

CARRICK CENTRE MAYBOLE, 2nd December, 2014.

At the Carrick Centre Maybole on Tuesday the Second Day of December, Two Thousand and Fourteen Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met and was constituted.

520. SEDERUNT. Rev S Rae, Moderator, and others as per Sederunt Sheets in retentis. Ministers, 30; Elders, 41; Deacon, 1; Corresponding Members, 1; Youth Representative, 1; **Total 74.** Apologies were received from 14 Ministers, 7 Elders, and 2 Youth Representatives.

521. MINUTES. The Minutes of the 4th November 2014, being in the hands of members, were taken as read and approved.

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

523. INTIMATIONS

1. Applications for any Vacancies for the 2015 General Assembly should be made in writing to the Clerk prior to the 31st December 2014.
2. 2015 General Assembly Presbytery Youth Rep Nomination Forms now available from Presbytery Clerk. Completed Forms should be returned to Presbytery Clerk by 1st February 2015.
3. Christmas Candlelight Service at Masonhill Crematorium.
4. Newslines – fewer numbers due to printing problem.

524. GOOD NEWS ITEM

The Rev Rona Young spoke on the Role of the two new Development Workers, Patricia Archibald and Fabulous Moyo.

Both work 17.5 hours per week. Their main duties are as per job description but are also flexible to the needs of the community. Ventures have included the very first holiday club at St. Quivox with around 40 children. Patricia and Fabulous have sought to take the Church into the community.

525. GOOD NEWS ITEM

The Rev Robert Lynn spoke on the Holiday Church at Maidens. Regarding the linked charge of Fisherton and Kirkoswald, the vacancy has offered a time of growth and self discovery. This has included the holiday Church at Maidens, often referred to as the holiday makers Church. Recent refurbishment to the Church has ensured this Hall Church has become not only a place of worship and outreach, but a community asset. During a 3 month period, June to August, the Hall Church offers weekly worship.

526. ORDER OF THE DAY

1. VACANCY BUSINESS

COYLTON LINKED WITH DRONGAN

- a.** Congregation Representatives welcomed. Compeared Mrs Anna Cameron, Presbytery Elder, at Coylton Parish Church, paid fitting tribute to the ministry of the Rev Dave Whiteman. The Rev Dave Whiteman made a suitable reply.

- b.** The Rev Neil McNaught reporting on behalf of the Vacancy Procedure Committee:
 - i)** The Presbytery note that the Rev Dave Whiteman, Minister at Coylton linked with Drongan, successfully preached as Nominee for The Auld Kirk: Kilbirnie on the 30th November.

 - ii)** The Presbytery agreed to the translation, subject to the Call being sustained.

 - iii)** The Presbytery appoint Mr James Skinner, Ruling Elder, as Interim Moderator, and the Rev Arrick Wilkinson, Minister emeritus Fisherton linked Kirkoswald, as Locum.

2. **OPTION REVIEW REPORT**, given in by the Rev John Paterson, Mission Convener.

Following the Option Review concerning Straiton Parish Church:

- a. The Presbytery support and encourage the Congregation in carrying out essential remedial work.

Amendment to a.

The Presbytery support and encourage the Congregation in exploring the costing of the essential remedial work to be carried out.

The Convener accepted the Amendment and the Presbytery resolved accordingly.

- b. The Presbytery encourage the Congregation to retain the Architect who recently conducted a formal survey.
- c. The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

3. **CHANGES TO SERVICES**

The Presbytery note that a joint Service will be held in Troon: Old Parish Church at 10.30am on Sunday 28th December, and that there will be no act of worship taking place that day in Troon: St Meddan's and Troon: Portland.

4. **MODERATOR'S VISIT:
5th MARCH TO 14th MARCH 2016**

- a. The Presbytery note with pleasure that the Moderator-designate, the Rev Dr Angus Morrison, will make a 10 day official visit to the Presbytery from 5th March to 14th March 2016.
- b. The Presbytery ask Congregations throughout its bounds to complete the Questionnaire Form regarding suggested venues and events. This should be returned to the Rev Bill Hannah, by 20th December 2014.

