

**Meeting of Selkirk Parish Church Kirk Session**  
**held by Zoom video conference on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, at 7pm**

**1 Constitution**

Myra Ward read from Psalms 30 and 92, and encouraged us to “keep on relying on God”, then led us in a short prayer. The moderator, Rev. Margaret Steele, 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, Lynda McCraw, Margaret Milne, Louise Raffier, Katrina Smith, Myra Ward, Linda White and Glynis Wilkie.

**Apologies** were received from Jim Noble and Jim Smith.

**3 Approval of minutes**

The minute of the Kirk Session meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> December was accepted as a true record, proposed by E. Hendrie and seconded by M. Corbett.

**4 Matters Arising new elders**

12 names were suggested as possible new elders.

Of these, 3 are currently not members. It was agreed that these 3 should be invited to think about membership, with the offer of participating in some membership discussions, open to them and any others interested in membership.

It was agreed to invite all of the other 9 to a group to discuss possible eldership.

It was suggested that we set up a mentoring/buddying arrangement to support new elders.

**5 AOB General Assembly**

**6 Roll**

The deaths of Nancy Connor, Graham Scott, Sheena Combe, Olive Haig and William Bryson were noted.

Moira Mitchell was added to the roll by certificate of transfer.

With the above changes applied to the roll previously checked, the communion roll was attested.

Maureen and Peter Franks were welcomed as adherents, and will also be invited to the membership discussions noted at item 4.

The electoral register, comprising all on the communion roll plus the 2 adherents noted above, was attested.

**7 Worship matters**

- (a) **Christmas:** the zoom carols (organised by Myra and Rod Ward, Lita McHale and Louise Raffier), the Christingle service (produced by members of Ashkirk, Etrick and Yarrow) and the Christmas Day service, had all been appreciated by many. Thanks was expressed to all those who made these possible. A free Christmas meal and hamper was delivered to 30 individuals; thanks were expressed to Fiona Corbett, Myra Ward, Fan Heafield, Donella McCann, Fiona Holmes, Jacqui Lee, the Selkirk Resilience Team, local traders, and members of the community who contributed funding or helped in various ways, who made this community outreach possible.

/continued

- (b) **Closure of church building:** the church building has been closed for worship for the time being, and will be reviewed only when government restrictions and advice are relaxed.
- (c) **Worship Group:** the joint worship group, coordinated by Jane Peers, will lead services every 6 – 8 weeks. A zoom evening communion will be tried in February or March. This would be “live”, with the option to make it available afterwards through YouTube. The joint churches World Day of Prayer service may also be done through zoom; alternatively, it may be decided to join with the national service instead.

## 8 **Children and Families work**

E. Hendrie reported on her latest meeting with J. Moley, who has now returned to work after paternity leave. He will now use the template provided by K. Smith for future reports. He hopes to re-start the Homework Club on a virtual basis; this will require a second adult to be involved.

L. Raffier reported that **Hot Chocolate club** will meet on Friday 15th January for its first meeting of the year.

**Sunday gang** is currently in abeyance, without leadership; M. Steele asked for prayer for the way forward.

## 9 **Furlough of staff**

In view of current restrictions, it was agreed that:

- Cleaner (Carole Neilson) should be furloughed
- Kitchen Manager (Jane Stevenson) should be furloughed
- L. McCraw should explore the option of partial furlough, and if that is possible, E. Hendrie to discuss this option with J. Moley
- a decision on the Church Administrator (Wilma Groenewald) to be deferred to the next meeting

## 10 **Cluster matters**

The process outlined in the previous minute is progressing as planned, with postal distribution of the draft basis of linking and accompanying information about to happen.

## 11 **Discipleship**

**Reachout** There will be no Lent group this year, but 3 events are planned: a craft event in January, a virtual pancake party in February and a “lockdown pilgrimage” in March.

The **Disciple group** continues fortnightly on-line.

The **Support in Faith group**, meets approximately every 3 weeks on Sunday evenings, with around 6-7 folk involved, and facilitated by Gary Hamilton.

## 12 **Community Focus**

- (a) **Open Door:** The planned reopening has been postponed due to current COVID restrictions. A grant of £4000 has been received from Foundation Scotland.

- (b) **Foodbank** continues to be used.

**Fresh Start Borders** is operating on an emergency-only basis from its new premises.

**Fair Trade** – Traidcraft orders are regularly sent through M. Ward.

## 13 **Safeguarding** – nothing to report at present.

/continued

**14 Eco-congregation**

D. Bethune encouraged everyone to engage with upcoming events:

- “COP26 - what is it?” led by Fiona Buchanan of Christian Aid, on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, 7-8pm on zoom.
- Joint meeting of South Scotland environmental groups, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7-9pm, on zoom
- “Being an environmentally conscious Christian”, led by Rev. David Coleman, on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 7-8pm, on zoom.

We are being encouraged by Eco-congregation Scotland and A Rocha to have a “Climate Sunday” service at some time this year, before COP26.

Rev. David Coleman has offered to contribute to a service if we wish.

**15 Correspondence:**

In response to an invitation to join with other local churches, and churches nationally, we agreed to ring the church bell at 12 noon on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January (subject to checking that this is allowed under current restrictions), to mark the coming into force of the **UN Treaty on Nuclear Weapons**. This action will be explained through Facebook, website and the local press. Sunday Gang will be invited to create a poster for the noticeboard.

**16 Dates of next meetings: next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February**

Following Kirk Session meetings: 16<sup>th</sup> Feb (joint meeting with Congregational Board to approve accounts), 9<sup>th</sup> Mar, 13<sup>th</sup> Apr, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> Jun.

Notes of other meetings: provisional date for Stated Annual Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> March

**17 Close of meeting The meeting closed with the saying of “the grace” to each other.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Session Clerk