

The Kirk Session met at 19.00 hours on 29 November 2023 in the Killellan Halls. The meeting was constituted in worship and prayer by the Moderator.

2. Sederunt and Apologies: the names of those attending were noted, with apologies from Gillian McFarlane and Susan Findlay.

Eric Richardson was welcomed to his first meeting, and it was intimated that Jack McKechnie would be joining later to present the finance report.

The Moderator also welcomed Isobel Grant, Linda Fisher and Ken Muir as Elders choosing to attend the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous meetings: pages 737, 738, 739, 740 and 741 approved, as well as closed Minute page 742.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes: would be dealt with under the agenda.

5. Correspondence/reports - Session Clerk

Helen gave the following update:

- Correspondence received from Frankie in relation to the Community Garden Ground, which the session had intimated they would consider at this meeting. She was applying for grants as surveys were needed, in particular an Ecological survey to find out if any protected species on the land. Also, the Mens Shed were making a gate to be erected at the Kirk Road entrance and we maybe also need to consider a sign warning people against entering the ground.
- Frankie also traced grants for Seeds for Growth for Community work and another fund for West Hall renovation which covers funds to enable the wider community to use church buildings. Noted our west hall is not currently dementia friendly.
- Various intimations from Presbytery which had been actioned where appropriate.
- No reports were received from our Presbytery Elder, who intimated he had not attended many meetings face to face as most were on Teams and there was not much to report.
ACTION – Helen to ask for regular reporting as it was important to keep up to date on Presbytery matters.
- Helen has requested further volunteers for flower provision and delivery, such an important part of our outreach. Some new volunteers however more would still be needed for next year's rota.
- 5 new large print hymn books purchased.
- An intimation from Kay Crawford that she would be stepping down from the Kirk Session at the end of this year.

The Moderator thanked Kay for all her years of service on the session and the new format Kirk Session and said how much we all greatly appreciated her faithful service to the church.

Kay would remain as Team Leader of the Pastoral Care team with Linda Fisher going to take Kay's role on the Kirk Session from 2024.

It was also intimated that Jim McLaughlin had volunteered to take on the Property Team leader which was greatly appreciated. He was thanked for all his excellent work as Mission Team leader.

6. UPDATES

- a) Call to 1st Presbyterian Church Kirkwood USA: Gary confirmed that USA Customs and Immigration had approved his application to work in America. The family had an appointment at the American Embassy on 5 December for their visa approval (this was subsequently approved). Gary stated his intention to demit on 25 January 2024 with his last Sunday preaching on the 14 January.

Gary had spoken to the Depute Presbytery Clerk about his family remaining on in the manse until the end of March, there were no issues in allowing this. This was agreed by Session.

- b) Pulpit exchange with Rev Jonathan Warren: Jonathan had requested an exchange of service recordings on 12 November. This would not work for us as that was Remembrance Sunday however Gary and Helen had recorded readings and messages which were duly played as part of their St Andrew's day service (and very well received) and we had recordings from their church to incorporate in a forthcoming service. The church in Jacksonville had sent us cards but although posted had not as yet been received. We would look at our way of reciprocating with cards and messages in the new year.
- c) Safeguarding: Sandra sought approval of a further appointment where they had successfully completed PVG membership for HKK girls: Lisa Barrett, this was duly approved by Session.
Two session members had attended the Presbytery Training for Trustees, Safeguarding training for Kirk Sessions was mandatory every 5 years, although every 3 years was recommended, and 2 elders had attended Safeguarding training recently.

- d) Organisations Elders: reports received and duly circulated following visits to HKK Girls and the Guild. Very positive and encouraging reports of the good work in these groups.

Matthew and Helen to amend the report form so it was more informative and less focussed on reporting facts.

- e) Church Management System: Matthew reported that they were making progress with the use of the system. He had circulated to elders and rota members that there were Q&A Webinars available on the web site and advice on rotas.

Matthew is to resolve issue of members who had their details private as this was not appropriate on rotas.

Although some elders thought we ought to go back to the old system it was pointed out that this breached GDPR, and we must ensure we are GDPR complaint or risk the Church and the trustees being fined.

Matthew had investigated a Microsoft 365 charity account which would allow access for up to 10 users for teams and onedrive which would give us document storage and also access to word, excel and PowerPoint which would be useful. Session agreed Matthew to proceed with this addition.

Action – Matthew to offer more sessions after worship on Churchsuite to enable more familiarisation.

- f) Carnival: no volunteers as yet. Gary approached a possible team, but they are willing to assist but not coordinate.

