

At Edinburgh and within Palmerston Place Church, the fifth day of May 2009, the Presbytery of Edinburgh met and was constituted with prayer.

Sederunt

The Reverend W P Graham, Moderator, the Reverend Dr G J Whyte, Clerk, and others, Ministers, Deacons and Elders as in the Register of Attendance.

1. ROLL OF PRESBYTERY

1.1 The Moderator welcomed the Rev Margaret Lane to the first meeting of the Presbytery for ordinary business since her Induction at Kirkliston.

1.2 The Moderator welcomed Ms Rilza Montgomery to the first meeting of Presbytery since she took up the post of Parish Assistant (Young People and Families Focus) at Muirhouse St Andrew's.

2. Admission to Membership

The Reverend Eric Foggitt, having applied for membership of Presbytery in terms of Act III 2000, section 14, and satisfactory evidence of status and good standing having been presented, the Presbytery proceeded to admit him to membership.

Mr Foggitt being present, he gave affirmative answer to the prescribed question and signed the Formula.

The Moderator then admitted him to membership of the Presbytery and his name was added to the Roll.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 14 April 2009 and 16 April 2009 were submitted and approved.

4. PRESENTATION

The Rev John Bell addressed the Presbytery on the subject of Church, Community and Culture.

On behalf of the Presbytery the Moderator thanked Mr Bell for his presentation.

5. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business as circulated was submitted and approved.

6. RECEPTION OF READERS

On behalf of the Ministries Committee the Reverend James Dewar introduced Mrs Ruth Davies, Mr William Farrell, Dr Malcolm Kinnear, Mr Alistair McPherson, Mr Martin J Pearce and Mrs Irene Sherriffs, Readers under the supervision of the Presbytery.

They were welcomed by the Moderator who addressed them, commending the wide variety of gifts they brought to their role as Readers, expressing the Presbytery's delight in their presence and appreciation of their valuable work and thanked them for their services.

Apologies for absence from Mrs Gillian L Christie, Mrs Yvonne Farrant, Mr Edmund Farrow, Prof. Herbert Kerrigan QC, Mrs Helen MacFarlane and Mrs Anne Wyllie.

7. CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS

LEAVE-TAKING

The Presbytery accepting the resignation of the Rev Paul Beautyman as Minister of Gilmerton New Charge to take up the post of Argyll Presbytery Youth/Childrens' Advisor from the 15 June 2009. Mr David Lamb spoke on behalf of the Congregation

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Presbytery to Mr Beautyman for his ministry in Edinburgh and assured him of their good wishes in his new appointment.

Mr Beautyman made suitable reply.

8. BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Dr Derek Browning, gave in the Report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

8.1 agree to concur in the decision of congregations of Corstorphine St Anne's, and Newhaven Parish Church's to adopt the Unitary Constitution and to transmit their applications for the issue of a Unitary Constitution to the Delegation of Assembly.

8.2 appoint the Rev William Brown as Interim Moderator at Inverleith during the period of the Rev D Hugh Davidson's sick leave.

8.3 Children's Ministry Co-ordinator (Appendix 1)

- a. agree to continue the post of the Children's Ministry Co-ordinator for one further year (1st June 2009 to 31st May 2010) as per the contract
- b. note that the line manager for the Children's Ministry Co-ordinator will be the Presbytery Clerk as per the contract
- c. note that the Co-ordinator shall work within the context of the policies of the Presbytery's Mission and Discipleship Committee as per the contract
- d. note that the salary for the Co-ordinator shall be in line with current contractual remuneration and remits to the Presbytery Clerk and Treasurer the finalising of details
- e. instruct the Mission and Discipleship Committee to review how best to resource and support congregations in the work of ministry to families and young people, and Safeguarding, by consulting with all congregations in the Presbytery, and all other relevant bodies
- f. instruct the Mission and Discipleship Committee to bring an interim report on resourcing and ministering to families and young people, and Safeguarding, to the October meeting of Presbytery and then to bring a firm proposal to the December meeting of Presbytery

9 MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

The Convener, Rev Norman Smith, gave in the Report.

It was taken as read, moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

The Committee would like to develop ways of encouraging a shared prayer life across the Presbytery. They believe that the Presbytery's website, newsletter, and worship can all help us to pray for each other in an informed way.

9.1 instruct the Committee to explore these possibilities and report progress to a future meeting.

10 PROPERTY

The Convener, Mr Michael Cunliffe, gave in the Report.
(see Appendix 2)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

10.1 note the arrangements for inspection of congregational buildings, and commends those congregations who keep their properties in good repair.

10.2 note that there is room for improvement by many congregations in keeping their property registers, and that the Property Committee will provide further guidance.

