

THE CARRICK CENTRE, 4th December, 2018.

At The Carrick Centre, on the Fourth Day of December, Two Thousand and Eighteen Years, the Presbytery of Ayr met, and was constituted in prayer.

966. SEDERUNT Rev Brian Hendrie, Moderator, and others as per Sederunt Sheets in retentis.

Ministers, 35; Elders, 38; Corresponding Members, 6; ; **Total 79.** Apologies were received from 7 Ministers, 7 Elders, 1 Deacon and 1 Youth Representative.

967. TRIBUTE

The Rev Jack Brown, Minister emeritus Applegarth, Sibbaldie and Johnstone linked with Lochmaben, paid fitting tribute to the Rev Dr Gordon Grant

Gordon graduated at the University of St.Andrews. He was Minister of Dyce Parish Church from 1959 to 1965, of Portland Church, Troon from 1965 to 1987, and of Dean Parish Church, Edinburgh from 1987 to 1997. Gordon was well respected as a Parish Minister. He was a devout Christian of high integrity and this came through in all his work. He was caring and conscientious in his pastoral work and showed deep concern and great sympathy to those in need.

Gordon held office on various General Assembly Committees. He was Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr in 1978.

Gordon married Susan Hewitt in 1958 and they had three children Ann, Ian and David and five grandchildren. Gordon suffered the loss of his daughter Ann in 1995 and his wife Susan within 18 months of one another. Gordon retired to Ayr and returned to Troon on his marriage to Pamela Robertson in 1999.

We thank God for Gordon's life and ministry and convey our sympathy to Pamela and the family.

The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer.

968. ADMISSION TO SEAT OF PRESBYTERY

Rev Ian Paterson, Minister emeritus Linlithgow: St Michael's.

Having applied for a Seat in the Presbytery, the Moderator called on the Rev Ian Paterson, Minister emeritus Linlithgow: St Michael's, to affirm the vow taken on his Ordination. The Rev Ian Paterson made affirmation and signed the Formula. The Moderator admitted the Rev Ian Paterson to a Seat in the Presbytery and gave him the right hand of Fellowship.

969. MINISTERIAL ANNIVERSARY

50 Years: Rev Bill Glencross, Minister emeritus Bellshill Macdonald Memorial Church.

The Moderator acknowledged the Ministerial Anniversary of the Rev Bill Glencross who had been Ordained in June 1968.

The Moderator expressed the good wishes of the Presbytery.

970. WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed the Rev Dr Robert Pickles, Minister of Crosshill linked with Maybole.

971. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 23rd October, 2018, being in the hands of members were taken as read and approved.

972. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business presented by the Rev Alistair Morrison was approved.

973. INTIMATIONS

1. Applications for any Vacancies for the 2019 General Assembly should be made in writing to the Clerk prior to the 31st December 2018. Please note that the General Assembly 2019 starts on Saturday 18th May.
2. Sing Carols in the Ring. Ayr Mart on Wednesday 5th December at 7.30pm. Please bring some food to share afterwards.
3. Christian Aid Carols Services. All welcome at the following places and dates to raise funds for Christian Aid:
Sunday 16th December, Ayr Central Shopping Centre, 2pm to 4pm.
Thursday 20th December, Morrison Supermarket, Ayr, 2pm to 4pm.
Sunday 23rd December, Asda Supermarket, Heathfield Retail Park, Ayr 2pm to 4pm.

974. GUEST SPEAKERS

John Dunlop & Charles Douglas, Steering Group for South Ayrshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

Charles spoke about what was proposed in this area and how Presbytery could assist in helping to promote SACAB. John highlighted the absence in South Ayrshire. SACAB will be there as an independent body, hopefully in place by April 2019, to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibility.

The Moderator thanked John and Charles for their presentation.

975. ORDER OF THE DAY - 7.30pm**1. VACANCY BUSINESS**

The Rev Neil McNaught reporting on behalf of the Vacancy Procedure Committee:

a. AYR: ST COLUMBA

The Presbytery appoint the Very Rev David Lacy, Minister emeritus of Kilmarnock: Kay Park, as Interim Moderator, and the Rev Edward Simpson, Minister emeritus Glasgow: Giffnock South as Locum.

b. DUNDONALD PARISH CHURCH

i. In terms of Act VIII, 2003, the Presbytery note that the Rev Lynsey Brennan preached as Nominee at Dundonald on Sunday 28th October 2018.

For 133 Against 1

ii. In terms of Act VIII, 2003, the Presbytery note that the Call to the Rev Lynsey Brennan has been sustained. The Call was signed by 186 and 28 Adherents.

iii. The Presbytery note that provisionally a Service of Ordination and Induction will be held within Dundonald Parish Church in either February or March 2019.

