

Netherlee and Stamperland Church

Kirk Session met at 7.30pm on Monday 7th November 2022

1 CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by Rev Scott Blythe with Prayer.

2 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES

There were 34 Elders present with apologies from 16 Elders as per the Sederunt sheet.

3 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The draft Agenda was agreed with 3 additional items under AOCB.

4 DISCUSSION TOPIC(S) – *Worship in December 2022, 2023 and beyond*

Scott introduced the discussion by observing that it was 27 years since he had graduated, and this was one reason he was currently undertaking fresh studies. There have been big changes in how to teach practical theology. Rather than learning basic skills in order to serve the church, nowadays it is a much more mixed discipline, where it is important to look at the congregation and analyse what it is about. There are two types of church (1) the theory in scripture and (2) the reality. Understanding the difference between the two is what is important.

Increasing our understanding of the need for mission, not just projects, covers everything. We are a 'living organisation' rather than an 'engine that needs tweaking'. This introduces the concept of 'adaptive change' as against 'technical change'. If we can harness an awareness of the 'anxiety levels' within our organisation we will be better placed to move forward.

Video – Leadership & Authority Structure by Ronald Heifetz (8 minutes)

- Routine problems, for which we have a solution, are dealt with by a technical approach, and most churches are quite good at this.
- An adaptive challenge, for which there is no plan are generally harder because we need to change our behaviours to solve them.
- In most situations there will be a mixture of technical and adaptive issues, and consequently varied and flexible solutions required.
- Leadership can fail when we do not correctly diagnose the issue – technical or adaptive – which is required to break the cycle; often what we need is a different conversation.

Scott then asked Session to break into groups and tackle these questions –

How can we deal with the confusion between technical and adaptive problems?

Are there technical solutions to adaptive problems?

Feedback –

We have been successful, so let's not dump our practical solutions.

Perhaps reactive solutions should be tried after practical solutions.

What is the challenge we face – is it practical or adaptive?

Scott went on to describe Netherlee and Stamperland as a successful church. Whether looking at Sunday worship numbers, our financial situation or Youth Organisations using our buildings there are not many better. We should be happy about this. However, are we happy?

Thinking back to the aims of our mission and our desire to connect with our community. Are we happy with this? We have an awareness of a generation that is missing; they are not coming through our doors to join us. It's not that we haven't tried, but have we been throwing technical solutions at an adaptive issue.

Scott invited comments –

To meet the needs of young families we without doubt need a different conversation.

Are we searching for solutions that do not exist?

If there was a 'silver bullet' smarter folk than us would have found it, so let's consolidate where we are – hospitable and welcoming.

Next Scott asked Session to consider the question – What brings you to Church most weeks?

Feedback –

It my personal time to communicate with God.

Duty and commitment.

Coffee and biscuit that goes with the fellowship after worship.

In rounding off the discussion Scott suggested we should take this discussion further and suggested a small working group of elders.

ACTION

Elders interested in joining this group please email Scott directly.

Turning to Worship in December Scott highlighted the timings in 2022 and 2023, asking for thoughts about holding 3 services from Christmas Eve at 5pm (Christingle) and 11:30pm (Watchnight) to Christmas Day worship at 10:30am. Clearly in the past these service were very well attended in both places (Netherlee & Stamperland) but the world is a different place now.

Following a short discussion, including the idea of sharing these services within our Cluster, it was agreed to ask for volunteers to assist the Worship group to review the 3 services, however, with two caveats (1) Watchnight – can we do this differently, subdued lighting, candles, reflective readings; and (2) Christmas Day will be an adult service as very few children have been attending recently. Alan Fairlie and Neil Planner volunteered to help.

ACTIONS

- 1. Any more Elders interested in helping please email Scott directly.**
- 2. When Duty Team requests are made please respond willingly and promptly.**

5 WRITTEN REPORTS

Scott asked the Conveners if they had motions to propose or highlights to mention:

Rollkeeper

Stuart intimated that unfortunately Mabel Bell was currently experiencing some health issues.