10.3 grant approval to Portobello Old to carry out ceiling repairs at an estimated cost of £50,000 and to apply to the General Trustees for release of funds from the Consolidated Fabric Fund and for a loan.

10.4 grant approval to Craiglockhart to replace the church heating system at an estimated cost of £66,000 and to apply to the General Trustees for a loan.

10.5 grant approval to Stockbridge to carry out access improvements, platform re-flooring, kitchen refitting, boiler replacement and boundary wall re-pointing at a total estimated cost of £220,000.

10.6 grant approval to Stenhouse St Aidan's to apply to the General Trustees for financial assistance of £3,300 to carry out an architect's feasibility study into hall upgrading.

10.7 grant approval, subject to satisfactory assurances on competitive tendering, to Pilrig St Paul's to replace the electrical distribution system and install a fire alarm system at an estimated cost of £29,290 and to apply to the General Trustees for release of funds from the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

10.8 grant approval to Richmond Craigmillar to request the release of £5655 from the General Trustees to cover the costs of work already carried out in the church buildings.

10.9 agree that in the cases of Portobello Old, Craiglockhart, Richmond Craigmillar and Stenhouse St Aidan's, which involve applications to the Central Fabric Fund, the proposed work is necessary and suitable, and that in the cases of Portobello Old and Craiglockhart, in the opinion of the Presbytery the level of the congregations' contributions is appropriate and they could service loans of the size sought.

11 MINISTRIES

The Convener, Rev James Dewar, gave in the Report.
(see Appendix 3)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

11.1 resolve that all log books kept by parish ministers be examined each year, to be submitted in a sealed envelope at the inspection of records time, the

inspection to be carried out by the Clerk and the Convener of the Ministries Committee and then returned to the minister, sealed; and instruct ministers to submit these log books accordingly.

11.2 further resolve that 2008 log books be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Clerk before 30th June 2009 for inspection, and instruct ministers to submit these log books accordingly.

11.3 resolve to meet to celebrate the completion of the academic studies and the start of the final placement by candidates for the Ministry at Palmerston Place Church on Sunday 28 June 2009 at 6.45pm for the service at 7.00pm and remit to the Clerk, Convener and moderator to make arrangements.

12 REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk gave in his report
(See Appendix 4)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:
The Presbytery

12.1 note the outline of his work from 1 January to 30 April 2009.

12.2 note intimation from the Solicitor of the Church of the issue of Unitary Constitutions to Stockbridge by the Delegation of Assembly.

12.3 grant permission to the congregation of Stenhouse St Aidan's to let in the first instance a flat owned by the congregation at 15/4 Meadowhouse Road, Corstorphine and to sell the flat if renting proves difficult.

12.4 note the appointment of the Rev Eric Foggitt as locum at Gilmerton New Charge from 8 June 2009.

13 ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery, having appointed to meet at Colinton Parish Church at 6.45pm on Thursday 14th May for the Induction of the Rev Rolf Billes and meet at Liberton Parish Church at 10.45am on 17th May for the Service of Linking of Kaimes Lockhart Memorial with Liberton, meeting also for the Candidates Service on 28th June at 6.45pm, adjourned to meet for ordinary business until Tuesday 30 June 2009 at 6.45pm in Palmerston Place Church.

Closed with prayer

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix 1 Children's Ministry Co-ordinator Report

The Business Committee became involved with the discussion about the Children's Ministry Co-ordinator after the dissolution of the Presbytery's Education Committee and the formation of the Mission and Discipleship Committee.

In the light of the discussion at the April Presbytery, a constructive and positive meeting was held with Mrs Margaret Grant and a contract was agreed which would continue the current position of Children's Ministry Co-ordinator for one year (with a few minor amendments noted for clarification in the deliverance), and that the Mission and Discipleship Committee should be instructed to review this area of important work as detailed in the deliverance. At the meeting with Mrs Grant it was accepted that the work in this area of the Presbytery's life needed considerable review to reflect the changing nature of work with children and families, and also to take into account the important work relating to Safeguarding.

Appendix 2 Property

Inspection of Properties and Records

The Committee commissions architects' reports on congregational buildings at a rate of about 15 a year. In principle, inspections should take place every 5 years, but on average they are a little less frequent, and some buildings have not been looked at for 7 or more years. Copies of the reports, which detail recommended repairs, are sent to congregations for their action. In general, the reports show that most congregations take good care of their properties and act on the architects' recommendations to carry out repairs. It can be difficult, however, for the Committee to monitor progress in between reports. We have been considering ways of improving this.

The Committee's other source of information about congregations' care of their properties is the annual inspection of property registers. Performance here has been patchy, with eight congregations this year apparently failing to submit their registers, and over 60% of the registers submitted being defective in some respect. There appears to be a widespread lack of understanding about what is being asked for, and why. The Committee proposes to issue further guidance to congregations well in advance of the 2010 register submission dates.

