

**UNITED REFORMED CHURCH - SYNOD OF SCOTLAND
GLASGOW AREA COUNCIL (13B)**

**DRAFT Minutes of Meeting Nr 24, held at Essenside URC, Drumchapel,
on Wednesday 8 February 2006, at 19.30 hours.**

Attendance:

Members (21/40):

Barrhead; Jim Boulton, Rev David Coleman, Rena Hannah

Morison Memorial; Barclay Bannister, Iris Gillan

Essenside; Rev Carolyn Smyth

Giffnock; Sarah Brown

Mossspark United; Rev Helen Pattie (Acting Area Convenor)

Pollokshields; Rev Paul Jupp (Area Treasurer), John Park

Priesthill/Shawlands JP; Rev David M Taylor

Shawlands; Robert Wright

Priesthill; -

Rutherglen; Rev John Sanderson, Dr Graham Templeton

Drumchapel Churches Partnership; Rev Kathryn Price

Glasgow-based Synod Officers; -

Non-Stipendiary Minister; Rev Ian Baillie

Retired Minister; Rev Mary Barr

Others; Patrick Smyth (Co-opt Synod Pastoral Committee/Area Secretary);

Myra Rose, Maureen Stewart (Co-opt Area Pastoral Committee);

Zam Walker (Associate Member - Ordinand)

Visitors; Irene Hudson (Rutherglen), Simon Peters (FURY Assembly Representative)

Guest; Meg Lindsay (Secretary to Churches Action)

Apologies; Rev Peter Arthur, Rev Henry Cook (Retired Ministers);

Rev John Humphreys (Moderator); Elinor McCulloch, Rev Lindsey Sanderson

(Rutherglen); Rev David Pattie (Morison), Jono Price (Visitor - Essenside),

Rev Mary Buchanan (Synod Ecumenical Officer).

24.1 Welcome

24.1.1 The Acting Convenor, Rev Helen Pattie, welcomed everyone and invited Rev David Coleman to lead the opening devotions.

24.2 Opening Devotions

24.2.1 David led worship based on the theme for the forthcoming World Council of Churches Assembly 'God, in your grace, transform the world' and through the use of power point helped those present to reflect on the message that the church is in the world.

24.3 Minutes of meeting Nr 23, 16th November 2005

24.3.1 The minutes of meeting nr 23 were approved on the motion of Barclay Bannister and Maureen Stewart, and were signed by Helen.

24.4 Matters arising from the minutes

- a) **(23.3a) Structures Working Party;** Rev John Sanderson spoke to his written report - that the draft proposals for the restructuring of the Synod were now on the Synod website along with a series of resolutions designed to progress the work to the final stage. One of these is a request that Area Councils* and local churches consider the report carefully and pass any comments upon it to the Synod Clerk by 14 May 2006. This would then allow finalised proposals to go to the September 2006 Synod. Questions were invited but none were asked. ***The Secretary, Patrick Smyth, to expedite.**
- b) **(23.3b) Training;** Patrick informed Council of the forthcoming TLS event being held on Thurs. 9 March-a good opportunity for anyone interested in undergoing training (**Post-Meeting Note; 7pm, SYNOD OFFICES' Conference Room**).
- c) **(23.3c) Major Reconstruction, Morison Memorial URC;** Helen welcomed Iris Gillan to her first Council as a new member; Iris had nothing further to report.
- d) **(23.3d) Area Youth proposals;** Patrick reported that an Area youth event had been held at Morison Memorial URC. In addition to the hosts (the Wet BBQ Club) two young people from Essenside URC had attended. Thanks were expressed to Morison Memorial URC for hosting, and to Stewart Cutler (Synod YCWDO) for facilitating the evening. **The Executive to consider further action.**
- e) **(23.11a) Pulpit Exchange 2006;** Rev Carolyn Smyth had nothing further to report as all arrangements have been made.
- f) **(23.11d) General Assembly, 7-10 July 2006, Exeter;** Patrick reported that Glasgow Area Council would be represented by **Irene Hudson** and **Rev John Sanderson**. It was also noted that **Barclay Bannister** is going as a Synod rep and it was reported that **Zam Walker** is probably going as a representative of the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College.

