

At Fort William, and within the hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, the fifth day of December 2006, at 7.00 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met and was constituted with prayer.

**1. SEDERUNT,
APOLOGIES &
WELCOME.**

1.1 Present were Mr John Fraser, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, 28 full members and 6 corresponding members of Presbytery. Names and apologies as per sederunt sheet.

1.2 The Moderator received and welcomed Readers: Andrew Chalkley, Robert Dick, John Fraser, John Maitland, Morag Muirhead, Geoff Thomas and Pat Walker; Reader in Training Mr Eric Walker; Other Preacher: the Rev Canon Gerald T. Kaye; Presbytery Child Protection Co-ordinator: Mrs Sallie Parrish; Presbyterial Council Representatives: Elizabeth Carmichael, Jean Coke and Margaret Varwell. The Moderator thanked them all for their service to Christ's Church and commended them to God's care.

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting of thirty first October 2006, being in the hands of members, were approved.

3. INTIMATIONS

Intimations were made.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The Presbytery Clerk presented forty two items of correspondence.

1. Ministries Council: Admission & Re-admission of Ministers. Rev Roy Cowieson. Referred to Ministry Committee.

2. Mr George Haggart: Insurance Conference. Clerk noted.

3 John K Thomson: Glencoe Hospital. Responses to Clerk's letters.

4 Church Solicitor: Trustee Indemnity Insurance. Clerk noted.

5 Parish Development Fund: Two Lochs Youth & Community Project. Response to Clerk's email.

6 Church Solicitor: Miss Helen Percy. Clerk noted.

7 Data Protection: Renewal Confirmation. Clerk noted.

8 Panel on Review & Reform: Consultation. Referred to Business Convener.

9 Clerk, Presbytery of Moray: Video/Teleconferencing. Referred to Business Committee.

10 Mr John Arnold: The proposed Church Hall at Arisaig and the upgrade of the manse at Mallaig. Clerk forwarded the various form to General Trustees.

11 Committee on Church Art & Architecture: letter forwarded by Mr John Arnold. Clerk noted.

12 Ministries Council: Final Preaching Assessment for Mr Eric Walker. Clerk forwarded to Mr Walker and to Ministry Convener.

13 Ministries Council: Voluntary Additional Payments. Forwarded to acting Finance Convener.

14 Bridge Builders: Conflict Training. Clerk noted.

15 General Trustees: Acharacle Church. Copy of letter to Session Clerk. Clerk noted.

16 General Trustees: Arisaig Church. Acknowledgement of receipt of extract minute.

17 Law Department: Scottish Charity Register. Clerk noted.

- 18 Parish Appraisal Committee: Extract Minute. Clerk noted.
- 19 Mission & Discipleship Council: Working with people with learning difficulties. Forwarded to Parish Ministers and Interim Moderators.
- 20 Ministries Council: No 36 under Ministries Council in the Remits to Presbyteries booklet. Clerk noted and forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.
- 21 General Trustees: Report on Diligence. Forwarded to Property Committee.
- 22 Mr John Fraser: Membership of the Acharacle & Ardnamurchan Nomination Committee. Clerk noted.
- 23 Depute Principal Clerk: Overture anent Superintendence of Congregations. Clerk noted.
Forwarded to Parish Ministers and Interim Moderators.
- 24 Chaplaincy Adviser Scottish Prison Service. Prisoners' Week. Forwarded to Parish Ministers and Interim Moderators.
- 25 Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Receipt of accounts. Clerk noted.
- 26 Mrs Morag Muirhead: Letter of thanks. Referred to Business Committee.
- 27 Church Solicitor: Trustee Indemnity Insurance. Clerk noted.
- 28 Rev Alison Burnside: Two Lochs Youth Project. Intimation of award.
- 29 Stewardship & Finance Committee: Attestation of 2006 Accounts. Clerk noted.
- 30 Ministries Council: Interim Ministry to Arisaig l/w Mallaig. Forwarded to Ministry Committee and Interim Moderator.
- 31 Church & Society Council: Church Representatives. Forwarded to Mission & Outreach Committee.
- 32 Capt. Keith Denison on behalf of the Treasurer of Acharacle Church: Presbytery Dues. Clerk replied and referred to the Business Committee.
- 33 Acharacle, Session Clerk: Let of Manse. Clerk wrote to General Trustees.
- 34 Church of Scotland Trust: Strontian & Morvern. Clerk replied and forwarded to Session Clerk, Morvern.
- 35 Ministries Council: Sick notes. Clerk noted.
- 36 General Treasurers Dept: Allocations. Clerk forwarded to Interim Finance Convener.
- 37 Capt. Keith Denison: Presbytery Dues. Clerk replied.
- 38 Session Clerk Kilmonivaig: Voluntary Additional Payment. Forwarded to Finance Committee.
- 39 Acharacle, Session Clerk: Presbytery Dues; Vacancy Schedule; Let of manse. Clerk noted.
- 40 Acharacle, Session Clerk: Let of Manse. Forwarded to Property Committee.
- 41 Mission & Discipleship Council: General Assembly Youth Representation. Forwarded to Mission & Outreach Committee.
- 42 Jonelle McLellan: Offer of Locumship. Clerk to write to Ministries Council and to Mrs McLellan.

5. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Convener, the Rev Alan Ramsay, reported.
It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery: Business

5.1 Approve the Order of Business as circulated.

Nomination

5.2 Invite a speaker from Lochaber Presbyterial Council to address the February 2007 Presbytery meeting.

6. REPORT OF THE MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Rev Alison Burnside, Convener of the Mission & Outreach Committee, reported

6.1 The Two Lochs Youth & Community Project has been awarded a grant of £42,000 over three years from the Parish Development Fund.

6.2 Reply has now been received from World Mission arising from an extract minute sent to them from the Presbytery Meeting of 31st October 2006 (Sections 8.1 to 8.5) following the Presbytery visit by Ms Noreen Shagufta.

6.3 Invitation has been received to nominate an 18 to 25 year old as the Youth Representative from this Presbytery for the 2007 General Assembly.

6.4.1 The Board of NHS Highland met today and voted unanimously to close Glencoe Hospital as soon as clinically sound arrangements for the patients currently in Glencoe Hospital are in place.

6.4.2 The Clerk moved the motion: -

“Presbytery affirms its support to the Rev Alison Burnside as Chaplain to Glencoe Hospital over this transitional period for the hospital.” This motion was seconded and agreed.

6.4.3 The suggestion was made from the floor that Presbytery should assign a minister or reader to be Chaplain to all Care Homes and Day Centres within the Presbytery. The Clerk agreed to ask the Business Committee to consider this.

7. REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr George Haggart, Convener of the Property Committee, reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

7.1 Approve the letting out of Acharacle Manse on a short lease with the proviso that the necessary agreements and manse safety assurances satisfy the General Trustees.

7.2 Approve the immediate sale of the MacIntosh Memorial Church and Hall.

8. REPORT OF THE APPRAISAL & MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, Convener of the Appraisal & Ministry Committee, reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

Ardgour, Morvern & Strontian

8.1 Receive the report of the congregational meetings in Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian.

8.2.1 In view of the varied views of the future of ministry within the parishes of Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian, resolve to call a joint meeting of the congregations to consider the way forward.

8.2.2 Prior to the meeting referred to in 8.2.1, collate the following information regarding property and finance in these parishes:

8.2.2.1 Detailed information about the value of the Morvern Manse and the cost of upgrading this building – to be collated by the Morvern congregation;

8.2.2.2 Establish the legal status of the Ardgour Manse – to be collated by the Clerk. The Clerk requested that parties with any new or relevant information should forward it to him;

8.2.2.3 Investigate the potential costs of providing a manse in Strontian – the Property committee to collate;

8.2.2.4 Produce a report on the financial situation of the three congregations – the Finance Committee to collate.

Presbytery Plan

8.3 Submit to the Assembly Appraisal Committee the Draft Presbytery Plan as modified (Appendix 1) for concurrence, less that section of the Plan concerning the congregations of Ardgour, Strontian and Morvern.

Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber

8.4 Confirm its decision of 6th June 2006 (Section 3.8.1) to grant a full and Unrestricted Call to the vacant charge of Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber and transmit this confirmation to the Assembly Appraisal Committee requesting a fast response.

Glencoe I/w Duror

8.5 Confirm its decision of 25th April 2006 that the charge of Glencoe St. Munda's linked with Duror should be upgraded to a Full Charge with no restrictions and transmit this confirmation to the Assembly Appraisal Committee requesting a fast response.

9. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Rev Dr Ruth Lawson, Convener of the Finance Committee, reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

9.1 Receive and approve the Budget for Presbytery Income and Expenditure for 2006/07 showing a total projected Expenditure of £5,871 against which Income from Investments is projected at £560 and contributions from Presbytery Dues is £5,311 – Appendix 2.

9.2 Approve the Presbytery Dues as detailed in the attached schedule - Appendix 3.

9.3 Not undertake to pay travel costs for non-assigned members to attend Presbytery meetings or its committees but agree to consider any individual claims for special consideration.

9.4 Approve the additional discretionary allowances for 2006 as follows: - Kinlochleven 5%, £524; Nether Lochaber 5%, £435 (this brings Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber into line with other vacant charges which also received a discretionary allowance of 5 %); Macintosh Memorial £500; Kilmallie £541.

9.5 Approve the Ministry and Mission Allocations and the distribution of Presbytery's discretionary allowance as detailed in Appendix 4.

9.6 Approve the continued payment of Voluntary Additional Payments by Duncansburgh and Kilmonivaig Congregations to their minister.

9.7 Note that it is hoped that the Committee will bring to Presbytery at the February 2007 meeting a nomination for the position of Presbytery Treasurer.

10. VACANCIES

5th December 2006

Arisaig I/w Mallaig

10.1 The Clerk asked Presbytery to note that he is pursuing the question of the desirability of the placement of an Interim Ministry into this charge.

Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan

10.2 The Interim Moderator, Mr John Fraser, reported that the Advisory Committee, the Rev Alan Ramsay, Mr Melville Paton and Mr Alex Sandilands, had met with the Nominating Committee.

Ardgour I/w Strontian

10.3 The Clerk intimated the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee that the Rev Alan Lamb should be appointed at Interim Moderator. This was intimated to the congregations on 5th November 2006 and no request for consideration by Presbytery had been received.

10.4.1 An offer of a three month locumship has been received from Mrs Jonelle McLellan of Alberta, Canada. The Clerk is pursuing this both with Mrs McLellan and the Ministries Council.

10.4.2 As Mrs McLellan is not a Church of Scotland minister, Presbytery agreed to concur with the appointment should local parties agree to it.

Morvern

10.5 The Interim Moderator reported that the congregation was keen to start to make progress with their vacancy.

Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber

10.6 The Session Clerk of Nether Lochaber, Mrs Jean Coke, informed the meeting that their congregation was becoming very frustrated with the lack of progress in the vacancy procedures.

10.7.1 The Business Convener, the Rev Alan Ramsay, requested that Presbytery should form a committee to discuss the delay in making progress with the vacancies in the Presbytery directly with the Appraisal Committee. This was agreed.

10.7.2 The Clerk was given powers to form the committee requested in 10.7.1.

11. OVERTURE

Overture Anent Superintendence of Congregations.

The Clerk outlined the background to this Overture and proposed the Motion that "Presbytery approves the Overture Anent Superintendence of Congregations". Approval for the Overture as it stood in the Remits booklet was given by 27 votes for approval and 0 votes for disapproval. With reference to item of Correspondence number twenty three from the Depute Principal Clerk, approval for the Overture as it stood in the Remits booklet, as if it referred to the same sentence in section seven instead, was given by 27 votes for approval and 0 votes for disapproval.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 6th February 2007 within the Hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, Fort William at 7.00 pm.