

At Fort William, and within Duncansburgh Parish Church, the sixth day of June 2006, at 6.30 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met and was constituted with prayer.

1. COMMUNION & INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR

1.1 The retiring Moderator, the Rev Archie Speirs, conducted worship and preached. He welcomed the new Moderator, Mr John Fraser, whom he installed with prayer. The Rev Donald MacQuarrie celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion with Presbytery and others present.

1.2 Service being ended, Presbytery resumed in open court for ordinary business.

1.3 The Clerk expressed thanks to all participants in the service.

2. SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES, WELCOME & ROLL OF PRESBYTERY.

2.1 Present were Mr John Fraser, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, twenty three full members and one corresponding members of Presbytery. Names and apologies as per sederunt sheet.

2.2. Visitors were welcomed by the Moderator.

Elders' Commissions

2.3.1 Elders' Commissions for 2006/07 had been received from all congregations within the bound.

2.3.2 Presbytery noted that Mrs June Cairns was to be replaced as the Presbytery Elder for the congregation of Arisaig & the Small Isles for next session. The Moderator thanked her for the work she had undertaken for Presbytery during her four years as Presbytery Elder.

2.3.3 Presbytery noted that Mrs Margaret Patten was to be replaced as the Presbytery Elder for the congregation of Fort Augustus for next session. The Moderator thanked her for the work she had undertaken for Presbytery during her seven years as Presbytery Elder.

3. CALL TO THE REV ARCHIE SPEIRS

3.1 The Clerk intimated that the congregations of Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber had been cited to attend.

Call

3.2 Clerk laid on the table an Extract Minute from the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley dated the ninth day of May 2006 sustaining the Call from the Congregation of Port Glasgow, St. Martins in the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley to the Rev Archie Speirs, minister of Kinlochleven linked with Nether Lochaber.

Parties

3.3 Parties from Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber were called and invited to speak. Mrs Eleanor Halliday, the Session Clerk of Kinlochleven Church and Mrs Jean Coke, the Session Clerk of Nether Lochaber Church, paid tribute to Mr Speir's ministry, thanked him and wished him well. They agreed to the Call to their minister. Parties were removed.

Decision

3.4 There being no objection to the Call to the Rev Archie Speirs, Presbytery, having judged the papers to be in order and having heard parties, resolved unanimously to agree to his translation. Mr Speirs, when asked if he accepted the Call, replied that he did so.

Judgment

3.5 Parties were recalled and informed of the Presbytery's decision to translate. Mr Speirs thanked his congregation and fellow Presbyters.

Extract Minute

3.6 The forgoing minute was taken as read and was approved. The Clerk was instructed to send an Extract Minute to the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley. It was noted that the proposed date of Induction was Friday the twenty third day of June 2006 at 7.30 pm within the church of Port Glasgow: St Martins.

Interim Moderator

3.7 The Presbytery Clerk intimated that the Vacancy Procedure Committee proposed that the Rev William Burnside be appointed as Interim Moderator.

Permission to Call

3.8.1 Presbytery, in the light of the decision on the twenty fifth day of April 2006, granted Permission to the charge of Kinlochleven linked with Nether Lochaber for an Unrestricted Call, under Act IV 1984, subject to the following provisos:

- 1) that no shortfalls exist which require consideration in terms of section nine of Act VIII, 2003;
- 2) approval of the vacancy schedule;
- 3) a satisfactory inspection of the manse.

3.8.2 Presbytery noted that approval under Act VII, 2003 had still to be given by the Assembly Appraisal Committee to the Draft Presbytery Plan, which had been agreed by Presbytery on the twenty fifth day of April 2006, and that this decision to grant Permission to Call was subject to concurrence by that Committee.

4. MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting of twenty eighth March 2006 and twenty fifth April 2006, being in the hands of members, were approved.

5. INTIMATIONS

Intimations were made.

6. SPEAKER

Mr Colin Carmichael of Scripture Union (Highland) gave a talk. The Moderator thanked him.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Presbytery Clerk presented forty one items of correspondence.

7.1 Ministries Council: Admission & Readmission of Ministers. **Referred to the Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**

7.2 Mission & Discipleship Council: Disability Discrimination Act. **Clerk to write to congregations who have not responded to the Working Group.**