2. UNITARY DEED OF CONSTITUTION ISSUED BY DELEGATION OF ASSEMBLY

The Presbytery note the Unitary Constitution has been issued to Prestwick: St Nicholas Parish Church.

976. BUSINESS & NOMINATION COMMITTEE, given in the Rev Alistair Morrison, Acting Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

1. NOMINATION OF PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

The Presbytery appoint the Rev Richard Moffat, Minister of Girvan North, to be Moderator of the Presbytery of Ayr beginning 18th June 2019.

2. NOTICE OF MOTION

The Presbytery agree to formulise the change in Standing Order Section **7b**) at the March meeting in accordance with the current Presbytery timetable.

3. TRAINING FOR INTERIM MODERATORS

- a. The Presbytery note that the Principal Clerk is currently looking to arrange Interim Moderators training in the first part of 2019.
- b. The Presbytery nominate the Rev Barbara Suchanek-Seitz, Minister of Ayr: St James, Mrs Claire Pirrie, Session Clerk of St Colmon, Mr Brian McIlwraith, Elder of St Colmon, to attend.

977. EDUCATION COMMITTEE, report given in by the Rev Barbara Suchanek-Seitz, Convener.

978. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev Gerald Jones, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

1. MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONGREGATIONS FOR 2019

- a. The Presbytery approve the Ministries and Mission contributions being sought from Congregations in 2019 as per the schedule held in retentis.

Congregations are reminded that these contributions should be paid in equal monthly payments unless the prior consent of Presbytery has been given.

- b. The Presbytery instruct the Clerk to send an Extract Minute to the General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland.

2. DISCRETIONARY ALLOWANCE COMMITTEE

- a. The Presbytery agree to the following reductions to Ministry and Mission Contributions:

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Alloway	£10,000
Girvan North	£16,000
Troon St. Meddan's	£15,000
Maybole	£6,000
Ayr St. Andrew's	£8,000
New Cumnock	£8,000

b. The Presbytery agree to instruct the Clerk to forward Deliverance (a) above to the General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland.

c. The Presbytery note these reliefs are granted for the following reasons:

Alloway	Bandawe Clinic
Girvan North	Ongoing Building Works/Maintenance
Troon St. Meddan's	Mission to Meadowgreen – Employment of Staff
Maybole	Annual Assistance with Costs
Ayr St. Andrew's	Building Repairs and Children's Mission
New Cumnock	Major Building Works including Heating Repairs

d. The Presbytery note that the sum now available in the 5% Discretionary Allowance is now £47,000. Accordingly, the fund will be able to support all emergency building issues and mission applications, if these applications are received by the date of the next Presbytery Committee meetings in February 2019. This assumes that Churches are striving to meet their commitments by keeping Stewardship firmly before their Congregations.

3. **PRESBYTERY BUDGET**, given in by Mr Keith McKellar, Presbytery Acting-Treasurer.

a. The Presbytery approve the Budget for the year ending 31 December 2019, a copy to be held in retentis with the Minutes.

- b. The Presbytery approve the Congregational assessment of £1.1312 per £100 of average annual Christian Liberty.
- c. The Presbytery instruct the Acting-Presbytery Treasurer to transmit these assessments to Congregational Treasurers.
- d. The Presbytery thank Mr Keith McKellar for his work in this regard.

4. **PROPERTY INSPECTION LEVY 2019**

The Presbytery approve the under noted figures, being the proposed property levy charges for 2019: -

£486 per Charge, £243 per Congregation in a linked charge, and £162 for each of the Congregations in a triple linkage.

It should be noted that the charges have been held for a further year at the 2015 rate.

5. **ARCHITECTURAL QUINQUENNIAL VISITATIONS**

The Presbytery note the provisional list of Architectural Quinquennial Visitations to the under noted Charges in 2019: -

Ballantrae

Crosshill

Dalrymple

Girvan South/Barr/Dailly

Patna Waterside/Dalmellington

Prestwick: Kingcase

Prestwick: South

Troon: Old

6. **COYLTON & DRONGAN PARISH CHURCH MANSE**

The Presbytery approve the letting of the Manse at 4 Hamilton Place, Coylton, during the period of the current vacancy.

7. STUDY LEAVE

The Presbytery note the application for study leave (*2nd part*) from the Rev Ian Stirling, Minister at Fisherton linked with Kirkoswald, from 18th March 2019 until 31st March 2019.

