

The Church of Scotland**The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy****Kirkcaldy: St Bryce Kirk****3 December 2013**

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

Sederunt

24 Ministers, 36 Elders, and 7 Corresponding Members as per the attendance sheet.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from 7 Ministers, and 3 other Presbyters as recorded and intimated.

Additionally - The Moderator welcomed representatives from the congregations of :-
Dysart St. Clair ; Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk; Glenrothes: St. Columba's; Glenrothes: St. Margaret's; Glenrothes: St. Ninian's; Leslie: Trinity; Markinch and Thornton – all of whom had been cited to attend for their interest.

Roll of Presbytery

The Moderator introduced and welcomed two New Members:- viz. Mrs. Elizabeth Gray, Representative Elder, Thornton and Rev. Dr. George Nicol, Retired Minister formerly of the Presbytery of St. Andrews. .

Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3 September 2013 (pages 2525 - 2531) and 27 October 2013 (pages 2532 - 2533) were approved and signed. The Minute of the meeting held on 5 November 2013 (pages 2534 - 2536) was adjusted, 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.

Call to the Rev Maudeen MacDougall to the Charge of Dysart St. Clair

The Clerk laid on the table the Call to the Rev Maudeen MacDougall along with all relevant papers relating to her nomination.

The Moderator invited Mr. Raymond Domin, Session Clerk to speak on behalf of the Congregation.

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. Call to Rev Maudeen MacDougall

Presbytery sustains the Call of the Rev Maudeen MacDougall, minister of Meadowside: St Paul's in the Presbytery of Dundee, to Dysart St Clair, subject to the approval of the Presbytery of Dundee. The service of Induction will be held on Thursday 23 January 2014 at 7.00pm in the Viewforth building of Dysart St Clair. The Moderator will conduct worship, and the Rev Alan Kimmitt will preach. Presbytery will meet at 6.45pm.

Presbytery sustained the Call and the Moderator thanked the Session Clerk and members of the Congregation for their attendance, and wished them and their new minister well in the future.

Retirement of the Rev. Alex Forsyth

The demission of the Rev. Alex Forsyth on 30 January 2014 having been agreed by Presbytery, the Moderator invited Mr. John Wood, Session Clerk, to speak on behalf of the Congregation of Markinch Parish Church.

Mr. Wood paid tribute to their Minister and expressed grateful appreciation on behalf of the congregation, parish and local community for his devoted service during his eleven years as their minister.

The Rev. Alex Forsyth responded appropriately.

The Moderator, on behalf of Presbytery, added her thanks for forty years of devoted service in the Ministry, and wished him and his wife a long and happy retirement.

The Moderator called for the report of the Business Committee in relation to section two of the deliverance, again given by Rev Gilbert Nisbet.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

2. Practising Certificate

Presbytery grants a Practising Certificate to Rev Alex Forsyth.

Presbytery Planning – Markinch, Thornton and Glenrothes: St Margaret’s

The Moderator called for the report of the Ministries Committee in relation to sections one, two and three of the deliverance which was given by the Convener the Rev. Andrew Donald.

The Convener recorded his thanks to the Rev. Richard Baxter for his continuing assistance in connection with the preparation and implementation of the Presbytery Plan.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Union of Markinch and Thornton Parish Churches

(a) Presbytery approves a Union between the congregations of Markinch and Thornton Parish Churches with both congregations retaining their church sanctuaries and halls.

(b) Presbytery instructs the congregations to proceed with the production of a Basis of Union in accordance with the terms of Act VII 2003 (revised 2011) of the General Assembly, to be completed no later than 31 March 2014.

(c) Presbytery agrees that following the Union, the status of the United Charge will have Unrestricted Tenure.

(d) Presbytery agrees to a Service of Union to take place at a date agreed with the uniting congregations.

2. Glenrothes: St. Margaret’s

Presbytery grants the charge of Glenrothes: St. Margaret’s leave to call on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure, as indicated in the Presbytery Plan.

