

**The Church of Scotland****The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy****Kirkcaldy****1 April 2014**

**The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy met and was constituted in prayer by the Moderator, Mrs Myra Deas, for the transaction of ordinary business.**

**Sederunt**

21 Ministers, 28 Elders and 7 Corresponding Members as per the attendance sheet. The Moderator also welcomed representatives from the congregations of Markinch and Thornton who had been cited to appear for their interest.

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from 9 Ministers, and 6 other Presbyters as recorded and intimated.

**Roll of Presbytery**

The Moderator welcomed to Presbytery, in absentia, retired minister the Rev. David Adams formerly of the Presbytery of Dunfermline.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2014 (pages 2545 - 2548) were approved and signed.

**Approval of the Agenda**

The Business Committee Convener, the Rev Gilbert Nisbet, moved adoption of the Agenda as printed. This was agreed.

**Basis of Union – Markinch and Thornton****BASIS OF UNION**

The congregation of Markinch and the congregation of Thornton shall be united as from a date to be determined by the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, and on the following terms and conditions:

**1. Name:**

The name of the united congregation shall be Markinch & Thornton Parish Church and Scottish Charity Number SC003417 will be retained.

**2. Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall belong to, or be held on behalf of, the united congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.**3. Places of Worship**

The church buildings to be used as the places of worship and other activities by the united congregation shall be the church buildings currently used by the individual congregations. Should it be decided then that not all buildings shall continue to be used, then the church buildings not chosen by the Presbytery shall be used, sold, let or disposed of subject to the titles on which they are held, subject to the approval of Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees of the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall (a) if falling within the scope of Act VII 1995, be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund, or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.

**4. Territorial Responsibility**

The Bounds to be served by the united charge shall be the Bounds at present served by the Congregations of Markinch and Thornton, or as the Presbytery shall determine.

**5. Kirk Session**

The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form, with the minister, the Kirk Session of the united congregation.

**6. Congregational Management**

The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.

**7. Minister**

Both charges being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the election of a minister.

**8. Manse**

The manse of the Markinch congregation shall be the manse of the united congregation.

**9. Ministerial Support**

The stipend of the charge shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the National Stipend Scheme.

**10. Power to Readjust**

While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations now uniting, the united congregation shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

The Moderator called for the report of the Ministries Committee which was given, in the absence of the Convener, by committee member, the Rev. James Reid.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

**1. Union of Markinch and Thornton**

a) Presbytery notes that on Sunday 23 March 2014 the congregations of Markinch Parish Church and Thornton Parish Church both voted in favour of the above Basis of Union.

b) Presbytery approves the Basis of Union between the congregations of Markinch Parish Church and Thornton Parish Church in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Basis of Union.

c) Presbytery thanks and commends the office-bearers of the congregations for the willing and efficient way in which they have taken all the necessary steps towards creating the Basis of Union.

d) Presbytery prays for God's blessing on the united congregation as they move into a new life together.

(e) Presbytery notes with approval a service of Union between the congregations of Markinch and Thornton to take place on Thursday 5 June 2014 (venue to be confirmed) and agrees that the united charge shall be on the basis of Unrestricted Tenure.

(f) Presbytery notes that the Basis of Union for the united charge has received the concurrence of the Ministries Council Presbytery Planning Task Group at its meeting on 25 February 2014.

(g) Presbytery grants the united charge, Markinch & Thornton Parish Church, leave to call on the basis of Unrestricted Tenure.

The Moderator called for the report of the Business Committee in relation to section one of the deliverance which was given by the Convener the Rev. Gilbert Nisbet.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

**1. Service of Union**

Presbytery agrees to hold a Service of Union for Markinch and Thornton on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at 7.00pm, the Moderator to conduct worship and Rev Ben Pieterse to be the preacher. Presbytery meets at 6.45pm and the venue is to be confirmed at a later date.

The Moderator, in the absence of the Convener, gave the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

**1. Markinch and Thornton**

Presbytery appoints Mrs May Russell to serve as Interim Moderator at Markinch and Thornton Church following the service of union.

The Moderator thanked the members of Markinch and Thornton for their attendance, and wished them well as they continued to make progress in this new chapter of their Christian witness, and concluded by leading Presbytery in a prayer of support for both congregations.