Session acknowledged that the Carnival was so important not just as an outreach event but to ensure the funds in our Mission Fund.

Gillian agreed to email Carrick centre to book.

Annabelle to approach Bill Manley to ascertain the work involved in the programme adverts collating and producing, which we may need to pay for this year if no one volunteered to take it on.

Matters for discussion:

a. Church Vacancy – to be taken later in private session.

b. Langbank Church

With the Presbytery plan for Langbank as a local mission church having been approved it was unclear if progress would be affected by our forthcoming vacancy. It was emphasised that this is not a Union although we would have oversight. Facilitators for our Cluster were Rev Lorna Hood and Rev Eleanor McMahon who had been approached although no meeting taken place as yet. They had advised that they had met the KS at Langbank and offered to meet HKK KS early January.

Action- Helen to organise.

c. Elders Conference – feedback/Strategy update

Strategy Group report: Janice reported verbally that she had collated the comments at the Elders Conference and the Congregation meeting last week. One common theme related to lack of familiarisation with web site and Church Suite.

Suggestions on better use of Notice boards and entrance vestibule as a way of conveying information.

Annabelle to be asked to intimate intimations weekly to ensure known to everyone. No desire to return to paper copies which was not environmentally friendly.

Many suggestions on ways to celebrate the 150th however these events could not rest with the Social Committee and responsibility would have to be dispersed to organisations with perhaps one showcase event.

Session Clerk to write to invite Moderator of GA to preach at 150th Anniversary service in September 2025.

In order to engage the younger members of the congregation a personal invite will be issued for another meeting with organisation of crèche facilities.

- d. Districts, District Elders and communication
Districts had been reshaped into email, phone and visit preferences.
There was also a group of members without district elders.
The feeling was to revisit/review the districts set up and this might be a good topic for next Elders conference.
In meantime volunteer elders to be sought for vacant districts.

- e. Office Bearers and Team Leaders
We still need to fill the following posts:
Mission Team Leader
Grounds convenor
Grounds team members

- f. BB - KS needs to appoint BB Captain, Stuart Willbond had intimated his intention to step down at the end of the current session. Not known if anyone in the company willing to step up. Limited trained Officers.

7. Matters arising from submitted reports and any deliverances.

Pastoral- again a request for Elders to report on anyone in their districts who might benefit from a visit.

Nurture/Safeguarding - all covered earlier.

Resources ~Jim getting to grips with the outstanding matters.

Mission – detailed report noted, and all the work commended. In particular the work of the Bee Happy group to augment the Foodbank collection.

Helen to write to thank them.

Finance: Jack talked through the report indicating the General fund was moving towards a deficit of £15 - £17,000.

It was to be noted that the additional spend on Grounds which meant it exceeded their budget related to work on the west hall car park for which insufficient monies had been provided in last year's budget. This was not the fault in any way of the Grounds team.

A few people had increased their giving and some started giving to the Mission Fund, but really very few in total acted on the pleas in the Record.

Agreed we may need a Targeted campaign going forward.

In respect of the Deliverance the Session hereby agrees that having been appointed as Finance Convenor, Eric Richardson should be added as a bank signatory on both the main bank account (sort 82-61-11 / account 50330392) and the Local Mission bank account. (sort 82-54-04 / account 50152950)

Eric Richardson should also be given online access to both accounts.

In addition, the following names should also be removed from the current list of signatories:

Houston & Killellan Kirk (sort 82-61-11 / account 50330392)

Jim McLaughlin

Sandra Griffiths

Houston & Killellan Kirk Local Mission (sort 82-54-04 / account 50152950)

John King

Wilimina Jefferson

An except Minute would be needed for the Bank.

Session also expressed their thanks for the power of work by everyone in the finance team but in particular Kay, Elaine and Susan

Thanks were also paid by the Moderator to Jack as he finally passed over the baton to Eric for all his work on promoting finance and maximising our income opportunities.

9. AOCB

Parking on the pavement: As part of the Transport (Scotland) Act pavement parking was banned and that it would be an offence to park on the pavement. The council

have engaged external consultants to assess the exemptions and it appears we can apply for an exemption. Helen instructed to write to the council to ask for consideration of an exception when the church in use.

Nothing else had been intimated.

Date of next meeting to be intimated.

Helen then on behalf of the session thanked Gary for his leadership, willingness to change and encouragement of the growth of our congregation.

The meeting finished by saying the Grace together.

Signed

Moderator

Session clerk

Date :