

The Church of Scotland

The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Kirkcaldy: Bennoch

4 November 2014

The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator Rev. Robin McAlpine, for the Celebration of Holy Communion, the transaction of urgent business and to consider adoption of the Overture under the Barrier Act concerning Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnership.

Sederunt

22 Ministers, 1 Deacon, 33 Elders and 5 Corresponding Members as per the attendance sheet.

Apologies

Apologies were received from 4 Ministers and 1 other member of Presbytery as recorded.

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Moderator, having welcomed all present, proceeded with the Celebration of Holy Communion.

Following Holy Communion, and a time of fellowship, Presbytery reconvened for urgent business and the Overture sent down Under the Barrier Act.

Call from Glenrothes: St. Margaret's to Mrs. Eileen Miller

The Clerk laid on the table the Call to Mrs. Eileen Miller, along with all the relevant papers relating to the nomination and election.

The Moderator welcomed representatives of the Congregation who had been cited to appear for their interest. Mrs. Mary Cook spoke on behalf of the Congregation.

Presbytery sustained the Call and the Moderator thanked Mrs. Cook and members of the Congregation for their attendance and wished them and their new Minister well in the future.

Business Committee

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

It was moved seconded and agreed:

1. Ordination of Mrs Eileen Miller

Presbytery sustains the Call to Mrs Eileen Miller to the congregation of Glenrothes: St. Margaret's. The service of Ordination and Induction will be held on Thursday 20 November 2014 at 7.00pm. The Moderator will conduct worship, and the Rev Maudeen MacDougall will preach. Presbytery will meet at 6.45pm.

Vacancy Procedure Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee which was given by the Convener, Mrs. Jacqueline Thomson.

It was moved seconded and agreed:

1. Glenrothes: St Margaret's

(a) Presbytery thanks Rev Christine Houghton for her diligence in service as Interim Moderator to St. Margaret's Parish Church during their period of vacancy.

(b) Presbytery expresses sincere thanks to the members of the advisory committee appointed to St. Margaret's Parish Church for all their efforts during the period of vacancy - Mrs Ann Smith, Mrs Ena Hudson and Mr Finlay Ferguson.

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. Ministries and Mission Allocation Reductions

Presbytery concurs with the decision of the Fabric and Finance committee as to the distribution of funds made available from the four percent reduction, £37,981, to the Presbytery Ministries and Mission Contribution for 2015.

REDUCTION

£6100	Pathhead Parish Church	Supporting KART
£6100	Glenrothes St Columba's	Supporting GROW
£1000	Glenrothes St Ninians	Financial support
£4000	Glenrothes Christ's Kirk	Financial support
£5000	Kinghorn Parish Church	Contribution towards the repair of the Church Bell Tower
£2000	Glenrothes St Columba's	Contribution towards the cost of an Architectural report
£1500	Pathhead Parish Church	Contribution to the replacement costs of white goods
£2450	Kirkcaldy St Bryce	Contribution towards roof repairs
£2281	Wellesley	Newsletter and discretionary allowance
£4000	Burntisland	Outreach, Youth Work & Christians against Poverty
£2500	Dysart St Clair	Outreach and Messy Church
£1050	Kirkcaldy St Bryce	Student Feed outreach programme
£37,981	TOTAL	

2. Priority Area Budget

Presbytery homologates the decision of the General Trustees to make available a grant of £10,000 from the Priority Areas budget to Wellesley Parish Church contributing towards the professional fees in respect of the replacement Church halls.

3. Fabric Matters

(1) Bennochy Church

This matter was withdrawn.

Correspondence**Forwarded**

- 4 Sept Info re West Fife Gideons Inspirational Evening
- 5 Sept Mission and Discipleship Council E-news
- 9 Sept Info re Advent Worship Conference
- 10 Sept Info re Go For It Mission and Ecclesiology Workshop
- 11 Sept Letter from Moderator re Referendum Prayer Initiative
- 12 Sept Letter from Janette Wilson re Health and Safety
- 17 Sept Flyer re Scottish Church Theological Society Conference
- 19 Sept Info re Rev Dr MacInnes and Mrs MacInnes' Trust
- 19 Sept Info re Stephen Williamson and Alex Balfour Fund
- 23 Sept Invite from SRT Project to Good Money Week Conference
- 24 Sept Crosseach Week letter from the Moderator
- 24 Sept Church and Society Council e-news
- 25 Sept Invite to information evening from Maggie's Fife
- 26 Sept Crossreach Presbytery Information sheet
- 30 Sept Info re Preachers' Training Day
- 30 Sept Message re discontinuation of Ministers' Forum
- 1 Oct and 9 Oct Update of Prevention First directory
- 3 Oct Mission and Discipleship Council E-news
- 3 Oct Go For It October enews
- 8 Oct Info re FE Chaplains' conference
- 10 Oct Info re joint conference by Church and Society and Crossreach
- 10 Oct Invite from Go For It to Festival of Networking
- 10 Oct Info re Children's Ministry Conference
- 16 Oct Prisoners' Week postcards (in pigeon holes)
- 17 Oct Info for ministers re Interim Ministry posts
- 21 Oct Workplace Chaplaincy Autumn Newsletter
- 21 Oct CARTA and Organ Advice
- 21 Oct Info re Christian Aid Thanksgiving Service
- 22 Oct Church and Society Council enews
- 25 Oct Poster from Kinghorn Church re Christmas Tree Festival
- 27 Oct Prevention First quarterly statistics
- 27 Oct Crossreach Presbytery information sheet
- 28 Oct Info re Presbytery Youth Reps to General Assembly 2015