- Removed from the roll by Death – John (Ian) Dickson, Margaret Armstrong and Mike Buchan.
- Removed from the roll by Certificate – Anne Hendry, Valerie Stewart, Christie McNaughton, Derrick & Karen Brown, Eva Allan, Grace Scott and Isobelle Ingram.
- New Members – Anne Wilson.

Finance

Stuart reported that John's knee operation had been successful and he was doing his physiotherapy diligently.

- Nothing much to add since report issued via latest Newsletter.
- Letters have been sent to those who supported the Raise the Roof Appeal, however, we wish to record here the grateful thanks of the Kirk Session for the magnificent sum of £47,000 raised by our congregation.
- We have been notified that the General Trustees will not be taking the usual 10% levy on the sale of the Stamperland building.

Fabric

No items on the report that require Kirk Session approval. A request was made to improve/fix the outdoor lighting at the Welcome Hall/Side door entrance.

Children & Youth Ministry

Helen Illingworth intimated that the Carol Singing around the neighbourhood has been changed to Wednesday 14th December – all welcome.

Mission

- Jim Ferguson announced that as predicted the Common Good Fund is now empty! Started 5 years ago it has supported 134 applicants. Our thanks to Jim and his committee for their efforts.
- Alistair Gow stated that 40+ boxes have gone to Blythswood Care plus assorted bags with extra items including many hats!

Planning & Communication

Diane Levey thanked all for the work put into the Come & See Day. The place was busy and we have one new choir member!

Correspondence

- Presbytery of Glasgow citation re meeting to approve Cluster Mission Plans (08.10.2022).
- Thank you letter from Lodging House Mission for our Harvest donation (26.10.2022).

Food Hygiene

Barbara Cochrane announced we need more volunteers to help with coffee after worship. Scott suggested approaching individuals directly, but agreed to mention on Sundays (Welcome and in Large Hall).

Safeguarding

As Bruce is away on business, Stuart is delighted to report that at the end of the last Session meeting Jane Curror volunteered to assist Bruce. Bruce is dealing with the application paperwork, but this appointment first needs the approval of the Kirk Session. Unanimously approved.

Roof works

Tony Ireland presented a series of photographs to explain the work to date on the sanctuary roof.

Scott asked the Trustees if they had any further questions. There were none.

Scott asked the Trustees if they accepted all the reports as presented. The majority of those present agreed.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Kirk Session minute of 05.09.2022 were approved.

7 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Eco-Congregation

Dagmar Kerr presented on behalf of Sheena Wurthmann.

At the Mission Group we raised the idea that we should work on upgrading our Eco-Congregation status to at least silver. While participating in the cluster process we became aware that Greenbank has a bronze award and would also like to see progress. Busby would like to become an Eco-Congregation, and St Aidan's and St Joseph's have expressed interest. This suggests to us that Clarkston Churches Together could become an Eco-Congregation Cluster. Such a project will require a lot of teamwork.

Scott asked Session if they accepted the proposal. The majority of those present agreed.

ACTION

Elders interested in joining this group please email Sheena or Dagmar directly.

Church Council

The Kirk Session wishes to recognise the efforts of Cameron Main and Malcolm MacVey in working hard to maintain a harmonious relationship with the Youth Organisations and Hall Users that use our buildings. I believe the last minute was circulated to the full Kirk Session, if not let me know, as it contains important information for us all with regard to Fire Alarm Drill requirements.

Flower Delivery Convener

Delighted to announce that Elaine Balfour and Sheila Dunn have agreed to share this role so the service will continue.

ACTION

Please spread the word about this good news.

Let Elaine/Sheila know of any suitable recipients (with address/reason) for the flowers.

8 FUTURE MEETINGS and our next COMMUNION

- Kirk Session at 7:30pm on Monday 6th February 2023
- Group and Committee meetings as per schedules issued
- Communion at Netherlee at 10:30am on Sunday 5th March and Sunday 9th April 2023
 - Meeting at 9:00am to help David Beckett (Communion Elder) are Elinor Mair and Elaine Balfour.

9 CLOSE

The meeting was closed with all present saying the Grace.

APPENDIX SLIDE PRESENTATION & VIDEO

ANNEX WRITTEN REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE MEETING

Scott Blythe
Minister

Stuart Buchanan
Session Clerk