

**Lanark**, on Tuesday 3 March 2020 the **Presbytery of Lanark** met in Greyfriars Parish Church and was constituted in prayer.

**Sederunt:** Rev George Shand, Moderator and Rev Bryan Kerr, Clerk along with others as in the Sederunt Book – in all 9 Ministers, 19 Elders, 1 Corresponding Elders and 6 visitors.

**Apologies** for absence were intimated on behalf of Revs W Buchan, E MacLean, and A Rooney, Ministers; E Bradley, Elders.

### **Constitution of Presbytery**

The Moderator led the Presbytery in praise and prayer and constituted the meeting.

### **Welcome to Visitors**

The Moderator welcomed visitors attending the Presbytery meeting, especially those from Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen.

### **Approval of the Order of Business**

The Order of Business as circulated was approved.

### **Minutes of meeting on 3 December 2019 and 4 February 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2019 and 4 February 2020 were held as read and approved.

### **Decisions taken under delegated powers**

Presbytery noted the following decision that had been taken under delegated powers

#### **The Presbytery:**

1. Agreed in respect of Carstairs to approve the works undertaken in Carstairs Parish Church during the recent refurbishment and set a date of 12 March 2020 for a service of rededication.
2. Agreed in respect of Presbytery Finance to approve the moving of the Presbytery of Lanark Bank Account to the Bank of Scotland (and the subsequent closure of the RBS Account) with the signatories on the bank account operated by and in the name of the Presbytery of Lanark to Rev. Bryan Kerr (Presbytery Clerk), John Lumsden (Depute Honorary Treasurer) Scott Paget (Presbytery Support Convener), Rev. George Shand (Depute Presbytery Clerk) and Mary McGillivray (Honorary Treasurer) with any two signatories being required to sign cheques and instructions, and to instruct online banking to be established on the same basis.
3. Agreed in respect of Student Support, and following changes made by Faith Nurture Forum to the Formation Framework to appoint Rev Bryan Kerr as the formation supervisor for Kaye Gardiner and George Sneddon, on the understanding that Rev George Shand acts as formation supervisor for George Sneddon at the June 2020 review.

### **Correspondence**

The Clerk informed members that all items of correspondence had been notified via email and that a number of pieces of correspondence had been received and remitted to appropriate Committee Conveners or passed on by e-mail to Ministers, Session Clerks and members of Presbytery.

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

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget, Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed -*

#### **The Presbytery:**

1. Receive the report.
2. Encourage all congregations to hold a 'Student Sunday' collection in March, April or May to go towards the living costs of students training for Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery
3. Remind all Kirk Sessions and Congregational Boards of the annual attestation of records to be held on 28 April 2020 in Greyfriars Church, Lanark from 6:30pm.
4. Note the Office Bearers Evening to take place on 26 March 2020 in Greyfriars Church, Lanark at 7pm
5. Approve a sum of £300 to be made available from the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance to Cairngryffe to develop farming chaplaincy materials.
6. Remind congregations of the deadline of 14 April 2020 for applications for the Ministry and Mission Variance Allowance to be submitted to the Presbytery Support Committee.

### **Report of the Special Committee for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen**

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Presbytery Support Committee which was given in by Mr. Scott Paget.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed-*

#### **The Presbytery:**

1. Receive the report.
2. Note that a draft offer for the sale of the buildings at Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen has been received, and approved by the Kirk Session and Special Committee of Presbytery.
3. Declare, in respect of the sale of the buildings, that with all members of Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen having indicated that they will move to the new congregation there is no congregation that can approve the sale and therefore Presbytery acts in the place of the congregation in this matter.
4. Agree the demission and resignation of status as a minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church of Scotland of Rev David Carmichael will take effect on 26 March 2020.
5. Agree that the union between Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen and Coalburn and Lesmahagow: Old will take place on 27 March 2020.

#### **Roll of Presbytery**

The Presbytery were informed that no changes to the roll of Presbytery had occurred.

#### **Farewell to Rev David Carmichael**

The Moderator invited representatives of the Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen to pay tribute to Mr Carmichael's ministry. Alex McPhee, Session Clerk, spoke of the importance of Mr Carmichael's preaching ministry in the church and community and his desire that the new congregation can continue to work in partnership with the Church of Scotland in serving the community.

The Moderator invited Rev Steven Reid to share thoughts on Mr Carmichael's ministry. Mr Reid spoke of the friendship of Mr Carmichael, his theological insights which he shared with Presbytery and the importance of his ministry within the Lesmahagow area, across Scotland and around the world.

The Moderator invited Mr Carmichael to respond. Mr Carmichael spoke warmly of his congregation and the providence of God to lead him to the difficult decision to demit and resign his status. He paid tribute to the Clerk for his willingness to engage positively with the congregation and the guidance he gave over the previous six months.

The Moderator assured Mr Carmichael and the congregation of Abbeygreen New Church of the prayers of Presbytery as they sought to serve God in their community. The Moderator thanked Mr Carmichael for his service to the area which began with his ordination on 2 September 1982.

The Moderator also paid tribute to Mr Alex McPhee, Presbytery Elder for Lesmahagow: Abbeygreen who has served in the role since 1 July 1989, making him the longest serving presbyter Elder currently serving. The

Moderator thanked Mr McPhee for his service to Presbytery and his willingness to play his part in the life and work of the Church within Clydesdale.

### **Report of the Relationship and Context Committee**

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Relationship and Context Committee which was given in by the Rev. Mike Fucella, Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed-*

#### **The Presbytery:**

1. Receive the report.

### **Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee**

The Presbytery called for the Report of the Worship and Discipleship Committee which was given in by the Rev. Louise MacKay, Convener.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed-*

#### **The Presbytery:**

1. Receive the report
2. Note the success of the Easter Code Event at last Presbytery meeting
3. Agree to the Fishy Music event on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 in Kirkton church at a cost of £350 plus travel expenses.

### **Presbytery Reform Process**

The Clerk outlined the current state of discussions in the Presbytery reform process with the Presbytery speaking with Hamilton, Glasgow, West Lothian, Stirling and Falkirk Presbyteries.

Members of Presbytery were invited, around tables, to discuss questions sent by the Assembly Business Committee on the subject. The questions were:

1. Describe a time when you were encouraged, enthused and uplifted by engagement with Presbytery. What was it about you, Presbytery as a whole, and the situation that made this a pivotal or memorable time?
2. What are three hopes you have for reformed and restructured Presbytery during the next decade?
3. Imagine it's June 2024. The restructured and reformed Presbyteries are all working effectively and efficiently. Everything you ever hoped for, dreamed of, and prayed for has become reality for all the Presbyteries. You have just arrived home after a Presbytery gathering. Describe how you feel, what happened in the journey towards this new way of being Presbytery and sharing in the mission of the regional church?
4. The General Assembly 2019 approved 'the establishment of a total of around 12 regional Presbytery structures in Scotland by the General Assembly of 2024'. Take some time to think through the positives and negatives of embracing that change, and of not embracing that change
5. The answers to what questions would help you and your Presbytery in the journey of reform and restructure?

### **Intimations**

There were no intimations

### **Adjournment:**

**The Presbytery adjourned to meet in hunc effectum for a service of rededication of Carstairs Parish Church on Thursday 12 March 2020 at 6:45pm and for Ordinary Business on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7 pm in Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark.**

**Closure**

The Moderator closed the meeting by offering a prayer of blessing.

**Moderator**

**Clerk**