Clerk / Business Committee

- 15 Sept Letter from General Trustees re Dysart St Clair (acknowledging extract minute)
- 15 Sept Letter from Session Clerk of Glenrothes: St Margaret's re change of time of Sunday service
- 19 Sept Data Protection information from the Law Department
- 19 Sept Digital photo library questionnaire
- 26 Sept Nomination Committee mailing
- 30 Sept Invitation to McCrae's Battalion Centenary Event
- 2 Oct Statement from Presbytery of Lewis re Civil Partnerships Overture
- 7 Oct Info re new Complaints Procedure
- 9 Oct Request to send representatives to a meeting of the Panel on Review and Reform
- 16 Oct Copy of submission from Scottish Churches / Council of Assembly to OSCR re Targeted Regulation
- 24 Oct Copy of damages claim submitted to Auchterderran: St Fothad's

- 23 Oct New Presbytery Elder for Templehall – Mrs Beatrice Doherty
- 27 Oct Invitation to Clerk to St Andrews Day Service, Society of Friends of St Andrews, Jerusalem
- 28 Oct Info re Law Dept data protection Webinar
- 28 Oct Info re procedure for Office Bearer Returns

Fabric and Finance

- 17 Sept Copy of letter from General Trustees to Markinch and Thornton
- 8 Oct Copy of letter from General Trustees to Wellesley
- 24 Oct Copy of letter from General Trustees to Wellesley

Ministries

- 5 Sept Final Review and permission to proceed to ordination for Michael Allardice
- 8 Sept Request to send representatives to Regional Interim Ministry Area meeting
- 10 Sept Request for Presbytery Representation at meeting to discuss developments in ministerial training etc
- 19 Sept List of new ministry candidates and their placements
- 7 Oct Study Leave Application from Rev Jim Reid (17-24 November 2014)
- 8 Oct Info re National Assessor Refresher Training and Information day
- 17 Oct E-mail from Ministries Council re annual Review of Presbytery Plan
- 27 Oct Draft Minute of the PPTG 23 September 2014

Additional

- 4 Nov Letter from Mrs Morag Michael requesting that Presbytery nominate her to attend an information day about serving as a National Assessor (Approved)
- 4 Nov E-mail from Safeguarding office re all ministers in charges being approached soon to join the PVG scheme
- 4 Nov Intimation re GROW service in Glenrothes on Sunday 30 November
- 4 Nov Intimation re Jubilee Scotland event on 11 November in Bennochty Church, Kirkcaldy

Overture under the Barrier Act

Presbyters were referred to the Reports to the General Assembly 2014 – Remits Booklet pages 3 to 11 – Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnership
(note - page 6 of the Remits Booklet section 6 sub-section (3) second line - the second use of the word 'or' should read 'of')

The Moderator called on the Clerk who explained the protocol and voting procedure to be followed in the conduct of the secret ballot.

The Moderator called on the Business Committee Convener to introduce the Overture and to outline the intended structure of the debate.

The Convener reminded Presbytery that the matter under discussion is exclusively the terms of the Overture.

The Convener referred to the process leading to this procedure under the Barrier Act and reminded Presbytery that they are required to vote 'for' or 'against' the Overture.

The Moderator called for questions. The Business Convener and the Clerk responded to and clarified the position in relation to a number of questions.

The Moderator having confirmed there were no further questions closed this part of the procedure.

The Moderator called for comments and general discussion. A number of comments were made by Presbyters.

The Moderator having confirmed there were no further comments or discussion closed this part of the procedure.

The Moderator thanked Presbytery for all their interest and thoughtful contributions and called on the Business Convener to summarise and conclude the debate.

The General Assembly having sent down this Overture to Presbyteries for their consideration under the Barrier Act, Presbytery proceeded to vote by secret ballot and determined as follows :-

there voted 'FOR the Overture' – twenty-four (24) votes

there voted 'AGAINST the Overture' – thirty-two (32) votes.

The appropriate 'Return to an Overture under the Barrier Act' will be completed by the Clerk and submitted to the Acting Principal Clerk by 31st December 2014 for, as necessary and appropriate, subsequent consideration by the 2015 General Assembly.

Presbytery having the opportunity to make remarks agreed that the general tenor of the Overture was lacking in definition and, in consequence, effectiveness. The Clerk will complete the Return in appropriate terms.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned to meet at 6.45 pm on Thursday 20 November 2014 in Glenrothes: St Margaret's for the Ordination and Induction of Mrs Eileen Miller, and then at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 2 December 2014 in St Bryce Kirk Centre, Kirkcaldy, for the transaction of ordinary business.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

(Moderator)

(Clerk)