7.3 Mission & Discipleship Council: Request for information regarding Presbytery Contacts. **Clerk responded.**

7.4 Scottish Charity Regulator: One Day Conference. **Clerk noted.**

7.5 Mission & Discipleship Council: Conference on the Rural Church. **Referred to the Mission & Outreach Committee.**

7.6 Church of Scotland Insurance Co Ltd: Details of Building Insurance, **Referred to Property Committee.**

7.7 Treasurer Mallaig: Manse running costs. **Clerk replied.**

- 7.8 General Trustees: Church Building Conference. **Referred to the Property Committee.**
- 7.9 Ministries Council: Change of Personnel at Parish Appraisal. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**
- 7.10 Ministries Finance: Hospital Chaplaincy at Glencoe. **Clerk replied with copy to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**
- 7.11 Ministries Council: Reader in Training Morag Muirhead. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministries Committee.**
- 7.12 Ministries Council: Reader in Training Pat Walker. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministries Committee.**
- 7.13 Youth For Christ: Newsletter. **Forwarded to Mission & Outreach Committee.**
- 7.14 Church Solicitor: Historic Buildings – LPOW Grant Scheme. **Forwarded to Property & Finance Committees.**
- 7.15 Industrial Mission Association: Information Booklet. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**
- 7.16 Presbytery Ministries Committee: Vacancy Schedule for Arisaig I/w Mallaig. **Referred for consideration by the Vacancy Procedure Committee.**
- 7.17 Clerk of Arisaig Congregational Board: Mallaig Manse. **Referred for consideration by the Property Committee.**
- 7.18 General Trustees: Arisaig & Mallaig. **Forwarded to Interim Moderator, Mr John Arnold and Presbytery Property Committee.**
- 7.19 Andrew Muirhead: Lochaber Local Plan. **Forwarded to Mission & Outreach Committee.**
- 7.20 Ministries Support Officer: Accommodation for Janet Anderson. **Clerk Replied.**
- 7.21 Rev William Burnside: Request for renewal of Practising Certificate. **Referred to Business Committee.**
- 7.22 Greenbank Parish Church: Youth Group Summer Project. **Forwarded to Ministers.**
- 7.23 Session Clerk, Acharacle: Planning Permission. **Clerk replied and forwarded to Property Committee.**
- 7.24 Ministries Council: Interim Ministry. **Referred to Appraisal & Ministry and Business Committees.**
- 7.25 Tearfund: Offer of Speaker. **Referred to Business Committee and Clerk replied.**
- 7.26 Ministries Support Officer: Enquiry and Assessment Process. **Forwarded to Ministers and referred to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**
- 7.27 Mr John Arnold: Comments made at the Presbytery Meeting on 25th April 2006. **Forwarded to Business Committee and Clerk replied.**
- 7.28 Mr John Arnold: Comments made at the Presbytery Meeting on 25th April 2006. **Forwarded to Business Committee and Clerk replied.**
- 7.29 General Trustees: Manse Adjudication Committee Guidelines. **Clerk retained for reference.**
- 7.30 Ministries Accountant: Locum Appointments. **Forwarded to Ministers.**
- 7.31 Parish Appraisal Committee: Extract of Minute. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**
- 7.32 Law Department: Water Charges Exemption Scheme. **Forwarded to Finance Committee.**

- 7.33 Ministries Council: Records of Readers. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.**
- 7.34 Ministries Council: Pat Walker. **Forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee and copy sent to Mrs Walker.**
- 7.35 Ministries Council: Morag Muirhead. . **Referred to Appraisal & Ministry and Business Committees.**
- 7.36 Clerk of Greenock & Paisley Presbytery: Call to the Rev Archie Speirs. **Forwarded to Business Committee.**
- 7.37 Rev Alan Lamb: Retired Ministers in Presbytery. **Forwarded to Business Committee and then referred to Finance Committee.**
- 7.38 Law Department: OSCR Consent to change of name. **For information of Clerk.**
- 7.39 Ministries Council: Consultations. **Forwarded to Business Committee and Clerk replied.**
- 7.40 Scottish Bible Society: Visit. **For information of Clerk.**
- 7.41 Mission & Discipleship Council: Rural Matters. **Forwarded to Mission & Outreach Committee.**

8. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Convener, the Rev A. Ann Winning, reported. It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

Business

- 8.1 Approve the Order of Business as circulated.
- 8.2.1 Receive Assembly Diligence from Mrs Sallie Parrish.
- 8.2.2 The Moderator thanked Mrs Parrish for her report.
- 8.3 Issue a Practising Certificate to the Rev William Burnside.
- 8.4.1 Amend the first sentence of Article One of the Terms and Conditions of Appointment of the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson (Appendix I, 7th June 2005) to read: "Assignment of the Rev. Dr Ruth Lawson as Auxiliary Minister from 6th June 2006 to 6th June 2009."
- 8.4.2 Change the word "Kilmallie" in Article Eight of the Terms and Conditions of Appointment of the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson (Appendix I, 7th June 2005) to read "Duncansburgh".
- 8.4.3 Note that in all other respects the Terms and Conditions of Appointment of the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson (Appendix I, 7th June 2005) remain unchanged.
- 8.5 Note that all records not presented for inspection prior to the March 2006 meeting had now been inspected.

Nomination

- 8.6 Admit to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2006/07 as Additional Elders – Mrs Jean Coke, Mr John Fraser, Mrs Sallie Parrish and Mrs Margaret Varwell.
- 8.7.1 Admit to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2006/07 as Corresponding Members all Readers and Readers Emeritus.
- 8.7.2 Admit to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2006/07 as Corresponding Member Mrs Elizabeth Carmichael as representative from Lochaber Presbyterial Guild.
With reference to Presbytery Standing Order number twenty two, the Clerk reminded Presbytery of General Assembly Standing Order number thirty three regarding the status of Corresponding Members.
- 8.8 Appoint Presbytery Committee Conveners for session 2006/07: Business – Rev Alan Ramsay; Appraisal & Ministry – Rev Dr Adrian Varwell; Finance – Rev Dr Ruth Lawson;

Mission & Outreach – Rev Alison Burnside; and Property – Mr George Haggart.