Portobello Old

Part of the church ceiling recently collapsed. The congregation seeks Presbytery approval to carry out repairs at an estimated cost of £49,981 (which we suggest be rounded to £50,000) including VAT and fees, and to apply to the General Trustees for release of £13,538 from the Consolidated Fabric Fund and a loan of up to £16,500 to be repaid from fundraising. The Committee, while noting that the Presbytery Plan provides for an eventual union or linking between Portobello

Old and Portobello St James', considers that the work is necessary to enable continued use of the church, and recommends approval.

Craiglockhart

The congregation seeks Presbytery approval to replace the existing church heating system (which is 40 years old) at an estimated cost of £66,000 including VAT and fees, and to apply to the General Trustees for a loan of up to £40,000 to be repaid from fundraising. The Committee recommends approval.

Stockbridge

The congregation seeks Presbytery approval to carry out access improvements, including disabled access, reflooring of the apse platform, refitting of the kitchen, replacement of the boiler and repointing of the boundary wall at a total cost of £220,000 including VAT and fees. The cost would be met from the congregation's own resources held in the Investors' Trust. The Committee recommends approval.

Stenhouse St Aidan's

The congregation seeks approval to apply to the General Trustees for financial assistance of £3,300 to carry out an architect's feasibility study into the upgrading of a hall to create a multi-purpose space for meetings, worship and outreach. The Committee recommends approval.

Pilrig St Paul's

The congregation seeks Presbytery approval for replacement of the electrical power distribution system, which does not meet current safety standards, and installation of a fire alarm system at a total cost of £29,290 including VAT and fees, and to apply to the General Trustees for the release of funds equalling this amount held for the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund. The Committee recommends approval, subject to confirmation that competitive tenders have been (or will be) obtained.

Appendix 3 Ministers' Log Books

The General Assembly of 2008 instructed presbyteries to inspect the Log books that are kept by Parish ministers. Ministers have been keeping log books for a number of years and presbyteries have generally not been diligent in this inspection. There are only two groups who have the right to inspect ministers' log books: Presbytery and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

The decision that Presbytery is being asked to make is not whether to inspect, but how to inspect. The Ministries Committee considered a number of options and the recommendation that we bring to Presbytery is that every parish minister's log book be inspected each year; the inspection will not focus on the detail of each minister's travel, but will seek to ensure that the log books are

being kept up to date and that monthly claims made for travel expenses are accurate and justifiable. This refers only to parish ministers; those in other posts already have other mechanisms in place for supervising their expenses claims.

Appendix 4 Report of the Clerk

This is an outline of my work since December under the headings set out in my Job Description.

Legal Processes –

- I have been involved in a variety of consultations including parish appraisal, manse provision, and discipline issues.
- attended Clerk's Forum with consultations on central IT provision, the Press Office and Panel on Review and Reform
- attended the Commission of Assembly

Administration –

- continuing (steep) learning process (shared with Presbytery Secretary) as we work our way through the annual cycle of business for the first time.
- implemented new form for minutes and Presbytery papers.
- office renovation almost completed
- organised four inductions/ordinations
- attended my six month appraisal meeting

Clerking –

- collating reports, drawing up agendas, keeping minutes, and acting as Clerk at meetings of the Presbytery

Presbytery Committees –

- close involvement with Superintendence, Deployment of Resources, Business, Property, Mission and Discipleship Committees and some of their task-specific sub-groups

Planning and Strategy

- meetings with conveners and committees;
- writing and presenting a discussion paper for the Business Committee entitled "Reviewing our Reviewing" looking at the interactions between Presbytery and congregations through the Deployment of Resources and Superintendence Committees
- exploring ways in which a new review process might be introduced
- writing and presenting a discussion paper for the Deployment of Resources Committee suggesting that the Presbytery Plan should be driven by a contextual understanding of mission.
- initiated a seminar for ministers and deacons on the "Credit Crunch"

Pastoral and Congregational Contacts

- met with the Presbytery Chaplains
- met with Ministries Council staff concerned with Pastoral Care
- visited 18 ministers
- worshipping on Sundays with different congregations
- conducted worship in several settings where the Minister needed time off
- represented Presbytery at Portobello Old's 200th anniversary celebration
- conducted the joint Maundy Thursday service at Craigsbank

Communications

- interaction with the Press Office in relation to Edinburgh news items
- forwarding to the Press Office items of interest from the Presbytery
- published the second edition of the Presbytery Newsletter

City, culture, other denominations

- met with the Methodist Superintendent for Edinburgh
- met with an Archdeacon from the Church of England to explore issues of pastoral care and congregational resourcing at a regional level.
- meetings with regard to the 2010 Mission Conference