3. Presbytery Planning – Mission Development Staff Posts and Job Descriptions

(a) Presbytery approves the following MDS Posts and Job Descriptions as presented in the documents circulated with the Presbytery papers:-

- Families Worker /Parish Assistant, Christ’s Kirk and St. Margaret's, Glenrothes.
- Families Worker /Pastoral Assistant, Rothes Trinity Parish Grouping.
- Youth and Children’s Worker – Glenrothes and Leslie Churches of Scotland.

(b) Presbytery notes the diligence of the congregations concerned and commends them for their willingness to engage in the process.

The Moderator thanked the representatives of all the cited congregations for their attendance, and requested that they convey the greetings of Presbytery to their members along with thanks for their support in the implementation of these component parts of the Presbytery Plan.

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:

3. Overture

Presbytery approves the Overture Regarding the Appeals Act sent down under the Barrier Act.

4. United Services

Presbytery grants permission for the town centre congregations in Kirkcaldy to hold a joint service of worship on Sunday 29th December 2013 within Kirkcaldy: Abbotshall.

5. Inspection and Attestation of Presbytery Minutes

Presbytery appoints Miss Jean Webster to inspect and attest the Presbytery Minute Book.

6. Congregational Statistics

Presbytery remits the Congregational Statistics forms to Session Clerks, requesting completion and return to the Presbytery Office by Friday 17 January 2014.

Intimations

Relevant intimations were made to Presbytery.

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. Lead Water Pipes

(i) Presbytery notes that the maximum limit for the Prescribed Concentration or Value (PCV) for lead content in drinking water from a tap is currently 25 microgrammes per litre, and that this limit will be further reduced to 10 microgrammes per litre from the end of 2013.

(ii) Any congregation that is aware of having lead water pipes in any of their buildings may contact Scottish Water Customer Service Helpline on 0845 601 8855 to request advice. Scottish Water may organize a water sample from the affected buildings. Scottish Water also have a Factsheet No. 7 entitled *LEAD EXPLAINED* which is available to download from their website. Advice may also be obtained by contacting Fife Council's Environmental Services Department

2. Fabric Matters

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

(i) Quinquennial Inspections

Fabric and Finance Committee receives the Reports Of Survey as prepared by the firm of Hardies for the buildings in the charges of Auchterderran St. Fothads with Kinglassie; Burntisland; Methilhill and Denbeath; Kennoway, Windygates and Balgonie: St. Kenneth's; Kinghorn; and Kirkcaldy: Linktown with Auchtertool.

(ii) Bennochy

Fabric and Finance Committee approves the release of £7,200 (including VAT) from the monies held by the General Trustees in the capital account of the Consolidated Fabric Fund to meet the cost of replacing lead water pipes; the Committee further approves the release of

£4,172-73 (including VAT) from the capital account of the Consolidated Fabric Fund to reimburse the cost of electrical works in the Church and Main Hall buildings together with lighting protection works.

(iii) Buckhaven and Wemyss

Fabric and Finance Committee approves the release of £5,130-20 (including VAT) from the monies held by the General Trustees in the capital account of the Consolidated Fabric Fund to meet the cost of maintenance works in the Theatre and Church buildings.

(iv) Burntisland

Fabric and Finance Committee approves a schedule of maintenance works currently progressing at the Church Hall building at a cost of £29,802-00 (including VAT), and notes that the cost of these works will be borne by the Congregation.

3. Manse Condition Schedules

Presbytery instructs Congregations to include in their Manse Conditions Schedule an energy performance certificate for the property, and requires appropriate action be taken within a reasonable time to reduce energy bills.

Ministries Committee

The Moderator called on the Convener, the Rev. Andrew Donald, for the balance of the report of the Ministries Committee which included a report by the Rev. Bryan Tomlinson who represented Presbytery at a recent conference organised by the Ministries Council. A subsequent conference will be arranged during February 2014 and a report submitted to Presbytery in due course.

The Moderator thanked Mr. Tomlinson for his report and his continuing work on the Ministries Committee.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

4. Pulpit Interchange

Presbytery notes that the Pulpit Interchange will be on Sunday 9 February 2014 and urges host churches to make contact with their visiting minister in good time.