8.9 Appoint as additional member of Business Committee for session 2006/07 – Mrs Lin Ramsay.

8.10 Co-opt to the Business Committee for session 2006/07 the Rev Donald MacQuarrie and the Rev Dr Richard Corbett.

8.11 Note that this is the last meeting where the Rev A. Ann Winning is acting as Business Convener, a position she has held since March 2003. The Moderator and Clerk thanked her for her work as Convener.

9. REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

9.1 Approve the extension and modifications to the Mallaig Manse, as shown in Appendix I, at a total estimated cost of £74,000.

9.2 Approve the submission of a Planning Application and preparation of tender documents and obtaining tenders.

9.3 Withhold acceptance of the preferred tender until source of funding had been confirmed.

10. 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:

10.1 Invite the national Appraisal Committee to consider the ministry needs of a three-way linkage between Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian, in the light of representations made at an informal meeting held on 17 May 2006.

10.2 Note that Mr Eric Walker is undertaking his final placement as Reader-in-Training at Fort Augustus and Glengarry.

10.3 Note that Mrs Morag Muirhead and Mrs Pat Walker have recently received preaching assessments at the conclusion of their readership training and should be eligible to be set apart by Presbytery later this year.

11. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

11.1 Note that a meeting of Congregational Treasurers had taken place on 13th May 2006.

11.2 Note that there was still some possibility of obtaining assistance via the discretionary allowance and that any congregation wanting to plead a special case should submit this to the Finance Convener in writing by end of July 2006.

12. REPORT OF THE MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mrs Lin Ramsay, Vice-Convener of the Mission & Outreach Committee, reported.

It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

12.1 Convey sympathy and good wishes to our former Missionary Partner Miss Jane Petty.

12.2 Convey greetings to Ms Gwen Thompson of the World

Ministry Council in Jerusalem via the Readers in our Presbytery who are about to attend a conference with her.

12.3.1 Agree to host Ms Noreen Shagufta during her visit to the Presbytery from 20th September to 20th October 2006.

12.3.2 Welcome Ms Shagufta into the work of congregations during that period and, as she is a teacher by profession, seek to establish opportunities for her to have input into local schools.

12.4.1 Receive a report from the Rev Archie Speirs on the youth community project in Kinlochleven.

12.4.2 Support the application for funding to the Parish Development Fund, and other potential sources of funding, for the Two Lochs Youth & Community Project.

13. VACANCIES

Arisaig I/w Mallaig

13.1 The Clerk reported that in terms of Act VIII, 2003 he had sent Schedule A intimating the decision of the meeting of the Vacancy Procedure Committee on twenty eighth March 2006 to the then locum at Mallaig & Arisaig to be read on ninth April 2006 proposing the appointment of the Rev Dr Richard Corbett as Interim Moderator. It would seem that the schedule had not been read to the congregations. Consequently a new schedule to this effect had been intimated to the congregations on fourth June 2006.

13.2 Presbytery granted to the charge of Arisaig & the Small Isles I/w Mallaig St. Columba's with Knoydart a further three month extension to their right to call.

Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan

13.3 Presbytery, in the light of the decision on the twenty fifth day of April 2006, granted Permission to the charge of Acharacle linked with Ardnamurchan an Unrestricted Call, under Act IV 1984, subject to the following provisos:

- 1) that no shortfalls exist which require consideration in terms of section nine of Act VIII, 2003;
- 2) approval of the vacancy schedule;
- 3) a satisfactory inspection of the manse.

13.4 Presbytery noted that approval under Act VII, 2003 had still to be given by the Assembly Appraisal Committee to the Draft Presbytery Plan, which had been agreed by Presbytery on the twenty fifth day of April 2006, and that this decision to grant Permission to Call was subject to concurrence by that Committee.

Ardgour I/w Strontian

13.5 The Interim Moderator, the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson, asked Presbytery to note her appreciation for the granting of more time for further consideration of the appraisal issues in this charge at the Presbytery Meeting on 25th April 2006.

13.6 The Interim Moderator thanked the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, for his continuing work and support to the congregations.

Morvern

13.7 The Presbytery Clerk intimated that the Vacancy Procedure Committee proposed that the Rev Donald MacQuarrie be appointed as Interim Moderator with immediate effect. Intimation of this proposal to be on Sunday 11th June 2006.

13.8 The Rev Archie Speirs expressed his appreciation of the support that he had received from the congregation while acting as Interim Moderator.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet for Ordinary Business on Tuesday the fifth day of September 2006 in Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, Fort William at 7.00 pm.

Closed with prayer

9.30 pm

.....Moderator

.....Clerk