

At Saltcoats, and within New Trinity Church on Tuesday 27 April 2010, which place and date the Presbytery of Ardrossan met and was constituted.

SEDERUNT Revds R I T Macdonald (Moderator) Dr J R McKay (Clerk) A Adamson, M S Cameron, N Cruickshank, R J Grahame, D Granger, D J H Harbison, M L K Howie, J M M Lafferty, A D McCallum, A M McCance, A F McGurk, M H Mackay, E McKinnon, G P Maclean, J J McNay, B H Oxburgh, A Robertson, S J Smith, J Teasdale, M Thomson, E R L Watson, V G C Watson, J Whyte **Ministers**; J Aitken, S Brown, A Buick, A T Butcher, J Cameron, A Cochrane, G Cunningham, I Hackney, E Halliwell, A C D Hamilton, R Jarvie, M G Kellock, R Kelso, J Laurie, A Lees, V Macdonald, W Mackay, S McMahan, D McMurray, J McSwan, N Martin, C Massie, K Milne, T Muston, A Pringle, R A Richardson, G Ross, A K Saunderson, E Sillars, N Smith, A C Watt, K S Welch, R F Welch, J Welsh, **Elders**; E Barclay, R McCool, M Nimmo, M M B Ross, **Corresponding Members**

APOLOGIES were received from I Bristow, D R Mitchell, A B Noble, F C Ross, **Ministers**; L Borwick, R Lavalette, S Lavalette, S McLellan, K Tudor, C Welch, **Elders**; J C Q Hunter, **Corresponding Member**

AUTHORITY TO MEET The Presbytery met following its decision to hold a special session to discuss the Consultation Paper produced by the Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry.

The Presbytery viewed an introductory video prepared by the Special Commission.

The Moderator then invited anyone wishing to contribute to the discussion to do so. There was a very debate, conducted in the spirit of generosity for which the Moderator had asked.

Following discussion for over an hour, the Clerk distributed the secret ballot forms and indicated the questions to which he had drawn up a supplementary ballot form for ease of compilation. Members of presbytery completed the forms and they were collected.

The Clerk was asked to provide an indication of the voting on each of the questions to the May meeting of Presbytery.

The Moderator thanked all those who had contributed to the discussion and the Presbytery for the spirit in which the discussion had taken place.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Moderator

Clerk

For Information

Special Commission on Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry

Results of the Secret Ballot

Asked whether the approach to same-sex relationships should be different from the approach, for example, to remarrying divorcees

8 **strongly believed** there should be a difference
18 **believed** there should be a difference
13 **believed** there should be no difference
15 **strongly believed** there should be no difference
4 had no opinion

45 had a **clear position** on same sex relationships and how they should be regarded, and 14 were **uncertain** 1 **did not respond**

Asked which of a number of descriptions summarized the respondent's present position fairly and accurately (What follows is a shorthand version of the description and reference should be made to the consultation paper for the precise terms of each description)

3 regarded homosexual orientation as a disorder and homosexual behaviour as sinful and believed unrepentant gay and lesbian people should not have leadership roles.

1 regarded homosexual behaviour as sinful but as a given but disapproved of homosexual behaviour and that gay and lesbian people should not have leadership roles in the church.

8 regarded homosexual orientation as a given but disapproved of homosexual behaviour, rejected same sex relationships as being sinful and believed gay and lesbian people should not have leadership roles in the church.

8 regarded homosexual orientation as a given, disapproved of homosexual behaviour but recognized that same sex relationships, though not the ideal, can be loving and faithful. Because different standards are required of Christian leadership, gay and lesbian people should not have leadership roles.

15 accepted homosexual orientation as given and homosexual behaviour as morally equivalent to heterosexual and believed that gay and lesbian people should be assessed for leadership in an equivalent way to heterosexuals.

13 accepted homosexual orientation as part of God's good creation and believed that the practice of Christian marriage should be extended to same-sex

relationships. Gay and lesbian people should be assessed for leadership in an equivalent way to heterosexuals.

5 combined answers to the two previous questions.

6 responded that none of the descriptions described the position they held
Asked about ordination and leadership in the Church

11 **strongly believed** ordained ministers and those in leadership in the Church **should be** held to a higher standard of Christian living than those not in such roles; 17 **believed** they **should be**, 6 **believed** they **should not be** and 7 **strongly believed** they should not be; 4 were **undecided**

28 believed a person in a same sex relationship should be permitted to be an ordained minister; 27 did not; 6 were undecided

34 believed that a person in a civil partnership should be permitted to be an ordained minister; 22 did not; 5 were undecided.

30 believed that a person in a same-sex relationship should be permitted to have a leadership role within the Church; 22 did not; 9 were undecided

35 believed that a person in a civil partnership should be permitted to have a leadership role within the Church; 20 did not; 6 were undecided

45 believed the General Assembly should determine whether people in a same-sex relationship or civil partnership should be ordained as ministers; 5 that the determination should be by individual presbyteries and 10 by individual congregations

47 indicated that none of the circumstances outlined would make them regard it as obligatory to leave the Church of Scotland; 9 that they would feel obliged to leave if the General Assembly allowed people in committed same-sex relationships to be ordained as ministers; 4 if the General Assembly allowed people in same sex-relationships to have other leadership roles in the Church; 3 if the General Assembly forbade people in same sex relationships to be ordained as ministers; 4 if the General Assembly forbade people in same-sex relationships to have other leadership roles within the Church; 3 if the General Assembly were to decide not to make a clear statement on the issue

2 regarded would regard a decision to ordain those in same sex relationships as "heretical"; 18 as "unjustifiable" and "the cause of deep-seated disagreement and personal disappointment; 8 as not particularly significant. 20 would regard a decision not to ordain in those circumstances as unjustifiable and a cause of deep-seated disagreement and personal disappointment; 8 would regard that decision as "heretical" and three could not accept any of these positions.