

At Ardrossan and within Park Parish Church on Tuesday 2 September 2008, which place and date the Presbytery of Ardrossan met and was constituted

SEDERUNT : Mr Ronald Lavalette (Moderator) Revd Dr J R McKay (Clerk) I W Benzie, I Bristow, M S Cameron, W R Johnston, R Leask, A D McCallum, A M McCance, R I T McDonald, A F McGurk, M H Mackay, E McKinnon, J J McNay, D R Mitchell, A B Noble, B H Oxburgh, F C Ross, S J Smith, M Thomson, E R L Watson, V G C Watson, J Whyte, Ministers; J Aitken, L Borwick, J Bowie, S Brown, A Buick, A T Butcher, A Campbell, J Cameron, A Cochrane, M Durham, J Forsyth, E Halliwell, A C D Hamilton, R Jarvie, M G Kellock, R Kelso, J Laurie, A Lees, V Macdonald, G K McConnell, S McMahan, J McSwan, S Marr, N Martin, C Massie, K Mile, T Muston, R A Richardson, A K Saunderson, J S Scott, E Sillars, N Smith, E Taylor, W F Turner, A C Watt, C Welch, K S Welch, R F Welch, H Young, Elders; M Buchanan, J C Q Hunter, B H Mackay, R McCool, Revd A Montgomerie, P Spencer, Corresponding Members

APOLOGIES were received from Revds A Adamson, N Cruickshank, D J H Harbison, M L K Howie, J M M Laffert, Dr I MacLeod, J Selfridge, A Taylor, Ministers; I Hackney, J Porter, A Pringle, G Ross, Elders; M A Broster, M M B Ross, Corresponding Members

MINUTES The minutes of the meetings of 10th June, 17th June and 17th August, having been circulated, were approved.

INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR The Revd Roderick Graham, having completed his year of office, installed Mr Ronald Lavalette as Moderator for 2008-9, and offered prayer. Mr Lavalette thanked Mr Grahame for the way he had conducted his duties during the past year.

ORDER OF BUSINESS The Order of Business was approved as circulated with additional items: a Report from the Presbyterial Superintendence Committee, an additional item under the report of the Mission and Discipleship Committee, the deletion of item iii (c) under the report of the Business Committee and the addition of one sentence to item I of the Business Committee, Report, "for the avoidance of doubt, note that the Presbytery Plan envisages a linkage between the congregations of Cumbrae and Fairlie and two of the congregations in Largs."

ROLL OF PRESBYTERY The Clerk laid on the table the Roll of Presbytery as printed in the Year Book with the deletion of the name of Mr Kerr as an additional elder. Those new members of Presbytery were welcomed by the Moderator.

CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the General Trustees, intimating a further grant of £3500 to Ardrossan: Park for storm damage repairs; from "Alternativity" regarding proposed involvement in the Presbytery area and from the Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock intimating that a call to the Rev Ian Benzie from Irvine: St Andrews had been sustained.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY The Moderator welcomed Ms Jacqueline Clinton and Councillor Peter MacNamara, who gave a presentation on the work of the Community Justice Authority and its attempts to reduce offending, the prison population and criminality. There were questions after which the Moderator thanked them warmly for what they said and expressed the hope that congregations would find ways in which the work of the Community Justice Authority could be made known.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Business

The Moderator indicated that in connection with the amendment to the Presbytery Plan involving Cumbrae, Fairlie and the churches in Largs, Kirk Sessions had been cited to appear for their interest.

Parties were called

Mr J Welch appeared for the congregation of Largs: St John's

Parties were removed.

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

- i. Amend the presbytery plan with respect to the congregations of Cumbrae, Fairlie, Largs Clark Memorial, Largs St Columba's and Largs St John's to read as the plan at the end of ten years (from the date of approval in 2007)

Cumbræ: In a parish grouping; with appropriate linkage with Fairlie, Largs Clark Memorial, Largs St Columba's, Largs St John's, to be decided on the occasion of a vacancy in any of the Largs congregations.

Fairlie: In a parish grouping; with appropriate linkage with Cumbræ, Largs Clark Memorial, Largs St Columba's, Largs's St John's, to be decided on the occasion of a vacancy in any of the Largs congregations.

Largs Clark Memorial: In a parish grouping; with appropriate linkage with Cumbræ, Fairlie, Largs St Columba's, Largs's St John's, to be decided on the occasion of a vacancy in any of the Largs congregations.

Largs St Columba's: In a parish grouping; with appropriate linkage with Cumbræ, Fairlie, Largs Clark Memorial, Largs's St John's, to be decided on the occasion of a vacancy in any of the Largs congregations.

Largs St John's: In a parish grouping; with appropriate linkage with Cumbræ, Fairlie, Largs Clark Memorial, Largs's St Columba's to be decided on the occasion of a vacancy in any of the Largs congregations.

For the avoidance of doubt, note that the Presbytery Plan envisages linkages between the congregations of Cumbræ and Fairlie and two congregations in Largs

It was moved and seconded as a counter-motion

"That Presbytery postpone any consideration of the amendment to the Presbytery Plan for one month to allow further consideration"

On a vote being taken the motion was carried overwhelmingly and the Presbytery resolved accordingly

Parties were recalled and the decision of Presbytery intimated.

