

At Ballachulish, and within Glencoe St. Munda Parish Church, the fifth day of June 2007, at 6.30 pm, which place, date and time the Presbytery of Lochaber met and was constituted with prayer.

1. **COMMUNION AND INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR**
  - 1.1 The retiring Moderator, Mr John Fraser, conducted worship and preached. He welcomed the new Moderator, the Rev A. Ann Winning, whom he installed with prayer.
  - 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 AND ROLL**
  - 2.1 Present were the Rev A. Ann Winning, Moderator, the Rev David M. Anderson, Clerk, twenty four full members and four corresponding members of Presbytery. Names and apologies as per sederunt sheet.
  - 2.2 The Rev John Christie, Interim Minister at Arisaig & the Small Isles linked with Mallaig St. Columba's with Knoydart, was welcomed by the Moderator.  
**Elders' Commissions**
  - 2.3 Elders' Commissions for 2007/08 had been received from all congregations within the bounds except for Arisaig and the Small Isles.
  - 2.4.1 Presbytery noted that Mrs Bridget Cameron is to be replaced as the Presbytery Elder for the congregation of Ardnamurchan for next session. The Moderator thanked her for the work she had undertaken for Presbytery during her six years as Presbytery Elder.
  - 2.4.2 Presbytery also noted that Mr Melville Paton was to be replaced as the Presbytery Elder for the congregation of Nether Lochaber for next session. The Moderator thanked him for the work he had undertaken for Presbytery.
  
3. **ORDER OF BUSINESS** Presbytery approved the Order of Business as circulated.
  
4. **MINUTES** Minutes of the previous meetings of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007 and 27<sup>th</sup> May 2007, being in the hands of members, were approved.
  
5. **INTIMATIONS** Intimations were made.
  
6. **CORRESPONDENCE** The Presbytery Clerk presented forty nine items of correspondence.
  - 1 Rev Donald MacQuarrie: Various. Clerk noted.
  - 2 Mission & Discipleship Council: Arrangements for Children's Assembly. Clerk noted.
  - 3 Rev Alan Lamb: Ardgour Manse. Clerk noted.
  - 4 General Trustees: Acknowledgment of receipt of extract minutes. Clerk noted.
  - 5 Ministries Council: Rev Alison Burnside. Sick note. Clerk noted.
  - 6 Mr Melville Paton: Comments for Presbytery Conference. Forwarded to the Conference.
  - 7 Mr Melville Paton: Nominating Committee for Kinlochleven l/w Nether Lochaber. Clerk to forward to the Vacancy Procedure Committee.

- 8 Head of Stewardship: Special Commission. Clerk noted.
- 9 Ministries Council: Sick note. Clerk noted.
- 10 Mr George Haggart: Comments for Presbytery Conference. Clerk noted.
- 11 Rev Dr Adrian Varwell: Comments for the Presbytery Conference. Forwarded to the Conference.
- 12 Church & Nation Council: Appointment of Representative on Highland Council. Clerk noted.
- 13 Rev Dr Adrian Varwell: Notification of voting results. Clerk noted.
- 14 Mr Melville Paton: Presbytery Conference. Clerk noted.
- 15 Mr Colin MacKenzie, The Highland Council: Proposed development in Upper Achintore. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 16 Ministries Council: Rev Alison Burnside. Sick note. Clerk noted.
- 17 Ministries Council: Rev Alan Ramsay. Sick note. Clerk noted.
- 18 Mrs Morag Muirhead: Congregational Attachment of Readers. Clerk noted.
- 19 Rev Alan Lamb: Ardgour Manse. Copy of letter sent to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.
- 20 Church Solicitor: Status of Ardgour Manse. Clerk noted.
- 21 Ministries Council: Locum at Acharacle & Ardnamurchan. Clerk noted and forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.
- 22 Mr Geoff Thomas: Congregational Attachment of Readers. Clerk replied.
- 23 Mr Robert Dick: Congregational Attachment of Readers. Clerk noted.
- 24 Mr Phillip Williams: Parking in front of the MacIntosh Church. Clerk replied and forwarded to Minister and Session Clerk.
- 25 Ministries Support Officer: Interim Minister Mallaig. Clerk informed the Business Committee of progress.
- 26 Convener, Appraisal & Ministry Committee: Appraisal in Ardgour / Strontian / Morvern. Clerk replied.
- 27 Rev Richard Gibbons: New position. Intimation to Presbytery.
- 28 Secretary, Assembly Parish Appraisal Committee: Concurrence of the planned Union of the Fort William Churches and Linkage with Kilmonivaig. Clerk replied and informed the congregations.
- 29 General Trustees: Kilmallie Glebe. Forwarded to Property Committee.
- 30 Crossreach: Social Care Council Briefing Note. Clerk noted.
- 31 Ministries Support Officer: Methodist Minister looking to retire to our area. Forwarded to Interim Moderators.
- 32 Ministries Support Officer: Ministries Council Accompanied Review. Clerk forwarded to Appraisal & Ministry Committee.
- 33 Local Involvement Officer, Church & Society Council: News. Forwarded to Mission and Outreach Committee.
- 34 Mr Duncan Haggart: Proxy Voting. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 35 Mr Iain Fraser: Proxy Voting. Forwarded to Business Committee.

