

At Saltcoats, and within New Trinity Parish Church on Tuesday 6 October 2009, which place and date the Presbytery of Ardrossan met and was constituted.

SEDERUNT Revds R I T Macdonald (Moderator) Dr J R McKay (Clerk) Revds R J Grahame, D Granger, D J H Harbison, M L K Howie, A F McGurk, M H Mackay, E McKinnon, G P Maclean, J J McNay, A B Noble, B H Oxburgh, A Robertson, I M Roy, S J Smith, J Teasdale, M Thomson, V G C Watson, J Whyte, **Ministers** J Aitken, S Brown, A Buick, A T Butcher, J Cameron, A Cochrane, G Cunningham, I Hackney, A C D Hamilton, M G Kellock, J Laurie, R Lavalette, V Mcdonald, G K McConnell, S McLellan, S McMahan, J McSwan, S Marr, K Milne, A Pringle, R A Richardson, G Ross, A K Saunderson, E Saillars, N Smith, A C Watt, C Welch, R F Welch, J Welsh, **Elders** H Knight, R McCool, A Montgomerie, **Corresponding Members**

APOLOGIES were received from Revds A Adamson, I Bristow, M S Cameron, N Cruickshank, R Ieak, A McCallum, A M McCance, D R Mitchell, F C Ross, E R L Watson, **Ministers** L Borwick, J Forsyth, E Halliwell, R Jarvie, R Kelso, S Lacalette, A Lees, N Martin, C Massie, T Muston, J Porter, J S Scott, E Taylor, K Tudor, W F Turner, K S Welch, **Elders**; J C Q Hunter, M M B Ross, **Corresponding Members**

MINUTE The Minute of the meeting on 1 September 2009, having been circulated, was approved with the correction of the congregational affiliation attributed to Messrs Brown and Cruickshank in the record of the approval of the Basis and Plan of union in West Kilbride and the addition of Mrs Mcdonald to the list of apologies

ORDER OF BUSINESS The Order of Business was approved

CORRESPONDENCE The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from three parties giving notice of appeal against the Presbytery's approval of the Basis and Plan of Union between West Kilbride: Overton and West Kilbride: St Andrews; from the General Trustees approving that Fergushill Church be sold; from the Ministries Council approving Vacancy Schedules for Cumbrae, Kilbirnie Auld and Kilwinning Old.

CONGRATULATIONS The Moderator extended congratulations on behalf of the Presbytery to the Revd Andrew Taylor on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination which falls on 28 October. Mr Taylor made suitable reply.

Standing Committee Reports

Business

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

- i. Approve the terms of agreement between Presbytery and Revd Marion L K Howie as auxiliary minister attached to the Presbytery (Reports Page 46)
- ii. Note with regret the resignation of Mr John S Scott as Church of Scotland representative on the North Ayrshire Council Education Committee, and thank him most warmly for his services both to the Presbytery and to the provision of education within the Presbytery area.
- iii. Remit to the Business Committee with powers to prepare and submit answers to the appeals anent the decision of Presbytery to approve the Basis and Plan of Union between West Kilbride: Overton and West Kilbride: St Andrews
- iv. Note that the Convener, Clerk, Depute Clerk and Convener of the Ministries Committee attended a consultation held by the Panel on Review and Reform regarding a new structure for Presbyteries and instruct the Clerk to write to the Convener of the Panel questioning whether genuine consultation was being held if (a) representatives were told that the consultation was expected to provide positive reaction to the scenario envisaging a far smaller number of Presbyteries in the future (b) no account was provided of the route by which the scenario envisaging only ten presbyteries throughout Scotland might be achieved; and (c) the result of the meeting can be portrayed to the General Assembly as in any way support for what has not been suggested as a formal proposal for an alternative structure.

Property

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

- i. Ardrossan: Barony St John's:
 - (a) The Quinquennial Property Survey and the requested structural survey having revealed repair work on roof etc involving a considerable sum of money, approve an application to the General Trustees to commission and pay for a feasibility survey on the future use of the building.
 - (b) Invite the Business Committee to seek a meeting with the officebearers of Barony St John's, or representatives of them with a view to hearing from them before the brief for the feasibility study is completed the congregation's plans and vision for involvement with the parish community.
- ii. Largs: St Columba's: Approve in principle in order to apply for funding to remove and pave two triangular pieces of grassed ground to be used as a market square or for outside entertainment, subject to the agreement of North Ayrshire Council

Mission and Discipleship

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

Note the reports on the Council's meeting with Presbytery Representatives and on forthcoming events (Reports Page 43-45)

CONFERENCE SESSION

Thereafter the Presbytery held a Conference Session on the place of the Third Article Declaratory, discussing papers by the Clerk and Mr W Findlay Turner, circulated previously.

Presbytery to meet on Tuesday November 3rd at 7.30pm, within Saltcoats New Trinity for the conduct of ordinary business, the Business Committee to meet on Wednesday October 21 at 4.00pm

Moderator

Clerk

Resume of Conference Session

At its meeting on October 6, the Presbytery went into conference session and four groups discussed the papers. Points then raised in a plenary session were:

Group 1: A ecumenical dimension would involve others in sharing in a territorial ministry, which it was felt important to retain, though the price of that may be a loss of distinctiveness of the Church of Scotland presence, particularly in some rural areas.

Group2: Some recognised the importance of an ecumenical move but more generally the feeling was that the Church of Scotlyand's particular presence should be retained. The question was how to make that possible? The cost of buildings, groupings, Councils and 121 George St was too heavy, and Project Staff are being paid more than parish ministers. Is this the right time to alter Article 3 before questions of buildings etc under the Presbytery Plan have been resolved.

Group 3 The concern expressed that if Article III were to be dropped, the Church of Scotland could retreat from its presence in rural and urban priority areas. The view was expressed that dropping Article III would raise more problems than it solved. The possibility was discussed of ministers being inducted to Presbyteries to be deployed but someone who had experience of this said that it did not work and threatened stability of manse life.

Group 4: This group echoed much of what had been reported. It believed the territorial ministry should not be abandoned – the practical problem was how the people of Scotland could be served. There could be an ecumenical involvement. The view was that there should be an imaginative reappraisal of Article II but if it were abandoned whole areas of Scotland could be left uncared for.