This project would involve a World Mission Council tour of Israel/Palestine, led by the Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan. The tour is to meet the 'living stones' and gain new insight into current issues. The study leave objectives would be to consolidate Ian's understanding of interfaith issues in order to enhance his work as Presbytery's Convener of Community and World Concerns.

It would also allow Ian to explore a twinning with his own congregations, and glean stories from the world church to enlighten local congregations - a remit Ian has within the World Mission Council. The estimated cost of the study leave is £1500 - arrangements for pulpit supply and pastoral cover are being put in place.

- 979. MISSION COMMITTEE**, given in by the Rev Richard Moffat, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEWS (*See Appendix 1*)

The Presbytery agree that with regard to the next round of Local Church Reviews beginning in 2019 within the South Grouping, the Presbytery adopt the 'Theme' approach as outlined in the Mission Committee paper "Creating a Culture of Change"

980. COMMUNITY AND WORLD CONCERNS, given in by the Rev Ian Stirling, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

1. ALTERNATIVITY- JUST GOD SIMPLY CHRISTMAS

The Presbytery encourage Congregations to get involved with Alternativity- Just God Simply Christmas.

2. COMMUNITY LINK PRACTITIONERS

The Presbytery encourage Congregations to support the work of Community Link Practitioners.

3. CROSSREACH

The Presbytery encourage Congregations to support the work of CrossReach by purchasing CrossReach Calendars and Christmas Cards.

981. REVIEW AND REFORM COMMITTEE, given in by the Rev Neil McNaught, Convener, who moved the following Deliverance which was adopted.

1. THREE PRESBYTERIES (*See Appendix 2*)

The Presbytery note the report and approve the idea of Committees or Individuals with specific Presbytery remits, working together in areas of communal interest and receive updated reports at June and December Presbytery.

2. REPORT ON RE-ORGANISATION OF COMMITTEES
(*See Appendix 3*)

a. The Presbytery note the draft review of Presbytery Committees as undertaken by the Review and Reform Committee

b. The Presbytery invite written responses to that review to the Rev Alistair Morrison by the 31st March 2019.

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982. CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Kenneth,

Please convey to Presbytery my sincere gratitude for their support, firstly in my bid to become a Reader and then subsequently to transfer to Ordained Local Ministry. I would like to express my thanks also to the many people in Ayr Presbytery, both clergy and laity, who have offered me much appreciated encouragement and valuable advice throughout my ministry. My thanks also go to the Congregations I have had the privilege to serve as Locum Minister; their tolerance and understanding made my work in the Lord's Service a joy.

As I retire, I can look back on many happy times spent with fellow Christians as we worked together to promote Christ's kingdom in our time and place.

Your servant in Christ.

(Rev) *Sandra Black*

ADJOURNMENT. The Presbytery rose at **8.45pm**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr will be held within Carrick Centre Maybole on **Tuesday 5th March**, 2019, at 7pm.

The Committees will meet in Ayr: the Auld Kirk Halls on **Thursday 21st February**, 2019, at 7pm.

The Presbytery Conference will be held on **Saturday 26th January** 2019 in Alloway Parish Church Hall from 10am – 12.30pm. (Breakfast served 9am – 9.45am)

MODERATOR

PRESBYTERY CLERK

Scottish Charity Number SC020676

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Appendix 1

MISSION COMMITTEE

A RADICAL PLAN FOR LOCAL CHURCH REVIEWS “CREATING A CULTURE OF INVITATION”

Over the next four years of Local Church Reviews we would seek to bring about a cultural change in all of our congregations making them Inviting Congregations and Churches.

In his book ‘Unlocking the Growth’ Michael Harvey, an instigator of ‘Back to Church Sunday’ encourages church members to be radically challenged in bringing people back to worship and exposing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As a Mission Committee we would like all congregations, Ministers/Interim Moderators/Locums; Kirk Sessions and Members to make this their goal. To assist in this, we will provide each congregation with a DVD of Michael Harvey’s thoughts and ideas, hopefully within each Mission Focus Group’s year of LCR’s, we will be able to invite Michael to address a gathering of all congregations involved, and answer any questions people may have.

This is a project for every church and church member and those who worship with us, to become involved. Unlike previous Quinquennials and Local Church Reviews we are not seeking to prioritise questionnaires to be filled in and particular boxes ‘ticked’ we are looking for congregations to experience growth, brought about by the efforts of each individual to become involved. This is a challenge to all and would not be limited to what is explored in Michael Harvey’s DVD. Each individual knows the needs of their own congregation and parish and should be encouraged to share with others in their congregation and neighbouring congregations.