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

- ii. Note that acting as the Vacancy Procedure Committee the Committee had approved
 - a. The translation of Revd Alison Davidge to Glasgow: Calton Parkhead, instructing her to take leave of absence until her induction, and requiring her to meet with representatives of the Presbytery, the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Ministries Council to discuss issues which have arisen regarding the fulfilling of her responsibilities as minister of Kilwinning Old.
 - b. The appointment of the Revd Dr Johnston McKay as Interim Moderator and locum and on account of the staffing provided for in the Presbytery Plan, the congregation's recent past, and its involvement of additional payments since Mrs Davidge, with the concurrence of the Ministries Council, was instructed to take leave of absence and the number of funerals involved for congregation and parish, invite the Ministries Council to make provision for a locum involved on a Sunday (one service) plus two days per week; and instruct the Business Committee to appoint an ad hoc committee to liaise with the Kirk Session and Congregation during the vacancy, and also with the Ministries Council in matters in which the Presbytery has an interest
 - c. The Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock, having agreed to sustain a call to the Revd Ian Benzie, agree to translate him to the charge of Irvine and Kilmarnock and appoint Mr A K Saunderson as Interim Moderator in the anticipated vacancy at Kilbirnie: Auld Kirk
- iii. Note the report on Governance in the Church and instruct that that three copies shall be sent to each congregation, for the minister, the Session Clerk and the Clerk to the financial body (Reports pages 27-29)
- iv. Note with approval that extract minutes have been received from the Kirk Session and congregation of Beith High, unanimously resolving to adopt the Unitary Constitution.
- v. Approve Committees for 2008/9 (Reports page 25)

Mission and Discipleship

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

- i. Note with thanks the Report (Reports Page 26) from the Safeguarding Contact/Trainer
- ii. Encourage ministers and Kirk Sessions to participate in the involvement of Alternativity in the Presbytery area

Stewardship and Finance

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

- i. Note that all congregational accounts have been examined on first submission and the difficulties experienced in this the first year of new regulation but that following support and advice all reports and accounts with the exception of two cases have now been adjudged compliant and that it is anticipated the two remaining cases will have complied by 30th September 2008.
- ii. Commends and thanks all involved in achieving this outcome and expresses the hope that efforts made this year will minimise difficulties in the future.
- iii. Urges Trustees to ensure that in future those appointed as Independent examiners are fully aware of applicable regulations and guidance and cognisant of their onerous responsibility.
- iv. Reminds and Instructs Trustees within the bounds to ensure that in future Trustees Reports and Accounts are prepared in time to present them in Congregational Meeting by 31st March at the latest and thereafter to submit them to presbytery for examination no later than 15th April.
- v. Urges Trustees in the event of difficulty in producing annual Reports and Accounts to seek support and advice at the earliest opportunity in order to comply fully with the regulations.

The Convener expressed to Mr W F Turner the thanks of the Presbytery for the enormous amount of work he had undertaken this year, and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mrs Turner expressing the thanks of the Presbytery for all she had done in assisting congregational treasurers

Ministries

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

- i. Approve the nomination of Mrs Isobel Beck as a candidate for the diaconal ministry.
- ii. Appoint the Revd Marion Howie part time temporary assistance at Kilwinning Old on the basis of four days per week (excluding Sundays) as from Monday August 18th and invite the Ministries Council to approve and make payment.

Property

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

- i. Homologate the decisions taken by the Convener and Clerk under power: Saltcoats St Cuthbert's: repairs to the church roof at a cost of £8003 plus VAT with a £2000 contingency; Stevenston High: electrical work required for health and safety reasons at a cost of £7705; Ardrossan: Park approval of an application for a grant from the General Trustees following storm damage to the roof.
- ii. Note that in a vacancy, the Committee intends to visit manses in congregations which are vacant within seven days of the manses being vacated
- iii. Note that where churches are used for "sleepovers", in terms of insurance a "dormitory questionnaire" must be completed and Health and Safety and Fire Risk Assessment must be up to date.; where coffee mornings or afternoon teas are held and attended by those beyond the membership of the congregation, a "café policy" may be required. Congregations should contact Church of Scotland Insurance to ensure they are adequately covered.

Presbyterial Superintendence

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

- i. Note and approve the following Quinquennial Visitation Committees:

Kilbirnie St Columba's: Revd M. L. Howie (convener), Revd W.R. Johnstone, Mr K.S. Welch, Mrs S Marr
West Kilbride Overton: Rev M. Thomson (convener), Rev M. S. Cameron, Miss J. M. McSwan, Mr J. Scott
Saltcoats North: Mr A.K. Saunderson (convener), Rev V.G C Watson, Mr W.F. Turner, Miss M.G. Kellock
Stevenston High: Rev R.J. Grahame, Mrs V. Macdonald, Mr R.A. Richardson,
Largs St Columba's: Rev Fiona Ross (convener); Mrs R. Jarvie, Mr R.Kelso; Mr T. Butcher

- ii. Note the report on the revised scheme for Quinquennial Visits and approve the piloting of the proposed changes for the forthcoming visits.

Presbytery to meet on Saturday 20th September in Lamlash to link the congregations of Kilmory and Lamlash and to induct the Revd Gillean Maclean to the linked charge; and on Tuesday October 7th 2008 at 7.30pm within Saltcoats New Trinity for the conduct of ordinary business, the Business Committee to meet on Wednesday September 24th at 4.30pm

Moderator

Clerk