



On the third day of November 2020 the Presbytery of Edinburgh was invited to attend an on-line meeting for ordinary business and was constituted with prayer.

### **SEDERUNT**

Rev Dr Richard Frazer, Moderator, Rev Marjory McPherson, Clerk, and others, Ministers, Deacons and Elders as in the Register of Attendance.

### **CELEBRATION**

#### **Minute**

The minute of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 was submitted and approved.

#### **Admission to Presbytery**

The Rev Erica Wishart, having applied for membership of Presbytery in terms of Act III 2000, section 14, and satisfactory evidence of status and good standing having been presented, the Presbytery proceeded to admit her to membership.

Mrs Wishart, being present, gave an affirmative answer to the prescribed question and signed the Formula.

The Moderator then admitted her to membership of the Presbytery and her name was added to the Roll.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Order of Business, as circulated, was submitted and approved with approval also given to Dr Allan Gordon to speak to Presbytery about the charity Fresh Start.

#### **Congregational Business**

##### **Broughton St Mary's**

The Clerk reported that in terms of Act VIII 2003 anent Vacancy Procedure, the Business Committee, sitting as the Vacancy Procedure Committee had granted a Call to the vacant charge of Broughton St Mary's in accordance with the Presbytery Plan.

Members of Presbytery and of the said congregation were duly notified.

The Clerk reported that four requests had been received and under the terms of Act VIII 2003 anent Vacancy Procedure, this permission to call is now sisted and requires the approval of Presbytery.

The vacancy at Broughton St Mary's will be brought to Presbytery at their meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and the congregation will be cited to attend for their interest.

## **BUSINESS MATTERS**

### **Business Committee**

The Convener, Rev David Cameron, gave in the report. (Appendix 1)

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

Presbytery

1. note that the "Holiday Committee" acting under powers agreed to
  - a. grant permission to the congregation of St Giles' Cathedral to cancel public worship on Sunday 11th October 2020 to allow for deep cleaning of the building following an individual testing positive for Covid-19.
  - b. agree the process proposed by the congregation of Kirkliston for their preferred candidate to preach as sole nominee and for the Call to be signed.
  - c. appoint the Rev Christine Clark as Interim Moderator of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Church during the period of the minister's absence due to ill-health.
2. elect the Very Rev Dr Derek Browning as Moderator of the Presbytery for year 2021/22.
3. approve the Business Committee's continuing to engage with Presbytery Reform, with a view to a decision being made on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 on a future Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian.
4. instruct the Nominations Committee to bring to the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 names of those who would serve on the Steering Group on behalf of the Presbytery of Edinburgh.
5. agree that in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, congregations wishing not to hold a service in the church building should inform the Presbytery through contacting the Presbytery Clerk, rather than have to seek permission each time the building has to be closed due to safety needs related to the virus.

### **Presbytery Planning Strategy Team**

The Convener, Rev Jack Holt, gave in the report. (Appendix 2)

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

Presbytery

1. receive the report.

### **Finance Committee**

The Convener, Rev Dr Karen Campbell, gave in the report. (Appendix 3)

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

Presbytery

1. receive the report.
2. note the M&M allocations.

### Property Committee

The Vice-Convener, Rev Alex McAspurren, gave in the report. (Appendix 4)

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

Presbytery

**1. St John's Colinton Mains** – grant permission to St John's Colinton Mains Parish Church to apply for planning approval and seek tenders for the proposed building project; instruct the congregation to revert to the Property Committee with agreed plans and tender costs to seek final approval for the project.

**2. Dalmeny** – grant permission to Dalmeny Parish Church to remedy building works on the Church Centre and endorse an application to the General Trustees for financial help in meeting the costs of £85k; encourages the congregation in its efforts to seek redress.

### Administrative Items from the Clerk

The Clerk gave in the report.

*It was moved, seconded and agreed:*

Presbytery

1. sustain the Elder Commission to Mrs Hazel Reid, St Martin's.

### ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery adjourned to meet:

- for ordinary business until 1 December 2020 at 7pm on-line.

Closed with prayer

Moderator

Clerk

## Appendix 1 – Business Committee

### Presbytery Reform

Since the General Assembly of 2019 conversations have been initiated around the country to begin the process of moving from 43 to around 10-12 Presbyteries in Scotland. Some members of the Business Committee have engaged in conversations with representatives of a number of Presbyteries and, while further changes may be on the horizon, fruitful discussions have been held with the Presbytery of West Lothian such that the following joint report and deliverance are brought to this meeting.