**Business Committee**

The Moderator called for the balance of the report of the Business Committee which was given by the Convener, Rev. Gilbert Nisbet.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

**2. Commissioners to the General Assembly**

Presbytery appoints Reverends Andrew Donald, Ian Elston, Rosemary Frew, Alan Kimmitt, Maureen MacDougall and Catriona Morrison, Mrs Jacqueline Thomson DCS, Ms Grace Cord, Mrs Joan Cumming, Mr Douglas Hamill, Mr Hugh MacKenzie, Mrs Morag Michael and Mr Andrew Strachan as its Commissioners to the 2014 General Assembly.

**3. Inspection of Congregational Accounts**

(a) Presbytery appoints a committee for the inspection and attestation of the Accounts of all congregations within the bounds for 2013 with the following membership: Richard Baxter (convener), Olive Gardner, Sam Dryburgh, and Steve Pimentil, with the right to co-opt another suitably qualified person if necessary.

(b) Presbytery further instructs the committee to examine all congregational accounts, ensure that any major errors are corrected, and to report to Presbytery at its September meeting.

**4. Fellowship Meal**

Presbytery supports the proposal to hold a fellowship meal prior to its June meeting.

**5. Inspection of Presbytery Minute Book**

Presbytery notes that the Presbytery Minute Book has been inspected and was found to be in order. Presbytery further records its thanks to Jean Webster for carrying out this task.

**6. Representative Elders and Additional Elders**

Presbytery notes that congregations are asked to submit names of representative elders and additional elders to serve on Presbytery for the year 2014/2015 to the Clerk by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Those elders proposed should be willing to serve on the committees of Presbytery and play a full part in the work of this court of the Church.

**7. Practising Certificate**

Presbytery receives a Practising Certificate from Rev. David G. Adams and grants him a seat on Presbytery,

**8. Notice of Motion**

Notice is given that the Convener of the Business Committee will bring the name of the Rev. Robin Mc Alpine to the next meeting of Presbytery to serve as Moderator for the ensuing year.

**Intimations**

Relevant intimations were made to Presbytery, including congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Linda Young, Corresponding Member, on her appointment as national Vice-Convener of The Church of Scotland Guild. The Moderator assured Mrs. Young of the continuing support of Presbytery and offered a prayer of support in her new post.

**Church and Society Committee**

The Moderator called for the report of the Church and Society Committee which was given by the Convener, Rev Marc Prowe. There were no deliverances.

**Fabric and Finance Committee**

The Moderator called for the report of the Fabric and Finance Committee which was given by the Convener, Mr Brian Lumsden.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

**1. Sharing of information**

The Fabric & Finance Committee would encourage congregations to share their good experiences of business employed to carry out repairs and maintenance to their church property. By sharing this information it is hoped that we can compile a list of individuals or companies who may be considered in the future for any work to be undertaken. We recognise that by sharing this information there is no obligation on any congregation to use any recommendations provided.

If agreed, we would seek that this information be passed in time to enable it to be distributed with the information for the 2014/15 Presbytery papers. An offer to compile and distribute any information provided is already with the Fabric & Finance Committee.

**2. Burntisland**

(i) Presbytery approves the roof repairs to be carried out to the church hall halls by the firm of Roof Force in the sum of £34,200 (including VAT)

(ii) Presbytery approves the sanding and coating to the floors of the church halls by the firm of Floor Sanding Ltd in the sum of £1,950 (including VAT)

(iii) Presbytery recognises the Burntisland church halls to be necessary buildings

(iv) Presbytery requires that funding must be available prior to the commencement of the works, and notes the intention that the entire cost be borne by local funds.

**3. Fabric Matters**

Presbytery notes that the Fabric and Finance Committee has approved under delegated authority the following Items:-

**(i) Markinch**

Fabric and Finance Committee supports a grant application to the General Trustees in the sum of £23,500 towards the cost of restoration works to Session House and Tower, together with non-aggressive archaeology to the ground around the Tower and under the former nave and chancel.

**(ii) Bennoch**

Fabric and Finance Committee approves that the Convenor and the Fabric Co-ordinator may decide under delegated authority to approve proposals to alter the church hall and to the release of up to £20,000 from the monies held by the General Trustees in the capital account of the Consolidated Fabric Fund to meet the cost of these works.

**Mission and Discipleship Committee**

The Moderator called for the report of the Mission and Discipleship Committee which was given by the Convener, Rev. Robin McAlpine.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

**1. General Assembly Youth Representative**

Presbytery appoints Iona Kimmitt from Glenrothes: St Columba's as its Youth Representative to the 2014 General Assembly.

