

At Fort William, and within the Hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, the fourth day of September 2007, at 6.00 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met and was constituted with prayer.

1. **SEDERUNT, APOLOGIES, WELCOME, ROLL, TRIBUTES & APPRECIATION**
 - 1.1 Present were the Rev A. Ann Winning, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, plus twenty eight full members and three corresponding members of Presbytery.
 - 1.2 Names and apologies as per sederunt sheet.
 - 1.3 The Moderator welcomed all present including the Rev Alastair Cherry, immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow, who brought greetings from the Presbytery of Glasgow.
 - 1.4 Mr George Haggart was admitted to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2007/08 as an Additional Elder.
 - 1.5.1 Tribute was paid to the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson.
 - 1.5.2 Tribute was paid to the Rev Alan Davies.
 - 1.6.1 The Moderator thanked the Rev Alan Ramsay for his forty years of service to his Congregation and to the Presbytery.
 - 1.6.2 The Rev James Carmichael gave an appreciation of the Ministry of the Rev Alan Ramsay.
2. **ORDER OF BUSINESS** Presbytery approved the Order of Business as circulated.
3. **MINUTES** Minutes of the previous meetings of 5th June 2007, 31st July 2007 and 2nd September 2007, being in the hands of members, were approved.
4. **INTIMATIONS** Intimations were made.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE** The Presbytery Clerk presented fifty five items of correspondence (Appendix I).
6. **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

The Business Convener, the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell, reported. It was moved, seconded and agreed-

The Presbytery:

Business

 - 6.1 In terms of Standing Order Number Eight, inform Presbytery of the appointment of the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell as Business Convener.
 - 6.2 Approve the delegation of General Assembly Overtures (Appendix II).
 - 6.3 Receive without alteration the Sederunt Sheet for Session 2006/07 as distributed (Appendix III).
 - 6.4 Thank Mrs Mabel Wallace and Mrs Pat MacQuarrie for their assistance in the preparation of the Presbytery Year Book.

Nomination

 - 6.5 Note that the Kirk Sessions of Glencoe St. Munda, Duror, Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber have concurred with the decision to assign the Rev David M. Anderson as Auxiliary Minister (Section 8.5 of 5th June 2007) and further note that he has commenced his work in the Assignment.
 - 6.6 Concur with the Business Committee decision of 9th July 2007 (Item 9.3) to appoint the Rev David M. Anderson as Appraisal Working Group Convener.
 - 6.7.1 Appoint the Rev A. Ann Winning as Presbytery Pastoral Adviser.

6.7.2 Thank the Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his many years of diligent service in that role.

6.8 Appoint Miss Janet Anderson, DCS, as the Presbytery Mission & Discipleship Council Rep.

6.9 Appoint Mrs Pat MacQuarrie as Church & Society Council Representative.

6.10 Appoint Mrs Sallie Parrish as Social Care Contact.

Superintendence

6.11 Note that there will be no Five Yearly Presbytery Visits this year.

Vacancy Procedure Committee

6.12 Note that the decision of the Vacancy Procedure Committee on 9th July 2007 to appoint the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell as Interim Moderator for Morvern has been intimated before the congregation and no requests for consideration have been received.

6.13 Note that Mr John Fraser has taken on the role of Pastoral Locum to Morvern.

6.14 Note that the Ministries Council has extended the two day locumship at Acharacle and Ardnamurchan for a further six month period.

6.15 Note that the Vacancy Schedule for Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber has been approved by the Vacancy Procedure Committee and has been transmitted to the Ministries Council.

7. REPORTS FROM THE WORKING GROUPS

Appraisal

7.1 The Convener of the Appraisal Working Group (WG), the Rev David Anderson reported – Appendix IV.

Finance

7.2 The Joint Convener of the Finance WG, Mr Alex Sandilands reported – Appendix V.

Ministries

7.3.1 The Joint Convener of the Ministries WG, Mrs Jean Coke reported and moved the deliverance which was seconded and agreed: -

The Presbytery

7.3.2.1 Note that the Ministries Working Group has received a statement of deployment from each Reader.

7.3.2.2 Thank all Readers for their considerable commitment of time and effort.

7.3.3.1 Note that the Rev Peter Rae and the Rev Canon Gerald Kaye have offered their assistance to the Rev Donald MacQuarrie and to the congregation of Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh which has been warmly accepted.

7.3.3.2 Thank the Rev Peter Rae and the Rev Canon Gerald Kaye for their work in assisting the Rev Donald MacQuarrie.

Property

7.4 The Convener of the Property WG, Mr George Haggart reported, Appendix VI, and moved the deliverance which was seconded and agreed: -

The Presbytery

7.4.1 Approve the immediate sale of the Lochaline Manse plus all the ground belonging to it.

Safeguarding

7.5 The Convener of the Safeguarding WG, Mrs Sallie Parrish,

reported that it is hoped that a training day for all Co-ordinators and Volunteers will be held some during February or March 2008.

**8. REPORTS ON
VACANT
CONGREGATIONS**

Arisaig I/w Mallaig

The Interim Minister, the Rev John C. Christie reported – Appendix VII.

Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan

No report

Ardgour I/w Strontian

The Interim Moderator, the Rev Alan Lamb reported that the congregations were in good heart and also reported on recent Pulpit Supply arrangements.

Morvern

No report

Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber

The Interim Moderator, the Rev A. Ann Winning, reported that a Nominating Committee had been elected, their Parish Profile prepared and advertisements placed. She also reported on recent services in the congregations.

**9. SPECIAL
COMMISSION ON
STRUCTURE &
CHANGE**

The Clerk presented the *Report to Presbyteries* as prepared by the Commission on Structure and Change and invited responses to be sent to him for forwarding to the Commission before the end of September 2007.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet for ordinary business on Tuesday 30th October 2007 in Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, at 6.00 pm.

Closed with prayer

7.46 pm

.....Moderator

.....Clerk

APPENDIX I

Correspondence presented to the meeting of Presbytery of Lochaber on 4th Sept 2007

- 1 Ministries Council: Rev Miriam Gross. Admission of Ministers. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 2 Ministries Council: Extract Minute – second day locum at Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan. Clerk noted.
- 3 The Church of Scotland Trust: Union of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh. Forwarded to the Rev Donald MacQuarrie for answer.
- 4 Rev William Burnside: Request for Practicing Certificate. Clerk forwarded to Presbytery.
- 5 Ministries Support Officer: Potential Church Assessors. Clerk forwarded to Ministers.
- 6 Rev Dr Norman Maciver: Services in Gaelic. Clerk replied.
- 7 Ministries Council: Requests for locums. Clerk noted.
- 8 General Treasurers Dept: Annual Accounts update. Forwarded to Finance WG.
- 9 Mission & Discipleship Council: Children’s Assembly. Forwarded to Ministers.

4th September 2007

- 10 Law Department: Charitable Status of Presbyteries. Forwarded to Finance WG.
- 11 Session Clerk, Duror: Assignment of Auxiliary Minister. Clerk noted.
- 12 Convener, Rural Strategy Team: Well Asian Advice and Information Centre. Forwarded to Ministers.
- 13 The Church of Scotland Trust: Tax Position of Presbyteries. Forwarded to Finance WG.
- 14 Depute Principal Clerk: Ardgour/Morvern/Strontian. Forwarded to Appraisal WG.
- 15 Principal Clerk: Voting at a congregational meeting. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 16 Session Clerk, Kinlochleven: Assignment of Auxiliary Minister. Clerk noted.
- 17 The Church of Scotland Trust: Union of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh. Forwarded to the Rev Donald MacQuarrie for answer.
- 18 Secretary, Ministries Council Planning and Deployment: Ardgour / Morvern / Strontian. Clerk noted.
- 19 Session Clerk, Glencoe: Assignment of Auxiliary Minister. Clerk noted.
- 20 Mr Callan Wilson: Appraisal Meeting in Strontian. Clerk Replied.
- 21 National Manager Tearfund: Global Poverty Prayer Week. Intimation to Presbytery.
- 22 Rev Alan Lamb: Vacancies at Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian. Forwarded to Business Committee and Appraisal WG.
- 23 Session Clerk, Morvern: Position of Interim Moderator to Morvern. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 24 Copy of letter to Congregational Treasurers. Clerk noted.
- 25 The Church of Scotland Trust: Union of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh. Clerk replied.
- 26 Mr Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber: Acknowledgement of letter from Clerk. Clerk noted.
- 27 Session Clerk, Nether Lochaber: Assignment of Auxiliary Minister. Clerk noted.
- 28 Rev Peter Rae, Joint Ministries WG Convener: Vacancy Schedule for Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber. Clerk forwarded to Vacancy Procedure Committee.
- 29 Church Solicitor: The Charities References in Documents (Scotland) Regulations 2007. Forwarded to Ministers, Interim Moderators and Finance W.G.
- 30 Church Solicitor: Further to 29. Forwarded to Ministers, Interim Moderators and Finance W.G.
- 31 Church Solicitor: Lets of Churches and Church Halls. Forwarded to Ministers & Interim Moderators.
- 32 Ministries Council: Local Ordained Ministry. Forwarded to Ministries WG.
- 33 Ministries Council: Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan. Approval of second day locum for a further six months. Clerk noted.
- 34 Interim Minister, Arisaig I/w Mallaig. Sale of Manse. Moderator to call a pro re nata Presbytery meeting to deal with it.
- 35 Ministries Council: Potential Assessors. Forwarded to Nomination Committee and Ministers.
- 36 The Church of Scotland Trust: Union of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh. Forwarded to the Rev Donald MacQuarrie and Finance WG.
- 37 Rev Alan Lamb: Report and Minutes from the Joint Kirk Session meeting in Strontian on 19th July 2007. Clerk replied and forwarded to the Appraisal WG.
- 38 Morvern Congregational Board: Request to sell the Morvern Manse. Clerk replied to Session Clerk and Interim Moderator.
- 39 Ministries Council: Outstanding payments to Central Funds. Clerk wrote to Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.
- 40 Rev Alan Lamb: Response to the Clerk's reply to 37.
- 41 Mr John Arnold: Copy of letter of resignation from Congregational Board. Clerk noted.
- 42 General Trustees: Morvern. Forwarded to Interim Moderator and Session Clerk.
- 43 The Church of Scotland Trust: Union of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh. Forwarded to the Rev Donald MacQuarrie and the Finance WG.
- 44 Rev Dr Adrian Varwell: Morvern. Clerk noted.
- 45 Church Solicitor: Charities – references in document regulations. Forwarded to all Presbytery members on email.
- 46 Ministries Council: Rev David Dobby – application for transfer of ministerial status. Clerk forwarded to Business Committee.
- 47 Ministries Council: Travelling Expenses – outstanding payment by Morvern. Clerk forwarded to Business Committee.

48 Session Clerk, Acharacle – response to Clerk’s letter regarding Corresp. 39. Clerk noted.
 49 General Treasurer: Copy of letter to Congregational Treasurers. Forwarded to Finance WG.
 50 CrossReach: Briefing paper. Clerk noted.
 51 Rev Alan Lamb: Appraisal in the Peninsula. Clerk noted.
 52 Session Clerk, Acharacle – response to letter from Clerk regarding appraisal in Ardnamurchan. Clerk noted.
 52 Interim Moderator, Morvern: Sale of the Manse. Forwarded to Property WG.
 53 Council Secretary Ministries Council: Outstanding Payments at for Acharacle. Clerk noted.
 54 General Trustees: Arisaig Manse. Clerk replied.
 55 Ministries Council: Training for Elders as Interim Moderators. Clerk forwarded to Ministers and Nomination Committee.

APPENDIX II

REMITTS TO PRESBYTERY FOR SESSION 2007/08

(Page numbers in this section refer to the white “Remits” booklet)

OVERTURES UNDER THE BARRIER ACT

Overture Amending Act V 2007 Anent Discrimination (P3)

The Presbytery Clerk to bring this to the Presbytery meeting on December 4th 2007.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PRESBYTERY

Council of Assembly (P4) – Remitted to the Presbytery Clerk

Church & Society Council (P4) – Remitted to the Church & Society Council Rep.

Ministries Council (P5) – Remitted to the Ministries WG – Report to meeting on October 30th 2007.

Assembly Arrangements Committee (P7) – Remitted to the Mission WG

Special Commission (P7) – Remitted to the Presbytery Clerk

Ecumenical Relations (P7) – Remitted to the Ecumenical Facilitator

Safeguarding Committee (P7) – Remitted to the Safeguarding WG

Stewardship and Finance Committee (P7) – Remitted to Finance WG

World Mission Council (P7) – Remitted to the Mission WG

HIV/AIDS Project (P8) – Remitted to the Mission WG

Church Without Walls Celebration Group (P8) – Remitted to Ministries WG

General Trustees (P8) – Remitted to Finance WG

Panel on Review & Reform (P8) – Remitted to Business Convener

Parish Development Fund (P8) – Remitted to the Rev Alison Burnside

APPENDIX III

Sederunt of the Presbytery of Lochaber Session 2006/2007

P = Present A = Apologies 0 = Neither

	Name	Date 2006					Date 2007					
		5 Sep	8 Sep	8 Oct	31 Oct	5 Dec	6 Feb	18 Feb	27 Mar	1 May	27 May	5 Jun
M	David Anderson	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
M	Alison Burnside	P	A	A	P	P	A	0	0	P	A	P
M	William Burnside	A	A	A	A	A	A	0	0	A	A	A
M	James Carmichael	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	A	P	0	P
M	John Christie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P
M	Alan Cobain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
M	Richard Corbett	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
M	Alan Lamb	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	P	P	P	P
M	Ruth Lawson	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
M	Heather Olsen	0	0	0	P	A	P	0	A	A	0	0
M	Donald MacQuarrie	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	P
M	Peter Rae	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	A
M	Alan Ramsay	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
M	Adrian Varwell	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
M	A. Ann Winning	A	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
D	Janet Anderson	P	P	0	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A
D	Jamesina Beaton	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	0	A
E	Bridget Cameron	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	A
E	Hugh Cameron	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	P	P
E	Rena Cameron	P	0	0	P	P	P	A	P	P	0	P
E	Gillian Castles	P	0	0	P	P	A	0	P	P	A	A
E	Jean Coke	P	0	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P
E	Kate Cruickshank	P	P	0	P	P	P	0	P	P	A	P
E	Bob Dalglish	P	P	A	P	P	P	0	P	P	P	P
E	Catherine Fraser	P	P	0	P	A	P	0	A	A	0	A
E	John Fraser	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
E	George Haggart	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
E	John Hanna	P	A	0	P	A	A	0	P	P	0	P
E	Catherine MacAngus	P	A	A	P	P	P	0	P	A	A	P
E	Marjory MacGillivray	P	P	A	P	A	P	0	A	A	A	A
E	John Maitland	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	P	P	0	P
E	Sallie Parrish	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	P
E	Melville Paton	A	A	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	P
E	Lin Ramsay	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	A	P
E	Alex Sandilands	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	P
E	Donald Simpson	P	A	0	P	P	P	0	P	A	P	P
E	Gordon Smith	P	A	0	A	P	P	P	P	P	0	A
E	Margaret Varwell	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
C	Elizabeth Carmichael	P	P	P	A	P	P	0	A	A	0	P
C	Andrew Chalkley	A	0	P	A	P	0	P	0	P	A	0
C	Robert Dick	0	0	P	P	P	P	0	A	0	A	0
C	Morag Muirhead	-	-	P	P	P	0	P	0	P	0	P
C	Geoff Thomas	0	P	A	A	P	0	0	0	A	A	A
C	Eric Walker	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P	A	0	P
C	Pat Walker	-	-	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	0	P

APPENDIX IV

Report to Presbytery from the Appraisal Working Group

In presenting my first report as Appraisal Working Group Convener, I would like to pay tribute to the work undertaken by the Rev Dr Adrian Varwell and his committee on the previous Appraisal and Ministry Committee. They have achieved a great deal, including the union of the two Fort William congregations, full permission to Call for the linked charges of Acharacle linked with Ardnamurchan and Kinlochleven linked with Nether Lochaber. They have also laid a sound basis for the ongoing mission of the Church of Scotland within Lochaber given the restrictions of manpower and resources that are laid upon us.

There are some ongoing matters which require to be addressed both in the long and short term. These include: -

1) The upgrading of the charge of Glencoe St Munda linked with Duror to full status. It is hoped that this non controversial matter will be tidied up before the end of 2007.

2) There is one remaining area of our Presbytery which requires appraisal. We have been allocated 50% ministries to serve each of the congregations of Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian – previously these congregations were served by two full ministers, so some change has to take place. These congregations have now been vacant since January 2006.

The Presbytery Appraisal Committee has conferred with the congregations on several occasions. On the last occasion at a meeting in Strontian on 26th June 2007, the three Kirk Sessions were asked to meet further together, and to attempt to bring to the Working Group a consensus on two issues: - 1) a pattern of ministry within the three parishes; 2) the provision of suitable accommodation for an inducted ministry within the three parishes.

They met on 19th July 2007, and although the three Sessions seemed to have reached agreement, unfortunately their conclusions paid no regard to Morvern's expressed desire to sell their manse. They wanted two inducted ministers to serve these three congregations, and concluded that their relationship could be embodied into a "Covenant of Care". It was the view of the Appraisal Working Group that such an arrangement was not compatible with the Law and Practice of the Church of Scotland. It was with regret that the Committee felt that it could not agree to the conclusions of the meeting on 19th July and responded by email on 22nd July 2007 to the two Interim Moderators.

One of my first actions as Appraisal Convener was to write to the Interim Moderators and Session Clerks of these three congregation AND to the Interim Moderator and Session Clerks of Acharacle and Ardnamurchan asking if they wanted Acharacle and Ardnamurchan to be included into the appraisal discussions in that area, while suggesting a way that they could all be involved. All my responses were negative, the main argument against the involvement of Acharacle and Ardnamurchan was that they had been granted a call in October 2006 and although they have so far been unable to attract a suitable applicant for the charge they felt that they needed more time. So the idea of involving Acharacle and Ardnamurchan is **not** being promoted at this time, but Presbytery might want to note that the Call to these charges is due for review in October 2007.

The Appraisal Working Group has drawn up a Basis of Linking for the three congregations of Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian, with the manse being located at Strontian. This will be given to the Interim Moderators and Session Clerks tonight. This Basis has already been submitted to the Ministries Council for their comment.

The Committee would, however, like to float yet one more suggestion to the congregations for consideration and response before the next Business Committee Meeting on 11th October 2007.

The new suggestion for consideration is this: -

4th September 2007

1) Adjust the parish boundaries of the charge of Arisaig linked with Mallaig, taking from that charge the area around Lochailort and Glenfinnan and placing them within the parish of Ardgour and Kingairloch. Then granting a full Call to the charge of Ardgour and Kingairloch, with the manse at Ardgour, with the additional ministerial requirement that there will be a share of 50% of the ministerial and pastoral responsibility for the Small Isles, along with the minister of Arisaig and Mallaig, following the completion of the five year pastoral assistantship at the charge of Arisaig and Mallaig.

The Arisaig and Mallaig minister would continue to have overall responsibility for the Small Isles, but the day to day sharing of ministerial duties would be by local agreement under the supervision of Presbytery. For the avoidance of doubt, Knoydart would continue to be the sole responsibility of the minister of Arisaig and Mallaig.

2) Link the congregations of Strontian and Morvern and grant them a full call. A new manse will require to be purchased or built. It would be hoped that the congregations could agree on the location of the manse, if NOT Presbytery may be required to specify the location. The Ardgour congregation has already indicated that they feel "care" towards these congregations. Possibly this could be demonstrated tangibly by their sale of a plot of ground at the Ardgour manse, the income from this sale being given to the Strontian Morvern linkage to help them fund their manse.

Like everyone else, I share a sense of urgency in resolving the vacancies in these charges, but could I ask for Presbytery's patience and request that all congregations involved in this new suggestion respond to me before 11th October 2007.

It is worthwhile here to remind members of Presbytery that THEY will ultimately make the decision on appraisal in these congregations. The Appraisal Working Group does the work, the congregations give their opinion, but YOU, the members of Presbytery must take all these factors into account and make the final decision. It will be YOUR decision, not the committee's, not the congregations' but YOURS on the floor of Presbytery. This decision is then sent to the Assembly committee for concurrence and if they so concur, your decision will be enacted subject to appeal procedures.

APPENDIX V

Report of the Finance Working Group

OSCR ANNUAL Returns

It is now mandatory that Congregations submit their Annual Return with an original signed copy of the Congregations! Accounts

Congregational Accounts

Copies of the new format for Congregational Accounts for completion at 31st December 2007 are now with Treasurers. Training workshops are being held at Inshes Church in Inverness at 7pm on 11th September 2007.

Communications

All Congregational literature e.g. headed notepaper, adverts, circulars etc., must now all carry the Congregational Charity number in order to comply with OSCR Regulations.

APPENDIX VI

Report of the Property Working Group

2007 Meeting REVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY SURVEYS

Reports of Surveys carried out on Nether Lochaber and Kinlochleven by Samuel & Partners in November of last year were not received until the end of July this year. John Strachan of Samuel's apologised for the delay, which was caused by staff shortage and work load. The Review Meetings were both held last week, forming part of the Congregational Board Meetings.

Nether Lochaber Meeting was held in the Hall on the afternoon of 27th August. In addition to the Board Members, was myself representing the Presbytery Property Committee and John Strachan. The Estimated cost of work shown in the Report under three classifications was Urgent £750, i.e. work which should be done fairly early within a 12 months period; Essential £700, to be done within 5 years and as early as possible; Desirable £5,800, where the work would be beneficial but could be delayed. John Strachan went over the items by classification and it was encouraging to hear from the property persons that most of the Urgent had already been done or was in-hand. There was agreement on the Essential and under Desirable the main item was the Hall, where the importance of inspections and keeping under observation specific items was agreed and the feeding back of any findings was emphasized.

Kinlochleven Meeting was held in the Hall in the evening of 29th August. In addition to Congregational Board Members, were Hugh Cameron and I representing the Presbytery Property Committee and John Strachan. The Estimated cost of work shown in the **Church / Hall** Report was Urgent only £20, Essential £2,550 and Desirable £10,580. Again, John Strachan went over the items and the encouraging aspect was to be told by the property person that in addition to the Urgent having been done, there was a considerable amount of Essential and Desirable work already done or in-hand, in particular the replacing of the Hall Main Roof with slates. Again, in this report there was considerable inspection, monitoring and feed-back, referred to. The Estimated cost of work shown on the **Manse** Report was only Urgent £80, Essential £125, and Desirable £760. Again the encouraging aspect was that the Urgent was already done, as was most of the Essential and the Desirable was in-hand. There does not appear to be any problems of the Manse not passing its Inspection at the end of the month, for the habitability of an incoming Minister.

LOCHALINE MANSE

The thinking in the Presbytery Plan relative to Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian, which has yet to be agreed, is that the Lochaline Manse will not be required and should be disposed of. At a meeting of Morvern Kirk Session, held in Keil Church on 31 July 2007, the Kirk Session unanimously corroborated the statement made at the Congregational Board meeting, held on 10 July 2007, that the Lochaline Manse plus all the ground belonging to it should be put up for sale. The Kirk Session agreed with Board Members that it will not be possible to afford the up-keep of the present building and that it should not lie empty another winter resulting in further deterioration. This thinking illustrates good stewardship and is in-line with Appraisal Committee conclusions after many meetings and hours of discussion.

