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The Kirk Session met at 19.00 hours on 15 July 2024 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 also noted.

3. Minutes of the Elders Conference of 29 April pages 769 to 773 were duly approved , subject to amendment of “mentioning “ to “mentoring “ on role of elders

4. Matters arising from the Minutes would be covered in the agenda

Barbara Ann welcomed all the returning elders, who she encouraged to speak at these meetings and voice opinions at the meeting, not afterwards in small groups .

Session was asked to approve the appointment of the undernoted elders to the role of Elder Emeritus

Elizabeth Bowie, Robert Finnie, Alastair McGregor, Sheila Moore, Irene McLaughlin, Marion Simpson and Janice Thomson .

The resignation of Ian Spearing and Stuart Nelson was noted

5. Correspondence/reports - Session Clerk

Before reporting on the correspondence Helen added her welcome to those returning and that she hoped they would all find their way to be involved in the life and work of our church .

She reminded all session of their responsibilities as Trustees, summarised as follows:

Everything said at the Kirk Session meeting is confidential .

Legal responsibilities

1. Charity Trustees with duties to act with care and diligence, without remuneration . Duties to OSCAR . They must act in the interests of the Charity.
2. Civil law responsibilities to comply with Health and Safety law, employment law, fire and food safety, licensing, discrimination , bribery legislation and most importantly Data Protection and to comply with the criminal law.
3. It is an offence to be a trustee if you have been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty.
4. Duty to avoid getting into situation where your duties as a member of session conflict with your own personal interest.
5. If you disagree with a decision of session, you may have your dissent minuted. If you consider the decision flagrantly breaches these principles the correct course is to resign and seek further advice of the Presbytery

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Clerk. Otherwise, the Session decision should not be spoken against outside of the meeting.

Helen also reported that Session had approved the adoption of the Equality and Diversity Policy in 2021. Copies could be circulated again on request .

Very important to ensure we comply not just as we have adopted this Church of Scotland policy and it is good practice, but also a breach can now lead to criminal sanctions. She asked for Session’s support to ensure not only that we comply, but also that we call out if any breaches witnessed in church , or at any church groups.

Helen gave the following correspondence update:

Bob Ross thanked the session on behalf of Gryffe Rotary for the use for the church hall and the earlier church starting time to facilitate their 10k event which he advised the meeting was very successful and raised over £7000.

Frankie also acknowledged our thanks to the Rotary for the donation to Houston Hello which would allow certain events to be run at this important community group .

Correspondence from Presbytery had been duly circulated to the respective Teams.

Helen expressed her thanks to those who had responded to her personal pleas for assistance .

In relation to Killellan, an apology had been received from Mark Crichton Maitland that the grass and entrance had not been attended to which meant our annual service could not take place at the old Kirk and he gave an assurance it would be attended to next year .

Lastly very nice thank you notes received from Peter and Sheena for their gifts on Peter’s retirement .

7. UPDATES

a) Langbank update

The Moderator reported the vote by HKK had been 104 for and 5 against and at Langbank 29 for, 0 against .

Barbara Ann commented that she had not been aware that 5 in HKK wished a Union .

The date of the service of Linkage would be Tuesday 6 August at Langbank Church.

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b) Vacancy

The Presbytery clerk hoped Presbytery could meet after the service and lift the sist stopping us calling a new Minister .

Then provided they were available, as a session jointly with Langbank Session we could meet with the Presbytery Vacancy team on Wednesday 7th.

We would at that meeting take a vote on departing or remaining on accepting a same sex relationship minister .The vote taken in person with no proxies.

Langbank session would vote separately and if either Kirk Session voted against then we would not depart .

It was confirmed that we would have an unrestricted call for a minister .

Annabelle had commenced work on the Parish Profile and would hand over the parish profile to the nominating committee who would then work alongside her on producing this document. . The parish profile then requires Session approval.

Manse – The moderator thanked Jim and his team for all their work in getting the updating of the Manse in motion. We now had a “C” energy grading .

Presbytery had approved the state of the manse subject to completion of the works agreed and new carpeting throughout .

Discussion followed questioning the need to replace all the carpets after 5 years and there were some views expressed that the session should have been consulted .

The Moderator however pointed out that this was a presbytery requirement and if we did not replace the carpets or complete the work then we would not be allowed to proceed with a new minister .

Agreed that the money would be set aside for new carpeting and the new minister could select the colouring. The old carpets would be removed .

An enquiry was made about the situation if the new minister wished to stay in their own house out with the parish.

Barbara Ann pointed out that this would be very unusual and would need Presbytery approval and also questioned if the session would approve their Minister not residing within the community .

The Roll – Barbara Ann pointed out that the Roll needed updated, and Irwin was thanked for the work he had started here .

He confirmed we had 2 adherents .

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Agreed each district elder would get their list to check .

It was confirmed that plans to reallocate districts had been derailed by the number of elders who had decided not to re-join session, some of whom had been earmarked for districts and also it left some more districts without visiting elders .

We would have to look again as possibly we would be short of visiting elders and not able to split larger districts.

Elders were reminded on GDPR requirements of securely retaining information on their districts.

Session approved the transfer of lines from Margaret Miller and agreed she be added to the Roll .

C) Safeguarding – Sandra reported that all elders re-joining the session would have to undergo safeguarding training in their role as trustees, even if they had attended safeguarding training as a volunteer,

Dates were awaited from Presbytery and Sandra had offered that we at HKK could host .

This was a legal obligation to attend training, even if not actively participating in any Team. Training was recommended every 5 years, preferably every 3.

