

ALLOWAY, 1st March, 2011.

At Alloway Church on Tuesday the First Day of March, Two Thousand and Eleven Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met and was constituted.

47. SEDERUNT. The Rev B Mayes, Moderator, and others as per Sederunt Sheets in rententis. Ministers, 36; Elders, 51; Deacon, 1; Corresponding Members, 1; Total 89. Apologies were received from 6 Ministers and 2 Elders.

48. MINUTES. The Minutes of the Meeting held 1st February 2011, being in the hands of Members, were taken as read and approved.

49. ORDER OF BUSINESS.
The Order of Business was approved.

INTIMATIONS.

1. **Bob's Barbeque and Car Treasure Hunt** – Friday 10th June.
2. **World Mission Council & Christian Aid Ministers' Conference.**
3. **Spill The Beans.** As featured in Minister's Forum, a lectionary-based All Age Worship resource is available for Lent and Easter. It is free to download at:
<http://www.standrewsblantyre.com/index.php/about-us/our-minister/peters-blog/809-spill-the-beans-lent-2011-available>

This material has been written mindful of our Scottish context and, taking account of falling numbers attending Youth church or Sunday Schools, suggesting activities that might be enjoyed by mixed age groups. This is a pilot project and any feedback will be gratefully received.

- 4. **Ministers Log Books.** All Ministers who have still to have their 2010 Log Books attested are asked to bring them to the Presbytery on Tuesday 1st March, or post them in a sealed envelope, marked “Private and Confidential”, to the Rev W.G. Jones as soon as possible.
- 5. **Church of Scotland Special Commission on the Purposes of Economic Activity.** (In Mailing)
- 6. **Benefice & Fabric.**
- 7. **‘Aim For The Fairway’. An event for all who are interested in FAIRTRADE.** This takes place in Ayr Town Hall on Thursday 31st March from 10am – 3pm. (*Lunch & Refreshments provided.*) For more information, or to reserve a place, contact: Fiona Ross before 11th March fiona.ross@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or 01292 612241
- 8. **Mathieson House** Update by Iain Gemmell.

50. GOOD NEWS ITEMS.

- 1. Update from the Rev Brian Hendrie regarding Maybole Parish Church.
The Presbytery was immensely encouraged to hear that it is now hoped that the building will be completed by the 19th December 2011.
- 2. Carol Thomson, Youth Worker at St Andrews, spoke about ‘The Upper Room’ project for young people. From Carol’s enthusiastic address, it was obvious that ‘The Upper Room’ generated a great sense of enjoyment and diversity for young people.
The young people who attend have also actively engaged in their own form of mission, including a trip to Romania.

ALLOWAY, 26th April, 2011.

At Alloway Church on Tuesday the Twenty Sixth Day of April, Two Thousand and Eleven Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met and was constituted.

63. SEDERUNT. The Rev B Mayes, Moderator, and others as per Sederunt Sheets in rententis. Ministers, 22; Elders, 24; Deacon, 1; Total 47. Apologies were received from 4 Ministers and 10 Elders.

64. PLANNING AND DEPLOYMENT. The Moderator welcomed Dr Martin Scott and the Rev Graham Finch, from the Ministries Council, who gave three presentations on the work of the Ministries Council and the future of Ministry.

Following each presentation Dr Martin Scott and the Rev Graham Finch answered a variety of different questions.

The Moderator thanked Dr Martin Scott and the Rev Graham Finch for addressing the Presbytery.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

MODERATOR

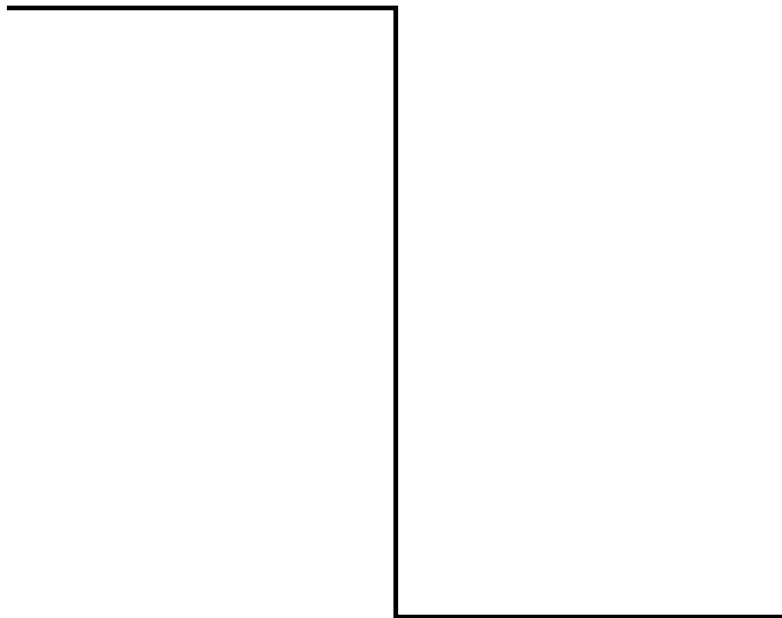
PRESBYTERY CLERK



PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. **Receive the Overture**
2. **Accept the tenor thereof and resolve that the Presbytery of Ayr should properly be classified as “urban-rural”.**
3. **Instruct the Ministries Council to make this adjustment, recognising recognising that the implementation of the change may need to be phased. It is not intended that the Presbytery of Ayr will seek to increase the number of posts from its current Presbytery Plan.**



**51. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2011.
APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.**

It being betwixt the hours of eleven o'clock in the forenoon and eight o'clock in the evening the Presbytery did and hereby do nominate and appoint the following Ministers and Ruling Elders their Commissioners to the ensuing General Assembly convened to meet in Edinburgh on Saturday 21st May 2011:

REVERENDS

Liz Crumlish Ayr: Castlehill
Harry Meaylea Ayr: St. Andrews
Rona Young Ayr: St. Quivox
Brian Hendrie Crosshill / Maybole
Bill Johnston Ochiltree / Stair

David Watson Prestwick: Kingcase
Alastair Symington Troon: Old
Kenneth Elliott Prestwick: South
Bob Mayes Dundonald.

Nancy Jackson Auxiliary

DEACON
Muriel Wilson Dalmellington / Patna

ELDERS

Andrew Graham Ayr: Castlehill
Anne Beedie Ayr: St. Andrews
Pat Johnston Ayr: St. Quivox
Doreen Qua Maybole
Isabell Montgomerie Ochiltree
Nan McTurk Stair
Joyce Pringle Prestwick: Kingcase
Aileen Fraser Troon: Old

Frank Potter Kirkmichael
Gordon Macdonald Additional Elder
 Prestwick: Kingcase

52. COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY.

The Presbytery nominate the following Commissioners to be members of the Commission of Assembly: Rev Alastair Symington, Minister at Troon: Old: Mrs Aileen Fraser, Elder.

53. REPORT OF DILIGENCE.

The Presbytery appoint the Rev Brian Hendrie, Minister at Crosshill linked with Maybole to report Diligence.

54. YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE.

The Presbytery nominate Mr John Urquhart, Organist at Ochiltree linked with Stair, to be the Presbytery of Ayr Youth Representative at the 2011 General Assembly.

55. ORDER OF THE DAY - 8.00pm.

1. VACANCY BUSINESS.

a. Retirement of Rev Robert Lynn, Dalrymple linked with Ayr: St Leonard's. Congregations invited. Compeared Mr David Murdoch, Ayr; St Leonard's and Betty Coughtrie, Dalrymple paid fitting tribute to the ministry of the Rev Robert Lynn. The Rev Robert Lynn made a suitable reply.

b. The Presbytery note the appointment of the Rev Thomas C. Bogle, Minister emeritus Fisherton linked with Maybole: West as Interim Moderator and Locum.

2. NOMINATION OF PRESBYTERY MODERATOR.

The Presbytery appoint Mr Bill Mackie, Ruling Elder, to be Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr for the year beginning 1st October next.

56. BUSINESS & NOMINATION COMMITTEE, given in by Mrs I Montgomerie, Convener.

1. PATIENT LISTS UPDATE.

5. The General Assembly of 2010 received the report "How Rural is that Parish" which indicated that, using the Scottish Government criteria for "ruralness" the Presbytery of Ayr was the Presbytery with the third highest number of rural parishes.

6. The General Assembly of 2010 resolved:- "Instruct the Ministries Council to review the allocation of geographical weightings used in the 2005 Guidelines and report to the 2011 General Assembly."

7. The Ministries Council in their draft report for the 2011 General Assembly, "Blue Book Table 2011" considered two evidence based approaches to assessing the rural nature of Presbyteries; population density and the "How Rural is that Parish" report. Both approaches suggested that the Presbytery of Ayr to be within the urban-rural presbytery range. Despite this the approach taken was an ad hoc approach to use four contingency posts to partially compensate for the mis-classification.

8. Numerous other discussions and exchanges have taken place between the Presbytery of Ayr and the various successors in title to the Parish Appraisal Committee between 2004 and 2011 but the Presbytery of Ayr has not discerned any evidence based justification for the classification of the Presbytery of Ayr as "predominantly urban".

It is humbly overtured by the Reverend the Presbytery of Ayr to the Venerable the General Assembly to recognise that the Presbytery of Ayr is properly classified as "urban-rural" and that the Ministries Council has failed to produce any evidential support for their "predominantly urban" classification. Rather the Ministries Council has relied upon arguments based on expediency and procedural difficulties rather than attempting to address the underlying structural problem. This approach will leave Presbytery of Ayr unreasonably disadvantaged each time the deployment figures are modified. We request that the General Assembly adopt a more strategic approach to resolve this issue timeously.

APPENDIX 2**OVERTURE ANENT****Geographical Weightings of Presbyteries**

Whereas:

1. The 2005 Report of the Board of National Mission to the General Assembly was ambiguous concerning the geographical classification of the Presbytery of Ayr – the narrative Table A showed the Presbytery of Ayr to be considered “Urban-Rural” whilst the numerical table used to calculate guidelines for the deployment of ministry classified the Presbytery of Ayr as “predominantly urban”.
2. The Presbytery of Ayr appealed its “predominantly urban” classification in 2006 providing detailed evidence in support of its appeal. The appeal was rejected, along with all other appeals, by a task group made up of members of the same committee as those who made the initial classification. No explanation was given to support the rejection of the appeal.
3. The General Assembly of 2006 - “Instruct the Committee on Parish Appraisal to review the categorisation of Presbyteries in the Guidelines for Deployment of Ministries, such a review to include, amongst other considerations, the steps between categories and report to the General Assembly of 2008.”
4. The Ministries Council Response to the 2008 General Assembly was included within its report as follows - “9.2.3.1 In respect of the Guidelines for Deployment a previous General Assembly instructed the Ministries Council to undertake a review of the categorisation of Presbyteries and in particular the incremental steps between categories. The original Guidelines created six geographical categories in respect of density/sparsity of population with four incremental steps. Presbyteries were invited to offer comment as part of this review. Only 12 (of 44) responded and, while some suggestions for change were made, the consensus was that the categories and increments were fair and reasonable. The Council intends to review the Guidelines (including categorisation of Presbyteries) in time for use with results of the next National Census.”

2. SPECIAL MEETING OF PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery resolve to meet in hunc effectum to discuss ‘Planning and Deployment’ on Tuesday 26th April at 7pm within Alloway Church Halls. Guests speakers will be Dr Martin Scott and the Rev Graham Finch.

57. EDUCATION COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev Alec Shuttleworth, Convener.**1. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS TRAINER.**

The Presbytery note the services offered by Scott Riddex as our Children and Young Persons Trainer and encourage congregations to make use of his services.

2. EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS.

The Presbytery note that Elaine Adair, our Youth and Sunday School Adviser, is keen to visit any Easter Holiday clubs and missions within the bounds, and information about times and venues should be passed directly to her.

58. MISSION COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev Paul Russell, Vice Convener.**1. QUINQUENNIAL REPORTS.**

The Presbytery receive the Quinquennial Visitation Reports concerning the congregations of Alloway, Ayr: The Auld Kirk, Ayr: Castlehill, Ayr Newton Wallacetown, Ayr: St Andrew's, Ayr: St Columba, Ayr: St James and Dalrymple linked with Ayr: St Leonard's.

- a. The Presbytery thank and commend the Congregations and Ministers for their faithful life and witness.

- b. The Presbytery note, reflecting local circumstances, all Congregations are in a satisfactory state.
- c. The Presbytery thank the teams who carried out the visits and ministers and congregations for their welcome and openness

2. BASIS OF PARISH GROUPING.

The Presbytery approve the Basis of Parish Grouping agreed by the Churches in North Ayr and instruct the Clerk to send a copy to the Ministries Council. *(For Basis refer to Appendix 1)*

3. CENTRAL AREA GROUP.

- a. The Presbytery invite representatives of the Office Bearers of Central/ South Area congregations to meet unilaterally with the Convenor of the Central Area Group, along with representatives of the Mission Committee, to explore the possibilities of future development .
- b. The Presbytery instruct the Central Area Convener to report the outcome of the talks back to the May meeting of the Presbytery.

4. PLANNING AND DEPLOYMENT.

- a. The Presbytery note that the Planning and Deployment Committee of the Ministries Council meet on 8th March and will consider issues raised with them concerning the Geographical Weighting for Ayr Presbytery.
- b. The Presbytery agree to meet in hunc effectum on 24th March at Alloway, if required, to consider its response to the Ministries Council Report at the 2011 General Assembly.

ALLOWAY, 24th March, 2011.

At Alloway Church on Tuesday the Twenty Fourth Day of March, Two Thousand and Eleven Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met and was constituted.

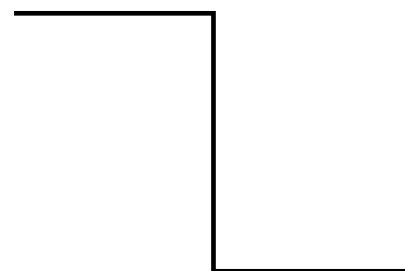
61. SEDERUNT. The Rev B Mayes, Moderator, and others as per Sederunt Sheets in rententis. Ministers, 18; Elders, 27; Total 45. Apologies were received from 6 Ministers and 9 Elders.

62. OVERTURE. The Presbytery met to consider its response to the Ministries Council Report at the 2011 General Assembly. Following an update on the Ministries Council Report by Dr David Lewis, an ‘Overture’ to the General Assembly of 2011 was agreed. *(For Overture refer to Appendix 2)*

For the Overture 45

Against the Overture 0

The Moderator thanked Dr David Lewis for all his hard work. The meeting was closed with prayer.



MODERATOR

PRESBYTERY CLERK

**AREAS OF SHARED ACTIVITY OF
THE AYR NORTH PARISH GROUPING**

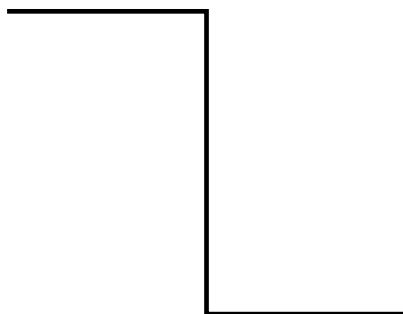
The areas of shared activity of The Ayr North Parish Grouping will be as follows:

Shared Worship

1. A joint Advent Carol Service will be held each year, hosted by member churches in rotation.
2. Joint services will be held during Holy Week, hosted by member churches in rotation.