LOCAL CHURCH REVIEWS 2018 – 2019

CONGREGATIONS	VISITING TEAM
Ballantrae/St. Colmon	Rev. Derek Peat (North) Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder
Crosshill/Maybole	Rev. Chris Blackshaw (Pioneer Minister) Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder
Fisherton/Kirkoswald	Rev. Ian Wiseman (North) Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder
Girvan North	Rev. David Gemmell (Central) Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder
Girvan South/Daily/Barr	Rev. Morag Garrett (East Group) Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder
Kirkmichael/Straiton	Rev. Barbara Suchanek-Seitz (Central) Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder
Alloway	Rev. Elder 1 Presbytery Elder Elder 2 Additional Elder

Proposed Timetabling

Questionnaires and DVD to Minister/Interim Moderator; Kirk Sessions by first week in January. Congregational conference/meeting to discuss content of DVD and how they might bring about a Culture of Invitation within their own congregations and parishes. Completed questionnaires returned to Mission committee by 1st March.

LCR Teams to arrange preaching; and visits to Minister/Interim Moderator and Kirk Session and congregation along with other interested parties between, 1st April and 31st August. This visit to bring encouragement to the parties involved and determine what assistance if any is required by the Copy of visiting team's report being submitted to the Mission Committee by 30th September.

The Mission Committee to report to Presbytery at the December meeting.

Appendix 2

REPORT ON MEETING OF THREE PRESBYTERIES GROUPING

In considering the potentials and possibilities of an enlarged Presbytery in Ayrshire the representatives from each Presbytery are endeavouring to be radical, innovative and visionary. Not seeking the same, only bigger but, a new format pertaining to the mission of the Church as the Body of Christ; the worship of the Church in style and form; the partnership of the Church working collectively and not as, *“You in your small corner and I in mine!”* Seeking to be a caring Church for all the members and for the communities they represent as well as conducting all the business and work of Presbytery in a modern and efficient manner.

Such a provision and its preparation and its acceptance or its rejection, by each of the existing Presbyteries will take time and at present we are not proposing a specific timetable or date whilst we examine the situation in more detail. In the meantime we would like to propose working together in certain areas which are common to all without impinging on the authority of any individual Presbytery.

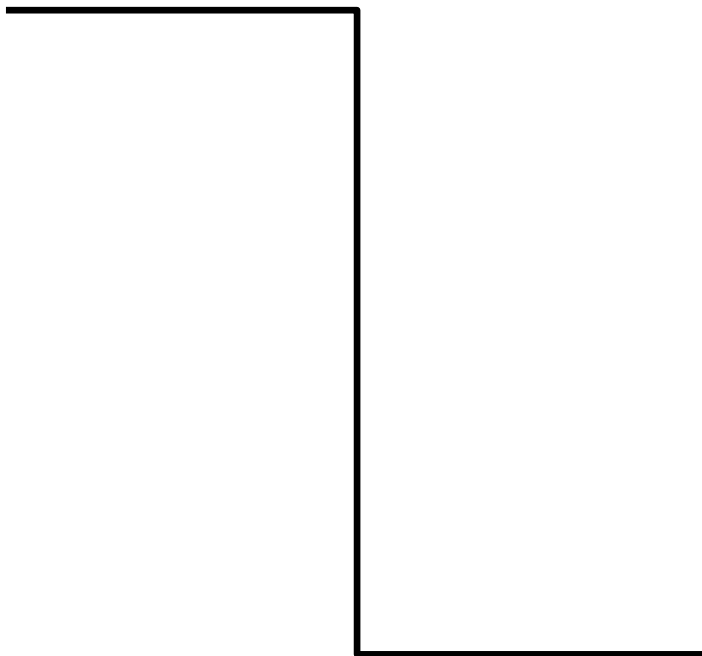
For example the Presbytery Clerks have already met to create a job description for their role and are planning to meet regularly to share relevant information and experience. A similar arrangement could be devised for those dealing with Data Protection and Safeguarding. The latter could lead to communal Safeguarding training and refresher courses.

There could be guidance provided for Session Clerks; Congregational Treasurers; Property Convenors etc. Courses for newly appointed elders to Kirk Sessions, new elders to Presbytery, first time Commissioners to the General Assembly.

Each of the three Presbyteries provide Worship Training, why not an Ayrshire Training Course which could tap into other training resources and trainers, such as 121 or from other outside professional bodies.

Contact between Presbytery Chaplains/Pastors to ensure care of ministers, O.L.M's, Readers and people serving as Locums.

Some examples of working together and sharing. If this was agreed by Presbytery we would seek to promote and implement some of the above, whilst we consider other matters which may or may not lead to a unification at some time in the future. The representatives would continue to meet and to update their individual Presbytery at their June and December meetings.