All previous session elders had attended, and the safeguarding team had attended Committee training ,

The Moderator pointed out that Presbytery had the power to take you out of eldership if you did not attend safeguarding training,

d) Dates and events

For 150th celebrations Annabelle would be emailing dates and events

October communion – due to a prior commitment Barbara Ann would not be available for the evening service.

Whilst a locum could be sought at a cost, it was pointed out that attendance at the evening service excluding ones who had already attended the morning service had decreased to about 20 at the last 2 communions and not all elders even attended both services. With such low numbers it was agreed that on this occasion only a morning service would be held.

Elders could explain to their districts and maybe this might stimulate interest going forward in the evening service.

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e) Carnival update - Very successful and fun day . Thanks to all involved particularly the organising team of Matthew, Jane , Ken and Janice. Over £11k had been raised .

f) Districts – already covered

g) BB – Barbara Ann had arranged a meeting with leaders of all sections this week . We now do not have a BB captain and no qualified officers in the company section.

We were reliant on Gillian and John McFarlane for both Anchor Boys and Junior section .Session agreed both sections could meet on a Thursday evening, a change from Friday evening for Anchor boys.

Maybe organisational elders could assist.

A volunteer to take over the BB admin had been sought for some time and raised at the Elders conference however no one had volunteered. Elders were asked to give this serious consideration as this would assist the BB in continuing to run here in Houston and might make it easier to attract a Captain and /or officers if they had less admin to contend with .

h) Car run - Enquiries had been made about the car run service and interest had been shown. Kindly Margaret Moncrieff had agreed to organise this again . Helen had asked for volunteers and received a few names which hopefully with volunteers from the congregation would be sufficient to restart.

It will be intimated and emailed to members . Elders to ensure people aware.

The Moderator confirmed there would be no safeguarding implications as not involving vulnerable adults..

1. Fair Trade - It had been agreed at a previous session meeting that in the halls the church buys all the tea coffee etc which would be Fair Trade rather than each organisation storing food all over the kitchen.

We were aiming to be an eco-congregation and needed volunteers to take this forward .

However, it appears that at least 2 church groups were not complying .

Session agreed that they must be asked to comply.

Also, Session reminded Mother & Toddlers now a church organisation .

8. Matters for discussion:

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1. Finance – Accounts would be available on the web page SAM on 21st after worship .

In relation to the deliverances in the Finance Report – we would be approaching the donors of £500 for the car park project to ask if they wanted it back or reallocated .

Also, Session agreed that the bequest from the late Marjorie Goudie could be used for the new Chancel area carpet .

1. Involvement in Teams

Helen reminded all Elders that they had agreed on re-joining the session to play their part in the day to day running of the church and if not currently in a Team they were asked to give the matter serious consideration .

They could approach Helen at the end of this meeting or Matthew or Helen later and were encouraged to do so.

**SUBMITED REPORTS**

Reports from the Teams had been circulated and the deliverances from Property had been approved.

Session reminded you did not need to be an elder or even in the congregation to join any of the Teams.

Mission Team report highlighted that additional numbers needed particularly for the Overseas team led by Caroline Morrison and also to run the Christmas unwrapped and Easter Code events and assistance for Christian Aid would be needed as Caroline intended to step down from all 3 after many years’ service .

Some discussion took place on whether it is right to cancel Toddlers to allow these events in the West Halls. This must be taken forward by Mission and not just to rely on it being done that way for last 5 years.

Safeguarding: Sandra asked the session to ratify the appointment of Jenna Telfer and Shona Crawford which were approved

Pastoral team stressed to let them know if anyone needed visited.

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Presbytery Report – after many years’ service Roy Anderson was stepping down and thanks had been paid to him at Presbytery for all his years of service . Iain would keep us updated moving forward .

Strategy Group – Barbara Ann asked the session whether they wished this group to pause until a new minister was in place or to meet and work on a new 5 year strategy . Agreed it would be preferable to proceed with a new strategy plan.

Barbara Ann asked for ideas from the session for the group to develop based for where we wanted the church to be on 5 years .

Since no points were raised this would have to be passed to the Strategy group to take forward ,although hopefully individual elders would think on some ideas.

Carol Rankin – Barbara Ann and lee wou

Helen would meet with her to review her job . In particular she must be reminded not to cancel pre-existing block bookings without coming to the session first. Also, she must not be expected to take on all extra tasks

The Moderator asked session to consider a key box entry for groups for Killellan Halls in particular to avoid a rota system to open and close. Property Team to investigate and report back.

Jim Mclaughlin agreed to take on responsibility for noting when photocopier needed paper , toner etc.

AOCB |:

WIFI – thanks to Phil and Jim we now have WIFI in Killellan Halls

CCL licence – to be looked into as Peter used to do reporting in hymns to CCL and need to ensure we have correct licences.

Session were reminded Annabelle was not a secretary, ticket printer or photocopier but employed as a Communications Officer

Thanks to the Mens Shed who were repairing the Notice board for the church .

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Caroline raised the question about the Baptism Rolls and whether they should all be up displayed in the church or even on the web page.

Session agreed to the current position and not on the web page .

Some discussion took place on the best location for the photos of all the previous ministers which decision would be left with the Property Team

The Moderator advised in relation to an enquiry about a First Communicant’s class that this should be left for the new minister to take forward .

It was noted that Presbytery may need to appoint a new interim moderator for the linked charges . Barbara Ann was reviewing her position as too much to do locum and IM for both and 2 services each Sunday .

Date of next Session meeting to be intimated, however date of 7 August to be pencilled in hoping Presbytery can meet us then.

The meeting finished by saying the Grace together.

Signed

Moderator Session clerk

Date: