congregations.

Ministries

On behalf of the Convener, the Clerk moved, and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Note that the Ministries Council for its part has approved the transfer of Mrs Penney Spencer from the Methodist Church to the readership of the Church of Scotland on condition that she undergoes an introduction to the polity of the Church of Scotland; appointed the Revd Alison Davidge to provide this introduction and report to the Business Committee; and remit to the Business Committee to make arrangements for the setting apart of Mrs Spencer

Church and Society

For the Committee, the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Note the report of the recent finding of the questionnaire anent school chaplaincies

Presbyterial Superintendence

For the Committee, the Convener moved and it was seconded and agreed that Presbytery

Approve the following arrangements for the inspection of records

7.00pm Tuesday 20 February 2007 in Saltcoats: New Trinity for congregations in Saltcoats, Ardrossan and Stevenston

2.00pm Wednesday 21 February 2007 in Largs: St Columba's for the congregations of Largs, Fairlie, West Kilbride and Cumbrae

7.00pm on Wednesday 21st February 2007 in Dalry: St Margaret's for the congregations of Kilwinning, Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith

11.00am approx on Thursday 22 February 2007 in Brodick Church for the congregations of Arran

Mission and Discipleship

For the Committee, the Convener moved, and it was seconded and agreed that presbytery

- i. Invite members of Presbytery to nominate a youth representative to the General Assembly of 2007, any nominations to be in the hands of the Convener by 28 February 2007
- ii. Note with approval that the Moderator of Presbytery will be visiting the island of Arran in the spring as this year's moderatorial tour.

Revd Angus Adamson reported on the recent Rural Church Conference and was thanked for his report.

NEXT MEETING Presbytery to meet on Tuesday 6th February 2007 at 7.30pm within Saltcoats: New Trinity Church for the conduct of ordinary business, the Business Committee to meet on Tuesday 30th January at 9.45am

CLOSED WITH PRAYER

Moderator

Clerk