



# The Church of Scotland Presbytery of Lanark

**The Presbytery will meet online on Zoom on Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7pm for the following and other competent business.**

*Rev Bryan Kerr, Presbytery Clerk*

To join the meeting click on the following link

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## **Order of Business – 2 February 2021**

1. Constitution
2. Welcome to Visitors
3. Approval of the Order of Business
4. Decisions under Delegated Powers
5. Roll of Presbytery
6. Correspondence
7. Good News Stories
8. Report of the Support Committee
9. Intimations
10. Adjournment:

The Presbytery adjourns to meet for Ordinary Business Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark or online as permissions dictate.

## **Decisions under delegated powers**

The Clerk has been informed of the following decisions have been made under Delegated Powers.

### **3 December 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Carluke: Kirkton**

- I. in respect of the reopening of Carluke: Kirkton
  - a. note the receipt of an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to extend the reopen the attached church halls
  - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Iain Cunningham had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen the church halls
  - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allows a safe reopening and management of the building(s)
  - d. due to works that were required to be undertaken as part of the previously submitted checklist, and the limited permissions previously sought by the Kirk Session and granted by Presbytery confirm permission for the buildings of Carluke: Kirkton to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020
  - e. remind the Kirk Session that any breach on procedures or what is allowable activity within Church building(s) at each stage of the Phased approach may result in closure of buildings in the congregation until issues can be resolved.

### **3 December 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Law**

- I. in respect of the reopening of Law
  - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
  - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Paul Grant had confirmed his agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
  - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allows a safe reopening and management of building(s)
  - d. grant permission for the buildings of Law to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 15 December 2020
  - e. remind the Kirk Session that any breach on procedures or what is allowable activity within Church building(s) at each stage of the Phased approach may result in closure of buildings in the congregation until issues can be resolved.

### **3 December 2020 - Reopening of Church Building(s) – Upper Clyde**

- I. in respect of the reopening of Upper Clyde
  - a. note the receipt of an approved Covid-19 Reopening of Church Buildings Checklist, an approved Church Buildings Covid-19 Risk Assessment and an extract minute from the Kirk Session expressing the desire to reopen the church building
  - b. note that the minister of the congregation, Rev Dr Nikki Macdonald had confirmed her agreement to the desire of the Kirk Session to reopen
  - c. agree that the congregation have suitable measures in place to allows a safe reopening and management of building(s)
  - d. grant permission for the buildings of Upper Clyde to reopen in line with ecclesiastical and civil regulations from 15 December 2020

- e. remind the Kirk Session that any breach on procedures or what is allowable activity within Church building(s) at each stage of the Phased approach may result in closure of buildings in the congregation until issues can be resolved.

## **11 January 2021 - Douglas Valley (Interim Moderator)**

- I. in respect of Douglas Valley
  - a. agree to release Mr Bill Love as Interim Moderator of the Douglas Valley for a period of six months from 12 January 2021, on the understanding that he remains in place as locum within the charge.
  - b. appoint Rev Paul Grant as Interim Moderator of the Douglas Valley for a period of six months from 12 January 2021.

## **18 January 2021 - Carluke Kirkton (Fire Safety)**

- I. In respect of Carluke: Kirkton
  - a. Approve, as urgent Health and Safety works, the installation of an L2 monitored Fire Alarm System in the church and halls at a cost of £17,684 plus VAT and fire doors from Hogg contractors at a cost of £12,465 plus VAT and note the approval of the General Trustees Fire Safety Adviser to the design and the permission of the General Trustees to proceed with works.