- 36 Rev Angus Mathieson: Arrangement for Service of Introduction. Clerk noted.
- 37 Rev Peter Rae: Introduction of Interim Minister to Arisaig & Mallaig. Clerk forwarded to Business Committee.
- 38 Depute Principle Clerk: Appraisal in Glencoe & Duror. Forwarded to Appraisal Committee.
- 39 Ministries Council: Agreement to Vacancy Schedule – Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan. Clerk forwarded to Business Committee.
- 40 Mr Struan Gardner: Attendance at Worship Leader Course. Clerk replied.
- 41 Rev Alan Cobain: Transfer of Presbytery Membership. Clerk noted.
- 42 Mr John Jackson, Secretary Appraisal Committee: Ardgour, Strontian and Morvern. Forwarded to Appraisal Committee.
- 43 Rev Alan Lamb: Appraisal in Ardgour, Strontian and Morvern. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 44 General Treasurers Department: Awaited Annual Accounts. Forwarded to Finance Committee.
- 45 Appraisal Committee: Union of Duncansburgh and MacIntosh and Linkage with Kilmonivaig. The Committee noted Presbytery's decisions. Forwarded to Ministers and Presbytery Appraisal Convener.
- 46 Session Clerk, Morvern: Query regarding the Minute taken at the meeting of representatives of the Presbytery Appraisal Committee and Kirk Sessions on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Clerk replies and forwarded her email to the Interim Moderator and Presbytery Appraisal Convener.
- 47 Ministries Council: Mr John Banks. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 48 Session Clerk, Duncansburgh. Copy of letter sent to Principal Clerk. Forwarded to Business Committee.
- 49 Rev Alan Lamb: Congregations of Arisaig and Mallaig. Forwarded to Superintendence Committee.

## 7. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

- 7.1 The Clerk intimated that the due notice required under section nineteen of the existing Standing Orders had been given.
- 7.2 Presbytery approved changes to the Standing Orders (Appendix I) there being FOR twenty three AGAINST nil.
- 7.3 Presbytery noted that implementation of the new Standing Orders (Appendix II) is immediate.

## 8. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

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

### **The Presbytery: Business**

- 8.1 Approve the arrangement whereby the rotation by which Presbytery receives reports from the Working Groups will be moved on by two groups per ordinary meeting of Presbytery per session.
- 8.2 Note that all records not presented for inspection prior to the March 2007 meeting have now been inspected.
- 8.3 Issue a Practising Certificate to the Rev William Burnside and the Rev Alan Cobain.
- 8.4 Note the approval by Ministries Council of the Vacancy

Schedule for Acharacle linked with Ardnamurchan.

8.5 Alter Section One of the terms of Assignment of the Rev David M. Anderson as an Auxiliary Minister (Appendix One of the minute of first February 2005) to read: "Assignment of the Rev David M. Anderson as Auxiliary Minister to the position of Presbytery Clerk and to the Charge of Glencoe St. Munda linked with Duror and the Charge of Kinlochleven linked with Nether Lochaber from 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008. The Assignment is in terms of Act XIII of 2003."

8.6 Approve the arrangements for the Service of Union between Fort William Duncansburgh and Fort William MacIntosh Memorial. This to be held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 at 6.30 pm in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church. The Moderator to conduct.

8.7 Note the requests to further consider the issue of Voting at a Congregational Meeting and resolve to write to the Principal Clerk.

8.8.1 Note with satisfaction that two members of the Strontian congregation and one from the Acharacle congregation had recently attended a course for Congregational Worship Leaders.

8.8.2 Request the Clerk to bring proposals to Presbytery to update local legislation pertaining to this form of service.

8.8.3 Note that Ministries Council are presently considering this whole area of service and that any Presbytery legislation will be superseded by this subsequent legislation from the Ministries Council.

8.9 Invite suggestions for a Presbytery Twinning Arrangement to be made to the Clerk.

8.10 Commend the new web site produced by the Mission and Discipleship Council, [www.resourcingchurches.org.uk](http://www.resourcingchurches.org.uk) and note that there is a link to it on the Presbytery web site.

8.11.1 Note that this is the last Presbytery Meeting of the Rev Alan Ramsay and approve arrangements for a Reception to mark his retiral on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 4.30 pm in the Hall of Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol.

8.11.2 The Clerk thanked Mr Ramsay for his many years of faithful service to the Presbytery having been Clerk for sixteen years and Moderator on four occasions. He has served diligently at every Church level – Parish, Presbytery, Synod and on Assembly Committees.

8.11.3 The Moderator thanked Mr Ramsay on behalf of all ministers in Presbytery for his advice and support which was very considerable and always helpful.

#### **Nomination**

8.12 Admit to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2007/08 as Balancing Elders – Mr John Fraser, Mr Alex Sandilands, Mrs Jean Coke, Mrs Sallie Parrish, Mrs Margaret Varwell, Mrs Morag Muirhead, Mrs Elizabeth Carmichael and Mrs Mabel Wallace.

8.13 Admit to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2007/08 as Corresponding Members all Readers and Readers Emeritus.

8.14 Admit to the Roll of Presbytery for session 2007/08 as Corresponding Member Mrs Pat MacQuarrie as representative from Lochaber Presbyterial Council.

8.15 Appoint Presbytery Working Group Conveners for session 2007/08: Appraisal – Rev Dr Adrian Varwell; Education – Mrs Elizabeth Carmichael; Finance – Rev Dr Ruth Lawson and Mr Alex Sandilands; Ministries – Rev Peter Rae and Mrs Jean Coke; Mission – Janet Anderson DCS; Property – Mr George Haggart; Safeguarding – Mrs Sallie Parrish; Spiritual Development – Mr John Fraser.

8.16 Appoint the Clerk, the Business Convener and one elder as members of the Interim Ministry Monitoring Group.

8.17 Appoint the Rev Alan Lamb as the Presbytery Ecumenical Facilitator (ref 6.3/18 in the 2007 General Assembly Blue Book).

## 9. ASSEMBLY DILIGENCE

Presbytery received Assembly Diligence from the Clerk.

## 10. REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Mr George Haggart, Convener of the Property Committee, reported - Appendix III.

## 11. REPORT OF THE APPRAISAL AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Clerk, for the Convener of the Appraisal & Ministry Committee, presented the report - Appendix IV.

**It was moved, seconded and agreed-  
The Presbytery:**

Renew its request to the Ministries Council for Locum Cover of two days per week, plus Sundays, in respect of Acharacle and Ardnamurchan, from September 2007 to February 2008.

## 12. VACANCIES

### **Acharacle I/w Ardnamurchan**

Presbytery noted that the Rev Alan Lamb will act as Interim Moderator during the absence of Mr John Fraser for the month of June 2007.

### **Ardgour I/w Strontian**

The Interim Moderator, the Rev Alan Lamb, reported: -

- 1) That a letter had been received from the Church Solicitor which confirmed that the Ardgour congregation, and not Ardgour Estates, holds the title for the Ardgour Manse;
- 2) That the Rev Lawrie Richards from New Zealand would be acting as locum for three weeks during July 2007.

### **Morvern**

Presbytery noted that the Rev Dr Ruth Lawson was now the Interim Moderator.

### **Kinlochleven I/w Nether Lochaber**

Presbytery noted that: -

- 1 The Rev A. Ann Winning was now the Interim Moderator.
- 2 The Presbytery Advisory Committee had met with the Kirk Sessions.
- 3 The number and congregational allocation for the Nominating Committee is seven to Kinlochleven and six to Nether Lochaber.
4. The Rev A. Ann Winning was willing to act as Locum from July 2007 and approved.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Presbytery adjourned to meet "in hunc effectum" on Tuesday Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007 at 6.30 pm in Fort William Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church, for the Service of Union between Fort William

Duncansburgh and Fort William MacIntosh Memorial and for ordinary business on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in Kilmallie Parish Church, Caol, at 6.00 pm. There will be a reception at 4.30 pm to mark the retirement of the Rev Alan Ramsay.

Closed with prayer

9.10 pm

.....Moderator

.....Clerk

**APPENDIX I - Changes to Standing Orders**

**4** Appointment of Working Group Conveners shall be made at the June meeting of Presbytery. Conveners will take up office immediately on appointment following the June Presbytery Meeting. Presbytery can appoint either one or two Conveners to each Working Group. Membership of the Working Groups will not be allocated by Presbytery. Presbytery members are free to volunteer to a Convener for membership of a Working Group and Conveners are free to invite membership of Working Groups from both within and outwith Presbytery Membership. The Moderator and Clerk will be members ex officio of all Working Groups. Presbytery retains the right to authorise or to refuse Working Group membership to any individual.

**5** Presbytery shall normally meet for ordinary business at **6.00 pm** on the **first Tuesday** of September, December and June, the **last Tuesday** in October, the **fourth Tuesday** of March and on the morning of the **first Saturday** of February at **11.00 am**. It shall be competent for Presbytery to alter the date and time of any meeting if at least four weeks prior notice of the intended alteration has been given. Intimation at an ordinary meeting of Presbytery shall be deemed competent notice.

**7** Presbytery shall appoint the following eight Working Groups: - **Appraisal; Education; Finance; Ministries; Mission; Property; Safeguarding; and Spiritual Development.**

**8** The Membership of the Business Committee, which will also act as Nomination, Vacancy Procedure and Superintendence Committees, will be the Moderator, the Clerk (and Depute Clerk if appointed), the eight Working Group Conveners (and both joint conveners if appointed) and the incoming Moderator following nomination at the February ordinary meeting of Presbytery, with the power of co-option. Membership of the Business Committee will be updated following the June Presbytery Meeting. At the first meeting of the Business Committee following the June Presbytery meeting, a Business Convener will be appointed by the Business Committee, the appointment being intimated to the September Presbytery Meeting

**9** It is recommended that the Working Groups maintain accurate records of their meetings. When a Working Group presents a report to Presbytery, a copy of the report must be given to the Clerk in writing by the completion of that meeting. This report will then form part of the permanent minuted record of Presbytery as an appendix to the minute of the meeting at which the report was given.

**10** Members of Working Groups, including Conveners, shall be eligible for re-appointment.

And a new: -

**25** The Presbytery Moderator, or the Presbytery Clerk, should be invited by the Minister, or Interim Moderator, of each Charge to conduct worship with all of the Presbytery's Congregations each Moderatorial Year. The Pulpit Supply Fee and expenses for this will be paid by Presbytery.

## **APPENDIX II - PRESBYTERY STANDING ORDERS - June 2007**

1. The Roll of Presbytery shall be attested at the ordinary meeting of Presbytery in September.
2. Elders' Commissions shall be given to the Clerk before the June ordinary meeting of Presbytery.
3. The Moderator shall be nominated by the Business Committee at the February meeting of Presbytery, shall be elected at the March meeting, and installed at the June meeting, which will normally be held in the Church of the incoming Moderator, to hold office for one year.
4. Appointment of Working Group Conveners shall be made at the June meeting of Presbytery. Conveners will take up office immediately on appointment following the June Presbytery Meeting. Presbytery can appoint either one or two Conveners to each Working Group. Membership of the Working Groups will not be allocated by Presbytery. Presbytery members are free to volunteer to a Convenor for membership of a Working Group and Conveners are free to invite membership of Working Groups from both within and outwith Presbytery Membership. The Moderator and Clerk will be members ex officio of all Working Groups. Presbytery retains the right to authorise or to refuse Working Group membership to any individual.
5. Presbytery shall normally meet for ordinary business at 6.00 pm on the first Tuesday of September, December and June, the last Tuesday in October, the fourth Tuesday of March and on the morning of the first Saturday of February at 11.00 am. It shall be competent for Presbytery to alter the date and time of any meeting if at least four weeks prior notice of the intended alteration has been given. Intimation at an ordinary meeting of Presbytery shall be deemed competent notice.
6. Holy Communion shall be celebrated at the June meeting of Presbytery.
7. Presbytery shall appoint the following eight Working Groups: - Appraisal; Education; Finance; Ministries; Mission; Property; Safeguarding; and Spiritual Development.
8. The Membership of the Business Committee, which will also act as Nomination, Vacancy Procedure and Superintendence Committees, will be the Moderator, the Clerk (and Depute Clerk if appointed), the eight Working Group Conveners (and both joint conveners if appointed) and the incoming Moderator following nomination at the February ordinary meeting of Presbytery, with the power of co-option. Membership of the Business Committee will be updated following the June Presbytery Meeting. At the first meeting of the Business Committee following the June Presbytery meeting, a Business Convenor will be appointed by the Business Committee, the appointment being intimated to the September Presbytery Meeting.
9. It is recommended that the Working Groups maintain accurate records of their meetings. When a Working Group presents a report to Presbytery, a copy of the report must be given to the Clerk in writing by the completion of that meeting. This report will then form part of the

permanent minuted record of Presbytery as an appendix to the minute of the meeting at which the report was given.

10. Members of Working Groups, including Conveners, shall be eligible for re-appointment.
11. The Business Committee shall (a) Prepare the order of business for presentation to each meeting of Presbytery; (b) Ensure that any documents to be submitted are in order; (c) Nominate members for Presbytery duties; (d) Have regard to Presbyterial discipline and supervision.
12. The Business Committee shall normally meet no more than fourteen days, but no less than seven days, before each ordinary meeting of Presbytery.
13. The Quorum for all meetings of Presbytery shall be THREE (TWO of whom shall be MINISTERS).
14. At each ordinary Presbytery meeting, after the approval of previous minutes, the order of business shall be submitted for approval, and any competent matter added and the Agenda finally approved.
15. On at least one occasion each year, fifteen minutes may be taken at an early stage in the proceedings for the presentation of a special topic. The theme and, if required, a speaker shall be nominated by the Business Committee at the prior ordinary meeting of Presbytery.
16. Notice of motion must be given on all matters affecting legislation or serious public interest. Notice on the billet calling the meeting of Presbytery shall be deemed competent notice of motion.
17. Members of Presbytery may neither speak more than once, nor for more than five minutes, on any matter before the Presbytery except on points of order or information.
18. It shall be competent for a member of Presbytery to dissent from any decision of the Presbytery, and to have his or her dissent recorded in the minutes, always provided that: (a) he or she intimates dissent before the meeting proceeds to the next business, and (b) he or she has taken part in the vote on the matter under discussion.
19. The Standing Orders may be amended or added to on the following conditions: (a) that one month's notice of the proposed change is given in writing to all members of Presbytery; (b) that the proposed change receives a two thirds majority of those voting; (c) that such change does not contravene any standing order of the General Assembly.
20. Standing Orders may be suspended, provided that a motion to do so shall receive the support of not less than two thirds of those voting. There shall be no discussion on such a motion.
21. The conduct of Business and the rules of debate shall be in accordance with the Standing Orders of the General Assembly.
22. On any matter to which reference is not made in these Standing Orders, the Standing Orders of the General Assembly shall apply.
23. PROPERTY: (a) All matters of Fabric and Property involving expenditure above £5,000 shall be submitted to the Property Committee with a view to Presbytery approval. Only where the possibility exists of danger to person or property may such submission be made after work has begun; (b) Matters submitted to the Property Committee must be accompanied by appropriate estimates, descriptions and plans; (c) Such submissions should be made three weeks prior to the meeting of Presbytery at which approval is sought.