24.5 Special Presentation; Meg Lindsay - Churches Action.

24.5.1 Meg spoke of how Churches Action had been formed in 2001 to enable churches and Christian organisations within the City of Glasgow to engage in dialogue and joint work with the Local Authority Council, the Health Board and the Parliament. A Churches Action Charter has been drawn up detailing the purpose of the body. It is managed by representatives of the 10 largest denominations in Glasgow along with a representative from the Evangelical Alliance.

After a slow start the body received a boost when Ian Baillie of the URC 'came on board'. There are now regular meetings of the Christian organisations in the city and also regular meetings of the smaller Christian groups working in such areas as homelessness, prostitution and drug abuse (called the 'Challenge of the Streets Group'). There is now a consultation process on documents going to the Parliament.

A major piece of work has been the creation of a database (the Glasgow Alliance DataNet) - listing all the 300+ churches in the city and this work is being expanded to include the creation of a second database - listing the 70+ Christian organisations working within the city.

A major report will be prepared and this will be used to create networks, share expertise, enhance working with Council, and more.

By embarking on these pieces of work there have already been some interesting developments with the Local authority council and the Health Board and there is a greater awareness of those 'outwith' and 'within' the church of the contribution churches make to the life of the city.

Meg's excellent presentation was followed by a time for comments and questions. Helen thanked Meg.

24.6 Notice of AOCB (to be taken at item 13)

24.6.1 Paul Jupp, Maureen Stewart and David Coleman intimated that they had matters to raise.

24.7 New Business:

a) **General Assembly 2005, Resolutions 40 & 41** effectively concerning the dissolution of Area Councils and the creation of "New Synods". Council agreed that these constitutional amendments to the URC be proceeded with. **Patrick to inform the General Secretary, and Synod.**

b) **Consideration of other Assembly & Synod Resolutions;** Helen spoke to the written paper previously distributed on Assembly Resolutions 30, 46, 25, and 27, for action by Area Councils. Helen went through the resolutions and suggested ways in which these were already, and might in future be, addressed in Local Churches, Area and Synod. Council also gave Synod its **positive view** to its Notice of Motion to be brought to March 2006 Synod, that Ecumenical Representatives and (**Ecumenical? - clarification sought**) Guests will have the right to take part in discussion and debate and vote - from September 2006 Synod onwards. Patrick also tabled a paper on Resolutions for Local Churches' information ie. 26 and 28 for action, and 29 and 45 for consideration. **Patrick to expedite.**

c) **Synod Website;** posting of future edited Council Minutes. Patrick suggested that following meetings he would send edited minutes to Helen, and if she were happy, these could then be forwarded to the Synod offices for posting on the website. Area Council stated that it was happy for this to be done as long as it was clear that these were clearly stated to be 'Draft Minutes'. **Patrick to expedite.**

24.8 Correspondence.

24.8.1 Patrick passed the folder around.

24.9 Nominations to Area Council

24.9.1 **Area Youth Secretary;** (23.7b) no nominations. Rev Kathryn Price reported that there is a leaflet available which gives details of the role of a District Youth Secretary. **Patrick to continue meantime as Acting Youth Secretary.**

24.10 Area Nominations to Synod Committees.

24.10.1 Finance & Property; (23.8a) the name of **William Pook**, Assistant Treasurer at Giffnock URC was put forward by the Area Executive. **Council agreed.** Patrick pointed out that there was an issue about the times the Finance & Property Committee met, but hopefully this would be addressed so that William was able to attend meetings. Helen expressed the Council's thanks to Rev Peter Arthur for having previously represented Council on that committee. **Patrick to convey a letter of thanks to Peter.**

24.11 Treasurer's Report

24.11.1 Ministry & Mission Fund (MMF) 2006; (23.9a) the Treasurer, Rev Paul Jupp, reported that contributions pledged to the MMF for 2006 by our Area churches had been agreed; Paul was pleased to report an overall increase on 2005.

24.11.2 Area Disbursements 2005; (23.9b) Patrick reported the accounts were to receive a total of £180 in refunds due to FURY Assembly 2006 cancellations.