5. Study Leave Application

Presbytery approves the Study Leave Application of the Rev Tony Fowler to attend the Evangelical Ministry Assembly from 8-10 July 2014 and to undertake a period of study and reflection from 1 July to 28 July 2014.

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, and included a progress report from the Rev Gillian Paterson concerning the 'Celebrate & Discover' event scheduled for Saturday 22 March 2014. Further progress reports will be made to Presbytery in due course.

The Moderator thanked Mrs. Paterson for her report and encouraged both Presbytery and individual congregations to give their full support to this significant outreach event.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Safeguarding

Presbytery appoints Andy Strachan as a safeguarding trainer

2. Prayer

(1) Prayers for the nation

a) Presbytery notes the prayer time held in Wellesley Church on St Andrew's Day, as the Presbytery Prayer Network joined with others across the country in, "The Stand", a day of prayer for the nation.

b) Presbytery commends prayer times in 2014 (to be arranged by the Prayer Coordinator and the prayer network) as part in the Year of Prayer for the Nation, the dates and venues to be added to “The Stand” prayer calendar.

(2) Praying Across Scotland

The Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, being extremely concerned by the lack of “official” prayer material being issued in the lead up to the General Assembly; requests the Mission and Discipleship Council to:

a) re-affirm the importance of prayer in the life of the church, in order to help people understand that prayer is an essential and normal part of an active Christian’s life.

b) in collaboration with other Councils and committees of the church, to promote specific prayer materials as support for General Assembly, to prepare them related to their Assembly reports and deliverances and to make this material available to all the prayer network (Prayer Co-ordinators), Presbytery Clerks, Assembly Commissioners, and to be included in the May issue of Life and Work.

c) develop a prayer network to encourage mutual support and the sharing of resources and organise opportunities for people to gather together for prayer.

d) take a pro-active role in the promotion of prayer, development of resources and sharing of ideas for prayer across Scotland.

Presbytery instructs the Clerk to forward an extract minute to Mission & Discipleship Council, with a copy to Assembly Arrangements committee.

Vacancy Procedure Committee

The Moderator called for the report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee which, in the absence of the Convener, was given by the Clerk.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Glenrothes: Christ’s Kirk

Presbytery appoints Joint Interim-Moderators Rev Marc Prowe and Rev Catriona Morrison to serve at Glenrothes Christ's Kirk from 1st January 2014.

The Moderator, on behalf of Presbytery, conveyed best wishes to the Rev. Alexandra Rosener as she commences her Maternity Leave.

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.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

1. Energy and Environment

Presbytery encourages Congregations and Presbyters to consider its Church and Society Committee’s paper “Easy Energy and Environment Resources” as a resource for saving and sharing energy responsibly.

Correspondence

Forwarded

6 Nov Job vacancy, Secretary, Theological Forum

6 Nov Draft Overture on Selection, Training, Ordination and Induction of Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships

8 Nov Mission and Discipleship Council E-news

8 Nov Nitekirk vacancy

12 Nov Questions re funeral costs (from Ministries Council)

13 Nov Intimation re SSAFA Advent Carol Service

15 Nov Intimation from Gillian Paterson re Christmas Concert

Clerk / Business Committee

- 5 Nov Sick note for Richard Baxter
- 5 Nov Questionnaire re PAT provision in Presbytery
- 13 Nov Change of Representative Elder for Thornton
- 21 Nov Letter re calculation of Commissions for 2014 General Assembly

Church and Society

- 10 Nov Jewish concerns about Church and Society Report

Ministries

- 18 Nov Presbytery Planning Task Group minute
- 19 Nov Support Services offered by Ministries Council (for Presbytery Chaplains)

The Clerk intimated one further piece of correspondence received from the General Trustees agreeing to the sale of the former Viewforth Manse.

Adjournment

Presbytery adjourned to meet at 6.45pm on Thursday 23 January 2014 in the Viewforth building of Dysart St Clair for the Induction of Rev Maureen MacDougall, and thereafter at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 February 2014 in St Bryce Kirk Centre, Kirkcaldy, for the transaction of ordinary business.

The Moderator conveyed season's greetings to all Presbyters and closed the meeting with prayer.

_____ Moderator

_____ Clerk