24. ILLNESS OF MINISTER In the event of a sudden, serious illness of a minister, it shall be within the discretion of the Clerk, in consultation with the Moderator, to appoint an Interim Moderator without delay, and report to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery.
25. The Presbytery Moderator, or the Presbytery Clerk, should be invited by the Minister, or Interim Moderator, of each Charge to conduct worship with all of the Presbytery's Congregations each Moderatorial Year. The Pulpit Supply Fee and expenses for this will be paid by Presbytery.

### APPENDIX III – PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

#### Examination of Records

At the March Presbytery Meeting I reported: -

- 1) That I had received no Insurance records for the MacIntosh Memorial. I can now report that the General Trustees had probably included MacIntosh Memorial Insurance Records in some other Presbytery package by mistake. We have now received them and they are in order.
- 2) That I had not received the Mallaig Fabric Book. I can now report that this has been inspected and signed.

#### Property Surveys.

Mainly due to pressure of work at Samuel & Partners, our Professional Surveyors, over the past few years, they have gradually been getting later with their Reports, with the result that none have been received in the Presbytery Year 2006 / 07. Accordingly the Survey Schedule has been re-arranged and will appear in the 2007 / 08 Presbytery Year Book.

### APPENDIX IV - Appraisal and Ministry Committee Report

#### **Readers**

Members will recall that the Presbytery Plan envisages the formal attachment of Readers to congregations, and Presbytery is asked that from now onwards all formal requests for assistance should be submitted by Kirk Sessions to Presbytery. This is necessary so that Presbytery can maintain an oversight and a fair distribution of our personnel resources. Presbytery is asked to note that Andrew Chalkley has been asked to assist at Fort William: MacIntosh Memorial to the end of August.

#### **Locum Cover**

Presbytery is asked to renew our request for Locum Cover of two days per week, plus Sundays, in respect of Acharacle and Ardnamurchan, from September 2007 to February 2008.

#### **Ministries Council: Accompanied Review**

The Ministries Council has been running a pilot scheme for a self-appraisal system for ministers and deacons, assisted by a number of "Review Partners" who will offer support, reflection and encouragement, as requested. Review Partners would come from outwith Presbytery, they may be ministers or deacons, but persons with appropriate skills would also be welcome. Presbytery is asked for recommendations of suitable persons to act as Review Partners, who would then receive appropriate training.

#### **Ardgour, Morvern and Strontian**

The most recent round of consultations with the three Kirk Sessions involved a circulation of six options for the future pattern of ministry within the parishes. These options covered every possible combination of ministry within different patterns of linkages. The consultation was followed by a meeting at Strontian on Tuesday 15 May. At that meeting it was clear that Ardgour and Strontian

sought to continue their linking, as a separate charge, whilst Morvern desired a linking with their neighbours to maintain their ministry and mission in an effective way.

Since it is important that a resolution is found, so that a settled ministry might commence as soon as possible, it is proposed to hold another meeting with the three Kirk Sessions at Strontian on Tuesday 26 June.

**Duror and Glencoe**

Presbytery is asked to note that the new status for these two parishes, as envisaged in the Presbytery Plan, has now been approved. It will be necessary to draw up a Basis of Adjustment of Tenure to be put to congregational meetings later in the year.