

**Meeting of Selkirk Parish Church Kirk Session**  
**held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, at 7pm**

**1 Constitution**

Lynda McCraw read from Philippians ch.1 vv 3 - 11, describing God as “the knitter of our lives, who never gives up on a project” followed by a short prayer. The moderator, Rev. Margaret Steele, then constituted the meeting with a further prayer.

**2 Elders present**

Anne Bethune, David Bethune (minutes), Fiona Corbett, Mark Corbett, Pauline Davidson, Elma Hendrie, Fiona Holmes, Gordon Junor, Jacqui Lee, Margaret Milne, Lynda McCraw, Louise Raffier, Colin Macintosh, Marion Macintosh, Katrina Smith, Linda White and Glynis Wilkie.

**Apologies** were received from Jim Noble, Jim Smith and Myra Ward.

**3 Approval of minutes**

The minute of the Kirk Session meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> June was accepted as a true record, proposed by G. Wilkie and seconded by M. Macintosh.

**4 Matters Arising**

**(a) Feedback from mini-Hird questions**

D. and A. Bethune were thanked for preparing and arranging the distribution of the June mini-Hird. Feedback on experience of online (and phone) worship was varied; many were enjoying the different experience, and some looking forward to a return to the church building. The dial-in service has been used by a small number who cannot use internet access.

M. Steele reported on what other congregations are doing; many are waiting until the situation changes before considering returning to their building, but all intend to continue providing an online service. Some are offering more than one service each week, perhaps on different days, to allow for the reduced numbers permitted, and using phone bookings. Some are already opening for private prayer or short reflective services. It was noted that CofS buildings insurance premiums will increase significantly from mid-September unless “regular worship” resumes (a minimum of 1 hour per month).

Much discussion ensued; while on-line worship meets many of our needs, the importance of personal contact was recognised, and the challenges of providing for those in care homes was noted.

**(b) COVID working group report**

The working group had provided a thorough report, with detailed instructions on the procedures that would be required to use the church building for worship under current restrictions. The number of participants would be limited to 29 (church) and 18 (hall). Discussion followed on whether we should move towards returning to “normal” and the practicalities of doing so. Various options were considered, with a general consensus toward a cautious approach emerging. The following decisions were agreed:

- Not to open the building for “normal” services for the time being.
- To encourage members with internet access to invite others to join them in their homes to participate in the online services.
- To start offering short “reflective worship” events weekly in the church building from mid-September onwards.
- To develop some discussion / bible study material which could be used by small groups meeting in homes.
- A flyer to be produced, outlining these actions, to be made available online and through some local shops.
- The Congregational Board to be asked to un-furlough Carole from the 1<sup>st</sup> September to begin cleaning the church building in preparation for the above.

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5 **Items for AOB** – a question from L. Raffier

6 **Roll**

Kirk Session noted the loss of Betty Young and Joey Shannon through death. It was agreed that any email addresses and phone numbers provided by members should be added to the roll.

7 **Cluster matters, including Ashkirk situation**

The Cluster working group will meet again on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August to discuss progress.

Ashkirk Kirk Session has asked us to consider a union (rather than a linkage) with Selkirk, as they now have so few active elders and office bearers. The implications of this were considered at length, and alternative options discussed, including establishing the cluster as a 3-way union rather than linkages or supporting Ashkirk by seconding office bearers. There was no clear consensus on the best way forward. It was agreed that all this needs to be considered carefully and at length before agreeing to any definite proposals, but that Selkirk Kirk Session is willing to explore the matter further. It was noted that no actual change can take place at present, as congregational meetings are not allowed during the current COVID restrictions.

8 **Evangelism and Discipleship Focus**

The New Testament study course led by Jane Peers was commended to all.

9 **Community Focus**

- (a) **Open Door:** M. Ward and J. Stevenson have been cooking meals from the food stored in the freezers, and J. Moley has been distributing these to contact families (up to 30 meals per week). The Open Door management group will meet to consider future options.
- (b) **JAM** is currently not operating. Thanks were expressed to E. Hendrie for her involvement with JAM over many years.  
The **Foodbank** remains active.  
**FreshStart Borders** has received a grant to repair the roof of their premises.  
Nothing to report on **Fairtrade** or **Chamber of Trade**.

10 **Safeguarding** All admin and future training will be online.

11 **Sunday gang & Hot Chocolate Club** have taken a summer “rest”; the team are meeting to plan future activities (whether actual or virtual)

12 **Children and Families worker** No formal report was received. J. Moley is continuing to work with Rowland’s, and exploring ideas for outdoor events and a homework club.

13 **Eco-congregation** The recycling clinic in the community pop-up shop has resumed on a weekly basis in partnership with Sustainable Selkirk.

14 **Correspondence** None received

15 **AOB** L. Raffier asked the Kirk Session to consider, at a later meeting, the question “How do we hear the voice of under-50s?”

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**16 Dates of next meetings:** next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> September  
Following Kirk Session meetings: 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10<sup>th</sup> Nov, 8<sup>th</sup> Dec, 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021, 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9<sup>th</sup>  
Mar, 13<sup>th</sup> Apr, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> Jun.

**17 Close of meeting** The meeting was closed with a prayer.

\_\_\_\_\_Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_Session Clerk