## **Report of the Presbytery Support Committee**

### **Deliverance**

The Presbytery:

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that proposals for the Ministry and Mission Variance Fund 2021 will be brought to the March Presbytery meeting.
3. In relation to Presbytery Reform proposals approved by the General Assembly of 2019:
  - a. Agree in principle to Lanark and Hamilton Presbyteries uniting to create a new Presbytery, with the understanding that further conversations in relation to more charges becoming part of the new Presbytery will continue to take place with neighbouring Presbyteries.
  - b. Agree the working title/name of the new Presbytery to be 'Lanarkshire Presbytery'.
  - c. Agree to the creation a Joint-Presbytery Transition Group between Lanark and Hamilton Presbyteries composed of Business Convener and Clerk of Hamilton, Support Convener and Clerk of Lanark and a further one minister and one elder from each Presbytery and remit, with powers, to the appropriate body in each Presbytery to make the relevant appointments as soon as possible, and report names of those appointed to the next meeting of Presbytery.
  - d. Instruct the Joint-Presbytery Transition Group to form the short life working groups needed to oversee the new presbytery formation, including the work of negotiating with neighbouring Presbyteries regarding which other congregations might be transferred to the new Presbytery, with membership drawn from individuals with the right skills preferably with a connection to the congregations of the existing Presbyteries.
  - e. Instruct the Joint-Presbytery Transition Group to report progress to each Presbytery meeting.
  - f. Agree to work towards forming the new Presbytery by 1 January 2022, and in the meantime work collaboratively wherever possible.

- g. Agree to meet in virtual conference jointly with Lanark Presbytery, in the first instance, and thereafter separately, on Wednesday 24 March 2021, to establish progress and discuss issues, with a view to reaching agreement to petition the General Assembly of 2021 for transition to the new Presbytery on 1 January 2022.
- h. Thank those working on behalf of Presbytery in moving the process forward to this stage.

## Report

### Ministry & Mission Variance Fund

It is anticipated that 2021 will be the last year of the 5% variance and as such the Support Committee are looking at how, in these times when churches are not necessarily operating 'as normal' how this money might be best used. The committee will bring recommendations to the next meeting of Presbytery.

### Presbytery Reform

Since the December Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery Reform sub-group met with the Principal Clerk on two occasions as well as meeting to make plans for a joint-Presbytery virtual conference to discuss the Presbytery Reform proposals approved by the General Assembly of 2019. The group secured two keynote speakers, Rev Dr Doug Gay and Rev Alex Shuttleworth, to guide the Presbyteries through the issues and assist in progressing this reform (see notes of conference planning in Appendix A).

After opening devotions from the Moderator of Hamilton Presbytery, a series of presentations and discussions ensued. On the whole, the conference was well received with suggestions supplied in reply to questions of potential timescales and other concerns. The conference concluded with the Benediction from the Moderator of Lanark Presbytery.

The attendees at the conference seemed to agree in principle that the Union of the Presbyteries was a positive thing (see summary of feedback in Appendix B). It will be necessary to test the mind of the Presbyteries on this matter, and several actions would follow this. Provisional timescales would need to be agreed, as would a working title for the name of the future Presbytery, and a "Joint-Presbytery Transition Group" to oversee and coordinate the work and short-life working groups required to make this happen (see suggestions in Appendix C).

There are three broad categories of work that this Group would need to address:

1. "Being with" – A mission question of, how the Presbytery can stand with or be with local congregations by being supportive in encouraging the activities that energise, especially as the principle of subsidiary calls for local churches to be central?
2. "Working with" – A support question of, how can presbytery work in a spirit of mutuality with local congregations by providing resource and support in areas such as training?
3. "Working for" – An administration and accountability question that asks, how can presbytery create an economy of scale by doing things local church should be unburdened from, and how can we be accountable to each other?

It is hoped that these actions are agreeable to both Presbyteries and some progress may be made towards transition to a new Presbytery. While the new Presbytery might start at a set date, any organisational

structure will inevitably need to be developed further, and it would be prudent to include review points. It is vital to have an initial workable structure, to fulfil legal functions, develop priorities, and establish the things that bring value. To this end, it will be vital to listen to people and develop the trust that flows from positive relationships.

Rev Ross Blackman

Business Convener, Hamilton Presbytery

Mr Scott Paget

Support Convener, Lanark Presbytery

**Compere:**

Both Moderators and Business Conveners required  
Business Convener (Hamilton) to compere.

**Speakers Briefing**

Papers and Questions needed. Lanark Clerk to chase.

**Facilitators** (Groups of 7-11 individuals)

Names to be selected by Lanark Clerk and Hamilton Business Convener.

Papers, Questions, and briefing required.