Included in the report of the Mission and Discipleship Committee was the final report from the Rev. Gillian Paterson concerning the 'Celebrate & Discover' event held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 in Kirkcaldy High School extracted and summarised as follows :-

"Celebrate and Discover was a day to remember and its effects and atmosphere, we pray, will still be with us all for a long time to come. The recipe is now tried and tested. It's been cooked twice, and the second time was even better than the first – isn't that often true when we try something out to see if we enjoy the flavour? We hope you enjoyed the day, were as encouraged and inspired as the team were, and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

It only remains for me to say that, as in all recipes, there are some key ingredients without which the recipe simply would not work. In our case that is the Mission & Worship team. I thank them for their time, skills, energy and assistance as well as the numerous people who helped in so many ways."

On behalf of Presbytery, the Moderator thanked Mrs. Paterson, her team and all the congregations and organisations involved for their exceptional efforts resulting in a well received popular event which clearly demonstrates our practical Christian Witness both locally and nationally.

**Correspondence**

**Forwarded**

- 6 Feb Info re Ministers' Away Day Retreat at the Bield
- 7 Feb Info re Meikle and Paton Trust
- 11 Feb Mission and Discipleship Council E-news
- 11 Feb Info re Listening to – and learning from – Christians in the Highlands and Islands
- 12 Feb Info from Statistics for Mission
- 14 Feb Info re Workplace Chaplaincy Introduction Day
- 15 Feb Info re Christian Aid event – Land is Life – 7 March
- 18 Feb Info re Glasgow Society of the Sons and Daughters of Ministers of the C of S
- 19 Feb Church and Society Council E-news
- 20 Feb Church and Society statement re Religious Observance in schools
- 20 Feb Info re free Manse holiday in Oban
- 25 Feb Invite to inter-Presbytery meeting in Edinburgh re South East Scotland Plan
- 26 Feb Info re Bridge Builders Course
- 27 Feb Info re Workplace Chaplaincy Sunday
- 27 Feb Further info re visit to Corrymeela and Northern Ireland
- 28 Feb Info re Small bus permits
- 2 Mar Info re Tent Missions at Blacketyside Farm, Leven
- 3 Mar Info re ConneXions residential training event
- 6 Mar Info re SRT at the Edinburgh International Science Festival
- 6 Mar Study Leave Opportunity – Iona Peace Week
- 7 Mar Info re The Abbey Summer School, Edinburgh
- 9 Mar Info re Conference on Energy Efficiency Solutions for Church buildings
- 11 Mar Same sex marriage – advice from the Principal Clerk
- 11 Mar Statistics for Mission – final information
- 13 Mar Mission and Discipleship E-news

- 13 Mar Urgent request from Church and Society Council for church rep on Fife Council
- 18 Mar Information from The Bield re visit of Sr Ilia
- 18 Mar Withdrawal of Moderator Designate
- 18 Mar Info from Janette Wilson re small organisations water exemption
- 19 Mar Intimation from Richard Baxter re The Easter Story in Kennoway
- 21 Mar Church and Society Council e-news
- 24 Mar Info re Faith Fair at Fife College, Wednesday 26 March

**Clerk / Business Committee**

- 19 Feb Letter from Andy Campbell re the Church at the Highland Show
- 19 Feb Renewal of Presbytery Insurance
  - 1 Mar Confirmation of renewal of Data Protection Registration
- 21 Mar Information for General Assembly Commissioners from the Principal Clerk
- 24 Mar Practising Certificate for Rev David Adams
- 27 Mar Letter from Rev Ben Pieterse intimating retirement on 31 July 2014

**Fabric and Finance**

- 7 Feb Copy of letter from General Trustees to Wellesley
- 20 Feb Copy of e-mail from General Trustees to Buckhaven and Wemyss
- 12 Mar Copy of letter from General Trustees to Wellesley

**Ministries**

- 20 Mar E-mail from Heather French re Vocations Champions
- 20 Mar PPTG draft minute – 25 February 2014

**Mission and Discipleship**

- 19 Feb Learning Consultation Summary Report from Mission and Discipleship Council
- 24 Feb Youth Rep Nomination – Iona Kimmitt, St Columba's

**Adjournment**

Presbytery adjourned to meet at 6.45pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 for a Service of Union at 7.00pm for Markinch and Thornton congregations, the venue to be advised; and at 7.15pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in St. Bryce Kirk Centre for the transaction of ordinary business, following the Presbytery Meal at 6.00pm.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_Clerk