The Presbytery Preliminary Programme has to be returned to the Moderator's Office by 31st December 2014.

5. THE FUTURE FOR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS, given in by the Rev John Paterson.

- a. The Presbytery receive the Notice of Motion regarding the future for Congregational Ministries and Mission Contributions. (*See Appendix 1*)

- b.
 - i) The Presbytery of Ayr instruct the Clerk to forward the report entitled 'The future for Congregational Ministries and Mission contributions' (copy held in retentis with the Minutes) to the Council of Assembly and encourage the Council to implement the three strategies therein.

 - ii) The Presbytery of Ayr confirm their willingness to discuss the report further with the Council of Assembly or any committee/working group of the Council.

 - iii) The Presbytery of Ayr instructs the Clerk to forward an Extract Minute to the Principal Clerk, the Secretary of the Council of Assembly, the General Treasurer and the Head of Stewardship of the Church of Scotland.

COUNTER MOTION, given in by the Rev Robert Mayes, Business and Nomination Convener.

The Presbytery do not receive the Notice of Motion regarding the future for Congregational Ministries and Mission Contributions, and remit Appendix 1 to the Administration Committee for discussion and to report back to Presbytery.

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Amendment

Amendment to the Counter Motion with ‘remit Appendix 1 to Mission Committee’ in place of Administration Committee.

Further Amendment

- a. The Presbytery do not receive the Notice of Motion regarding the future for Congregational Ministries and Mission Contributions, and remit Appendix 1 to an ad hoc made up of 3 names from the Administration Committee and Mission Committee for discussion and to report back to the March 2015 meeting of the Presbytery.
- b. The Presbytery appoint the Rev Alastair Symington to convene this ad hoc Committee.

The Rev John Paterson and the Convener of the Business and Nomination Committee accepted the amended amendment of the Counter Motion and the Presbytery resolved accordingly.

527. BUSINESS AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev Robert Mayes, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted:-.

1. NOMINATION OF PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

The Presbytery appoint the Rev Neil McNaught, Minister of Alloway Parish Church, to be Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr for the year beginning 16th June 2015.

2. STEWARDSHIP SUB-CONVENER

The Presbytery appoint the Rev Paul Russell, University Ayr Hospital Chaplain, to be Sub-Convener (Stewardship) of the Administration Committee.

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528. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, given in by the the Rev Jamie Milliken, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted:-

1. BUDGET

The Presbytery approve the Budget for the year ending 31st December 2015 and the proposed assessment of £60 per Congregation plus 1.0058 per £100 of Christian Liberty, a copy of the Budget to held in retentis.

2. FINANCE

The Presbytery note that the Presbytery Finance Co-ordinator is available to advise on competent wording of deliverances involving finance matters.

3. MAYBOLE

- a. The Presbytery thank the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, and especially the Rev. Dr J. Jack, for their sympathetic approach to the request of Maybole Parish Church for the rescheduling of the loan to the Trustees.
- b. The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the Secretary of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

4. KIRKOSWALD PARISH CHURCH MANSE

- a. The Presbytery approve the decision of the Congregational Board of Kirkoswald Parish Church to lease the manse at Kirkoswald for an initial period of six months.
- b. The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

5. AYR ST JAMES PARISH CHURCH MANSE

The Presbytery note that an inspection of the above Manse was carried out on 3rd November 2014 by the Sub-Convener Benefice and Fabric, on behalf of Presbytery. Several works were noted that require to be carried out prior to occupation including the provision of a visitors toilet. A full report of the inspection and recommendations has been sent to the Interim Moderator.

6. STUDY LEAVE

- a.** The Presbytery note the application for study leave from the Rev Robert Mayes, Minister at Dundonald Parish Church, to attend the Scottish Church Theology Society Conference ‘Theology and Film’ from 12th January until 18th January 2015, and also note that arrangements for pulpit supply and ministerial cover are in progress.

- b.** The Presbytery note the application for study leave from the Rev. Kenneth Elliott, Minister at Prestwick: South Parish Church, to attend the Scottish Church Theology Society Conference ‘Theology and Film’ from 12th January until 18th January 2015, and also note that arrangements for pulpit supply and ministerial cover are in progress.

- c.** The Presbytery note the application for study leave from the Rev. Liz Crumlish, Minister at Ayr: Castlehill, to attend the Revgals Edinburgh event: ‘The Pilgrim Way’ from 17th April to 24th April 2015, and also note the arrangements for pulpit supply and ministerial cover during this period.

7. DATA PROTECTION

- a. The Presbytery urge Ministers and office bearers to view the Law Department’s Data Protection ‘Webinar’. The webinar is available for viewing at <http://clt-group.adobeconnect.com/p62etoijsjy/> the access password is cos2014.

- b. The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to circulate the Church of Scotland Law Department **Data Protection Guidance Note** to all Session Clerks and Clerks to Boards within the bounds, asking them to take cognisance of the information and guidance given and to review local Data Protection policies.

529. MISSION COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev John Paterson, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted:-.

1. FRESH EXPRESSION VISION DAY

The Presbytery note the Fresh Expression Vision Day to be held on Saturday 14th March 2015, within the Presbytery of Ayr.

530. COMMUNITY AND WORLD CONCERNS, given in by the Rev Ian McLachlan Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted:-.

1. EBOLA CRISIS

The Presbytery commend the work of the Disasters Emergency Committee and other charities who are striving to tackle the Ebola crisis.

2. PRAY FOR PEACE

The Presbytery encourage members of Presbytery to pray for peace in Jerusalem and surrounding areas at this troubled time.

3. SCOTTISH CHURCHES PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

The Presbytery encourages members of Presbytery to make use of the website of the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office (<http://www.actsparl.org/>) and to participate when they feel it is appropriate in the various consultation exercises held in the name of the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments.

531. EDUCATION COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev Dave Whiteman, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted:-

1. SAFEGUARDING

- a.** The Presbytery instruct Kirk Sessions and Safeguarding panels to use the Safeguarding self assessment checklist to review and evaluate their safeguarding arrangements.
- b.** The Presbytery instruct Kirk Sessions to support their safeguarding coordinators with their task of ensuring that all necessary PVG scheme applications are processed as required and completed accurately drawing from relevant guidance.
- c.** The Presbytery note the need to maintain a sufficient number of safeguarding Trainers.
- d.** The Presbytery note the safeguarding handbook update in relation to reports of historical abuse and the development of the church's provision for survivors.

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2. PRESBYTERY ASSESSORS

The Presbytery note that the Education committee are compiling a list of all those Presbyters trained to be Presbytery Assessors (Vocation) and Presbytery Assessors (Training).

It would greatly facilitate matters if all Presbyters who have completed one or both of these training courses could give their names to the secretary of the Education Committee, the Rev Arrick Wilkinson (address and e-mail in the Handbook), before Thursday 22nd January 2015 stating which course they have completed.

3. QUALIFIED SUPERVISORS

The Presbytery note that the Education Committee are also compiling a list of those Ministers who are qualified as supervisors. Please forward names to the Rev Arrick Wilkinson by the 22nd January 2015.

4. WORSHIP TEAM TRAINING

The Presbytery note that the Education Committee are compiling a list of all who have completed worship team training. It would be of great assistance if Parish Ministers could forward names of all those in your congregation who have completed the training stating whether it is Stage 1 or Stage 2.

The Presbytery would further like to know names of those who have not yet received a certificate.

Please forward names to the Rev Arrick Wilkinson by the 22nd January 2015.

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532. CORRESPONDENCE

Lyndsey Brennan has conveyed her thanks to the Presbytery for the £200 received from the Mackie of Knockgerran Trust. The award will go towards textbooks and a laptop computer.

Robert Johnston would also like to convey his thanks for the £200 received from the Mackie of Knockgerran Trust.

ADJOURNMENT. The Presbytery rose at 8.50pm

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr will be held in the Carrick Centre Maybole on **Tuesday 3rd February**, 2015, at 7pm.

The Committees will meet in Ayr: the Auld Kirk Halls on **Thursday 22nd January**, 2015, at 7pm.

MODERATOR

PRESBYTERY CLERK

APPENDIX 1

THE FUTURE FOR CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS

Introduction

It is appreciated that the Church of Scotland, as a national body, has to raise funds to pay for its stipendiary ministry and that the whole church shares the cost of the whole ministry of the church. It is further appreciated that 87% of congregational contributions finances local ministry as defined in Presbytery Plans. However, income is further required at local level for local mission work, innovative ministry and the development of congregational and parish life and projects. When the General Assembly instructed all congregations to engage in a stewardship campaign it was stated that this would result in more finance being available at local level for mission. It was further stated that the campaign was not primarily called for to increase central church income. As it was anticipated that stewardship campaigns would increase the income at local level the maximum annual increase of Ministry and Mission contributions from a congregation rose from 9% to 12%.

Currently, congregations make an annual Ministries and Mission contribution based on their average income over the last three years. In theory, this means that each congregation is contributing on an “ability to pay” basis.

The Current Situation

In practice this theory is being eroded for three main reasons, and to complicate matters, they are inter-connected.

Firstly, many congregations are taking up the challenge laid by the General Assembly of 2010 and 2011 by becoming active participants in the National Stewardship Campaign. Unfortunately this scheme was introduced during a period of recession resulting in many congregations using reserves to survive.

So, **secondly**, some of these congregations are now actively attempting to restore their reserves to less critical levels.

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Thirdly, too many congregations are failing to do anything to improve their stewardship and are blatantly ignoring the instruction of the General Assembly to participate in the National Stewardship scheme.

This leads to two important consequences:

Firstly, although some congregations are achieving success in their fund raising activities, they are then rewarded by having to pay between 56% and 62% of this new money, an annual increase of 12% of Ministries and Mission contributions in real terms. It is becoming increasingly difficult to defend such practise to the membership. The process of “Giving Agreements” does not relieve this difficulty, nor does the limited flexibility of Presbytery’s now discretionary 4% of Ministry and Mission contribution.

Secondly, the participation, or not, in the National Stewardship scheme is causing a very unfair imbalance. Those who are participants are rewarded for their efforts by increased Ministries and mission contributions, whereas many of those who ignore the instruction to participate are experiencing a drop in their contributions in real terms.

Possible remedies

The Presbytery of Ayr proposes three potential strategies to deal with these problems.

1. Congregations that undertake recognised Stewardship programmes to be given a three year delay before the additional income raised is assessed for Ministries and Mission contributions. In this way the initial increase in Christian Liberality stays with the congregation, it also gives that congregation time to plan for increased contributions in year four and thereafter.
2. Congregations which fail to undertake any recognised stewardship programme within the previous five years to have their Ministries and Mission contributions raised by 25% above the scale figure, unless the Presbytery declare that exceptional local conditions apply to the said congregation. (Necessarily the existing 12% cap on year-on-year contributions would not apply in such cases.) In this way, congregations who do not undertake regular stewardship campaigns will nevertheless be assessed on the basis of an increased income. The 25% will encourage congregations to undertake the, less financial demanding, alternate of a stewardship campaign.

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3. Presbyteries should be given more powers to deal with congregations that do not comply with instructions of the General Assembly. Non compliance with the instruction concerning the National Stewardship Scheme should result in offenders being excluded from financial support from General Trustees, grant giving arms of the church, and from the 4% Presbytery discretionary fund. No such powers exist at present and the lack of such power is a failing of the National Stewardship Scheme.

Conclusion

The Presbytery of Ayr encourages the Council of Assembly to implement the three strategies above.

MODERATOR

PRESBYTERY CLERK

Scottish Charity Number SC020676

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