Facilitators to write up responses and return to Hamilton.

**Questions:**

Overarching: What is your vision for a new Presbytery?

**Agenda**

7:00 pm Welcome – Ross Blackman

Opening Worship – Maxine Buck (5)

Introduction - Ross/Scott (10)

Doug Gay – Presbytery/Kirk Change (20)

Breakout Groups (15)

Feedback/Plenary (10)

8:00 pm Alec Shuttleworth - Fife Model (20)

Breakout Groups (15)

Feedback/Plenary (10)

Open Questions (10)

Vote of thanks / Benediction – Anne Cochrane (5)

Conclude by approximately 9:00 pm

**Potential Questions that Might be Raised**

Timetable

Structure

Staff

Area Groupings (Pastorally and Missionally Focussed)?

A number of comments reflected appreciation for the way the conference built up, giving a little local and national context and theology, before providing some practical examples. The feedback was largely positive.

### WELCOME POINTS

The “Three Promises” of cared for, resourced, and relieved of burdens to be energised.

Relationships are important.

Having some centralised services for Safeguarding, Finance, and Property, suppliers.

Reduction in repetitive bureaucracy.

Mission should, indeed, be a priority at every level of the church.

Good to hear that a bigger Presbytery need not be a more anonymous one.

Less big meetings and more local ones.

A smaller decision group would be welcome.

Reduction in number and size of committees.

Theology of “place” is important, but what does this mean in practice?

Liked the idea of sharing food and less formality.

Remote meetings have their place.

Increased participation (e.g. from breakout groups) = better decision-making.

Subsidiarity made a lot of sense.

### POINTS OF CONCERN

Extremely different Presbyteries with issues of urban/rurality.

Training is already difficult to access, so how will this change?

The inverse triangle was seen as appropriate but not always reflecting reality.

Trepidation about what is ahead.

Worship leaders, as well as Ministers, are getting older and will need replacing.

Essential to have the right people in post.

How do you build trust?

Too many buzzwords, e.g. what does mission actually mean?

How do you balance business with pastoral care?

Needs to be right people for the jobs, rather than Minister/Session Clerk/ Elder.

How to make the larger meetings work, though it was demonstrated on the night.

### QUESTIONS

How will Presbytery be financed?

How will smaller congregations be financed, or will they be closed?

What kind of care will be available, and how will it be accessed?

How will Presbytery be accountable for the promises made?

How do we involve younger ones in the decision-making?

Could the Local Area Mission Groups be a model for the local support?

Is there anything in here that isn't in “Church Without Walls”?

**Working Title/Name:** Lanarkshire Presbytery

**Coordinating Body:** Joint-Presbytery Transition Group

**Membership of Group:**

From each Presbytery: Clerk, Business/Support Convener, one Elder and one Minister.

**Working Groups**

Short-life working groups might be across a couple of categories if needed, but they should generally have their own discrete area of work. They are for the express purpose of setting up the structures and systems required for, and helping to make, the transition to the new Presbytery. Their membership should be drawn from people with the right skills, preferably with a connection to the congregations of the existing Presbyteries. Suggestions for these groups may include:

- Nurture, Support, and Pastoral Care
- Structure and Relationships of Groups – e.g. Locality Groups
- Law and Human Resource – covering charity details and staffing
- Negotiating Group – for discussions with other Presbyteries
- Joint Mission Board
- Joint Planning Framework Group
- Finance and Resourcing

**Proposed Timetable**

Feb 2021	Gain the agreement in principle of both Presbyteries for transition to a new Presbytery.
	Agree the working title/name to be Lanarkshire Presbytery
	Establish a Joint-Presbytery Transition Group, reporting regularly. This group would oversee the new presbytery formation including discussions with neighbouring presbyteries
	Establish short-life working groups to take forward facets of work.
	Start regular conversations between parallel Presbytery committees
Mar 2021	Meet in joint conference to establish progress, discuss issues, and agree to petition the General Assembly 2021 for transition.
May 2021	Gain assent of the General Assembly 2021
Dec 2021	Confirm initial structure and budgets.
Jan 2022	New Presbytery inaugurated.