24.11.3 Area Budget 2006; (23.9c) Paul tabled a paper explaining how Area Council might raise £500 (instead of £750) from the churches to cover Area financial commitments in 2006. **Council agreed. Paul to write to Church Treasurers.**

24.11.4 Assembly Resolution 23; Paul drew Council's attention to Resolution 23 and added his own personal thanks to all those involved in the process, and in the contribution of funds.

24.11.5 Paul tabled a detailed account of the 2005 financial position. He expressed his thanks to **Joyce Bannister** for her on-going assistance and advice in Checking the Accounts. **Patrick to write a letter of thanks to Joyce.**

24.12 Reports,

- a) **Area Pastoral Committee;** a written report had been submitted by John Sanderson - John asked Council to consider the proposal by the Area Pastoral Committee that Giffnock URC remain scoped at 100% and declared vacant. Two amendments were proposed - that 'after date of settlement' be added after '7 years' - and that the word 'endorses' be replaced with 'accepts'. John expressed that he was happy with these amendments and Council agreed to the amended resolution. **Patrick undertook to write to the Synod Moderator and Clerk, and to Giffnock URC, to inform them of the Resolution passed.**
- b) **Area Ecumenical Contact;** Rev Kathryn Price tabled a report regarding the ACTS Strathclyde Regional Advisory Group.
- c) Synod PPS; no report.
- d) Synod Church & Society; no report.
- e) **Synod Mission & Ecumenical;** Elinor McCulloch had E-mailed to ask for a couple of matters to be mentioned. At this point Patrick suggested that David Coleman speak about the additional agenda item he had raised earlier. David spoke about our developing relationship with the Hungarian Reformed Church. He reported that following an initial visit there last year, four Hungarians will be visiting Scotland in March - amongst them their Presiding Bishop. The four would attend the Synod meeting in Nairn before dispersing to four places - Thurso,

Edinburgh, Barrhead and Nairn. They would be staying in Glasgow from Monday 13 - Wednesday 15 March and volunteers were needed to drive them around. On the Tuesday they would be doing the 'Walking around Glasgow as a Holy Place' event; there will also be a **cultural evening in Barrhead URC Hall on Monday 13 March, 7.30pm**). The additional items Elinor wished mentioned were; **CWM Europe - Window on the World Conference** - two places were being funded by Synod - **anyone interested in going should speak to Elinor**. **Sannox Christian Centre** - discussions were beginning at a Synod level to look at the development of the centre. **Scottish Ecumenical Gathering, "Seeds of Hope" being held in Perth on 17 June 2006**.

- f) Synod Finance & Property; No report.
- g) **Synod Education**; Kathryn reminded Council of the 'Education Opportunities' brochure, Zam Walker suggested that these events could be publicised in church intimations.
- h) **FURY Assembly**; Simon Peters reported that FURY Assembly had been a physically and spiritually inspiring event. It provided young people with a wonderful opportunity to voice their views. He mentioned that FURY was changing - that the Council would be reduced in size and that it would focus more deeply on a reduced remit. The intention is that FURY Assembly will be open to all; the financial issues related to this are being looked into. Simon thanked Council for allowing him to attend, and in turn Helen thanked Simon for representing Council.

24.13 Any other competent business, as notified and adopted at item 6.

24.13.1 Paul - spoke about the situation that had arisen at **St Albert's RC Primary School** as well as mentioning other events local and global which had led to a rise in tensions between Christians and Muslims. He felt Area Council should seek to address the issue of how to establish peaceful relationships with those around us. **Helen suggested that Executive would consider how best to look at this.**

24.13.2 Maureen Stewart suggested that Council may wish to invite as a speaker someone from '**Scottish Marriage Care**' - as charity that she is involved in. She explained a little of the charity's work - running courses for people before marriage and when problems arise and also mentioned that the charity were also looking for volunteers. **Helen also referred this to Executive.**

24.14 Date of next meeting

24.14.1 **Wednesday 10 May 2006, 7.30pm, Giffnock URC.**

24.14.2 Thanks were expressed to Essenside URC for providing hospitality.

24.14.3 Thanks were also expressed to **Sarah Brown** for offering to lead worship at the next meeting.

24.15 Benediction.

24.15.1 The meeting was closed in worship led by Rev David Coleman. Council read together a prayer that the WCC had requested churches to pray prior to the event, and then said the grace to one another.