Appendix 3

REVIEW & REFORM COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESBYTERY RE-ORGANISATION OF COMMITTEES

Before looking at the structure and size of Presbytery Committees there are certain considerations to take into account.

A number of ministers and elders do not wish to serve on committees, indeed their attendance at Presbytery/committees is far from being consistent.

Serving ministers have to be reminded that service on Presbytery Committees is part of their role and commitment. They must be prepared to fulfil that function. Retired ministers have the option of choosing if they wish to serve on any of the Presbytery committees. Congregations should seek suitable people to fulfil the role of Presbytery Elder and elect individuals who will fully understand their remit and responsibility. Many elders simply see their role as serving their own congregation on Presbytery, they must be encouraged to also serve the Presbytery. To emphasise this, Presbytery has to find more elders to take on the roles of convenor/vice-convenor/secretary of the various committees.

Committees that are too large in number find difficulty in operating smoothly and efficiently and whilst the proposed structure outlined below may seem to have some of the committees with large remits and therefore large number of members, it can be made to work with smaller sub-committees reporting back on their particular remits.

There is much in the following suggestions which will seem quite radical to many Presbyters but, unless we are prepared to adopt a more radical and efficient way of working we will grind to a halt with the status quo of the 'old guard' to keep things as they are.

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Business & Nomination Committee

Remit as at present.

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener; Clerk; Moderator; Past moderator; Treasurer; Committee Conveners and Vice Conveners.

(Total 16)

Administration Committee

The Administration would divide into two sub committees as follows;

Finance: Presbytery Finance/The annual inspection of accounts, Presbytery and congregational accounts/Discretionary Allowance.

Buildings/Property: Applications for works under Presbytery guidelines/Annual inspection of Property Registers.

Data Protection: The individual charged with this responsibility to report to Administration Committee annually or at any time when legislation changes. (The Data Protection Convenor is assisted by three other members of Presbytery in their role.)

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener; Secretary; Five members on Finance Sub-Committee and Five members on Building Sub-Committee; Data Protection Officer.

(Total 14)

Education Committee

To have its current remit of Education whilst overseeing Safeguarding and the Pastoral Care of Clergy. (Clergy being Ministers; Probationers; Auxiliary Ministers; Ordained Local Ministers; Readers)

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener & Secretary; Six members. Presbytery Safeguarding Co-Ordinator

The person charged with this duty as well as being member of the Committee should report annually on their role or at any time when legislation changes or when such matters of Safeguarding require Presbytery's attention. A reserve person should be appointed to assist the Safeguarding Co-Ordinator.

(Total 10)

The Committee to receive an annual report from the Appointed Chaplains regarding diligence and the general nature of their work.

Community & World Concerns Committee

To have its current remit.

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener & Secretary; Six members.

(Total 8)

Mission Committee

To have as its remit the following working with three sub-committees.

Mission Focus Groups, ensure training, regular meetings and action.

Local Church Reviews.

Maintaining and reviewing the Presbytery Plan.

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener; Secretary; Four members on L.C.R.; Four members on Mission Focus Groups; Four members on Presbytery Plan.

(Total 15)

Vacancy Procedure Committee

To have its present remit regarding vacancies.

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener; Secretary; Treasurer; Two members.

(Total 6)

Ad Hoc Committees

Convened and composed as required.

Moderator's Advisory Committee Convened as required.

Composition

Moderator; Clerk; Business Convener; Business Vice Convener; Past Moderator; Treasurer; Administration Convener; others as required.

Review & Reform Committee

To discuss on an ongoing basis the need for Presbytery to be reviewing its purpose and reforming its methods of operation to meet the needs of the Church in a changing community and world.

Composition

Convener; Vice Convener; Business Convener and Vice Convener; Administration Convener and Vice Convener; Mission Convener and Vice Convener

Advisers Clerk; Moderator; Past Moderator.

(Total with Advisers 11)

CONCLUSION

The above structure allows for 69 positions to be filled, which includes a number of individuals being on more than one committee but, this is kept to a minimum. With the very nature of Presbytery in its working there will be times when Committees will have to work closely together in dealing with certain matters. As is the case at present, any committee can call on other members of Presbytery for advice or assistance.

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PRESBYTERY OF AYR

Ministers	22	
Retired Ministers	33	
Auxiliary Ministers	2	
OLM's	4	
Ministers without Charge	3	
Deacons	1	
Readers	8	
Elders	48	
Additional Elders	14	
Corresponding Members	2	
Charges	33	
Churches	48	
Vacancies	9	