APPENDIX VII

Report from Arisaig and the Small Isles linked with Mallaig: St Columba and Knoydart

Kirk Session Conference held in the Morar Hotel on 2 September 2007 Note of Meeting

The Kirks Sessions' Conference had been called to discuss the question *'Do you as a member of the Kirk Session of Arisaig and the Small Isles agree to recommend to the Congregation of Arisaig and the Small Isles that the Presbytery of Lochaber be asked to change the Basis of Linkage between Arisaig and the Small Isles and Mallaig; St Columba and Knoydart to a Basis of Union?'*

'Do you as a member of the Kirk Session of Mallaig; St Columba and Knoydart agree to recommend to the Congregation of Mallaig; St Columba and Knoydart that the Presbytery of Lochaber be asked to change the Basis of Linkage between Mallaig; St Columba and Knoydart and Arisaig and the Small Isles to a Basis of Union?'

The meeting was constituted with scripture reading, reflection and prayer by the Rev Alastair J Cherry BA BD immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow who had been guest preacher at morning worship.

The Interim Minister began the meeting by reading a paper which he had prepared which set out his hopes for the future. In this he indicated that the Kirk Sessions had been invited to discuss the possibility of turning a contentious Linkage into a harmonious Union hence the question under discussion.

Subsequently there was opportunity for question, answer and discussion – this lasted for almost 2.5 hours.

It became clear that there was a mood to take decisions.

The Kirk Session of **Arisaig and the Small Isles** agreed

- 1.1 the recommendation. Three papers of dissent were signed.
- 1.2 that the recommendation would be discussed at a Joint meeting of the Congregations to be held in Mallaig: St Columba on Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm
- 1.3 that, in order to allow time for reflection, a vote would be taken at morning worship on Sunday 30 September to agree, or otherwise, to ask that *Presbytery of Lochaber to change the Basis of Linkage between Arisaig and the Small Isles and Mallaig; St Columba and Knoydart to a Basis of Union.*
- 1.4 that if, following the vote, the Congregations agreed that the Union take place, the Presbytery be asked to lift the *sist* on the Vacancy Business so that the search for the next minister can take place concurrently with the task of working towards the Union.
- 1.5 that the Union, should it be agreed, take place before the arrival of the next minister.
- 1.6 instructed that the Interim Minister raise with Presbytery the matter of a very demanding ministerial workload among the isolated, remote rural and island communities which make up the present parish areas.

The Kirk Session of **Mallaig: St Columba and Knoydart** agreed

4th September 2007

- 1.1 the recommendation unanimously.
- 1.2 that the recommendation would be discussed at a Joint meeting of the Congregations to be held in Mallaig: St Columba on Tuesday 18 September at 7.30pm
- 1.3 that, in order to allow time for reflection, a vote would be taken at morning worship on Sunday 30 September to agree, or otherwise to ask that *Presbytery of Lochaber to change the Basis of Linkage between Arisaig and the Small Isles and Mallaig; St Columba and Knoydart to a Basis of Union.*
- 1.4 that if, following the vote the Congregations agreed that the Union take place, The Presbytery be asked to lift the *sist* on the Vacancy Business so that the search for the next minister can take place concurrently with the task of working towards the Union
- 1.5 that the Union, should it be agreed, take place before the arrival of the next minister.
- 1.6 instructed that the Interim Minister raise with Presbytery the matter of a very demanding ministerial workload among the isolated, remote rural and island communities which make up the present parish areas.

This section of the meeting was closed with prayer and the Kirk Sessions adjourned to Arisaig Church for a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion led by the Rev Alastair J Cherry.

John C Christie
(interim minister)

3 September 2007