Shared Ministry

1. A Pulpit exchange will take place each year with each Minister leading worship in one of the other member churches in rotation.
2. The Grouping shall share Community Ministry.



59. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, given in by Mr C Cameron, Convener.

DAILY PARISH CHURCH.

The Presbytery approve the request by Dailly Parish Church for a grant from the General Trustees of £2,500. The money is part of the cost of upgrade and repairs to the Church Hall, as approved by the Presbytery, on 25th November 2010. The total cost of the work is in the region of £60,000 inclusive of fees and VAT.

All relevant forms have been completed.

60. CORRESPONDENCE.

All Correspondence had been forwarded to the relevant Committees.

ADJOURNMENT. The Presbytery rose at **9.12pm**

The Presbytery will meet in hunc effectum, if required, to consider its response to the Ministries Council Report at the 2011 General Assembly. The Presbytery will meet on **Thursday 24th March** within Alloway Church Halls.

The Presbytery will meet in hunc effectum to discuss 'Planning and Deployment' on **Tuesday 26th April** at 7pm within Alloway Church Halls.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr will be held within Alloway Parish Church Hall on **Tuesday 10th May**, 2011, at 7pm.

The Committees will meet in Ayr: the Auld Kirk Halls on **Thursday 28th April**, 2011, at 7pm.

MODERATOR

PRESBYTERY CLERK

APPENDIX 1**DRAFT BASIS OF PARISH GROUPING****AYR: NEWTON WALLACETOWN; AYR ST JAMES';
AYR ST QUIVOX; AYR UNITED FREE CHURCH
[SC001994; SC009336; SC004906; SC005202]**

The Congregations of Ayr: Newton Wallacetown, Ayr St James', Ayr St Quivox and Ayr United Free Church shall form a Parish Grouping from DATE 2011 and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. The Aim of The Parish Grouping: The aim of this Parish Grouping shall be to provide a united Christian witness by the Parish Churches of Scotland in Ayr North and Ayr United Free Church, to make the most effective use of resources, celebrating diversity, avoiding unnecessary duplication and unhelpful competition.
2. Name: The name of the Parish Grouping shall be Ayr North Parish Grouping.
3. Territorial responsibility: The bounds to be served by the Parish Grouping shall be the combined parishes of the participating congregations or as the Presbytery shall determine.
4. Property and Funds: The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall remain the property and funds of each congregation as at present.
5. Kirk Sessions: The Kirk Sessions shall continue their present status and authority. Each of the participating congregations shall appoint two of its members, together with the Minister (or Interim Moderator) and Session Clerk, to form a Development Group. The appointed members will serve a maximum of two years on the Development Group, retiring on a rotational basis

with the option of reappointment. The Development Group shall be Moderated by the respective Ministers by rota and shall have the task of promoting and co-ordinating the common work of the Parish Grouping, subject to the approval of each Kirk Session and, where necessary, financial court. The Kirk Sessions shall meet together at least once in each calendar year.

6. Congregational Management: The temporal affairs of each Congregation shall be administered as at present.
7. Ministry: The ministers of the four Congregations shall be Ministers of their respective charges on the tenure to which they were inducted.
8. Ministry Support: The stipends and other salaries shall be agreed by the Presbyteries in conjunction with the Councils and Committees of the General Assemblies as appropriate.
9. Manses: The manses of the four Congregations shall continue to be the manses of the congregations during the course of the Parish Grouping.
10. Areas of Co-operation: The work of the Parish Grouping shall be promoted and co-ordinated by the Development Group initially along the lines of the document "Areas of shared activity of The Ayr North Parish Grouping".
11. Power to adjust: While these articles and terms shall form the Parish Grouping for the Congregations now agreeing, the congregations shall be free, like any other Congregation; to adjust arrangements under the authority of the Presbytery as need may arise."