### TOWARDS A PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND WEST LOTHIAN

#### Preamble

The Radical Action Plan approved by the General Assembly of 2019 stated:

*Presbytery is the gathered life of the Church of Scotland in a particular area. It brings together, in a mutually accountable and supportive relationship, the recognised ministries and elders representing local Christian communities in parish, education, chaplaincy and national church administration.*

*In Presbytery the leaders of the local church come together to:*

- *discern the Holy Spirit's leading of the Church in their context;*
- *respond appropriately to Christ's call to follow;*
- *oversee the work of the local church; and*
- *be responsible for discipline and good order.*

The General Assembly of 2019 decided that the Church of Scotland should move from having 43 Presbyteries to having around 12 Presbyteries. The Radical Action Plan stated that these new Presbyteries would

- *become the natural place to which resources, funding, and decision-making are devolved;*
- *be able to employ and deploy staff to meet regionally identified needs and opportunities (e.g. around buildings, finance, church planting, partnership and mission);*
- *have the capacity to retain and make better use of a higher proportion of the funds raised in the area for the mission of the local church;*
- *have the increased capacity to support and encourage those who are in recognised ministries or are office-bearers, engendering resilience and the spirit to develop church life;*
- *free up time and energy for local mission including by reducing the administrative and legislative burden;*
- *have increased capacity to speak with a collective voice to other regional centres of influence in civic life;*
- *have the capacity to take risks and learn from mistakes; and*

- *need less input from the national offices, allowing a reduction in central spend, enabling increased devolution of funding and resources.*

At the General Assembly of 2019 there was a mood that the need for radical change was urgent. The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on the church has made the need for radical change more urgent.

It is likely that an amalgamation of the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian would be a first step towards the goal of around 12 Presbyteries.

### **The New Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian**

- It will serve a current population of around 700,000 people, with further growth projected in both Edinburgh and West Lothian - a significant proportion of the population of Scotland.
- It will be a registered Scottish Charity: at present Edinburgh is a charity, but West Lothian is not. The current Edinburgh charity number will continue to be used.
- The prime function of the Presbytery will be to further the MISSION of the church through supporting the work of Mission Districts and individual congregations.
- The new Presbytery will have a number of Mission Districts. The number and composition of these Mission Districts have not been identified at this stage, but they must be large enough to be effective and small enough to be perceived as local. Some may cross the existing Edinburgh / West Lothian border.
- It is envisaged that Presbytery Committees will be committees of the whole Presbytery. For efficient governance, it will be necessary for some powers to be devolved to these committees, so that everything does not require the approval of Presbytery as a whole.
- The full Presbytery will meet not more than four times each year.
- Staffing the new Presbytery will ultimately depend on the financial resources available. The Presbytery would require a Clerk, Depute Clerk, Treasurer, Administrator, Communications Coordinator, Safeguarding Coordinator, Mission Enabler and Buildings Officer. Some of these posts will be part time.
- There will be a Presbytery Office.

### **Timescale moving forward**

It is hoped that the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian will agree to unite from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 at their meetings on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. This will enable the General Assembly of 2021 to pass an Act approving the union.

If the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and West Lothian agree to union on this timescale, each Presbytery will appoint members to a Steering Group on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. This Steering Group will look at the structure of the new Presbytery in more detail to enable the new Presbytery to function from the beginning of 2022.

## **Sunday Services in Church Buildings**

Over the past months since lockdown our churches have gradually been reopening for worship, with additional health and safety provisions in place to take account of Covid-19. The recent increase in restrictions in the Lothian area raised questions about the safety of Sunday services in church. The Committee is aware that from time to time a congregation may not be able to hold a church service in the building due to local Covid-19 infections. The Committee is also aware that not every congregation in the Presbytery has reopened for worship. Under normal circumstances when a Kirk Session for whatever reason wishes to cancel a service in the church building, the permission of Presbytery is required. In the current climate the Business Committee takes the view that as decisions will often have to be made at short notice in response to rapidly changing circumstances, Kirk Sessions deciding not to open their building for a Sunday service should inform the Presbytery via the Presbytery Clerk rather than seek the permission of Presbytery not to hold a service. This provision to be in place until rescinded by Presbytery.

## **Appendix 2- Presbytery Planning Strategy Team**

Following two large Zoom meetings, the contents of which were shared with local Kirk Sessions, the Strategy Team sent out a number of papers to Session Clerks and Ministers on 24<sup>th</sup> September as we move to the next stage of the planning process. Four papers were sent out to aid the working of the local cluster groups. Paper 1, Next Steps to Creating a Plan, highlighted the grassroots nature of current conversations and the development of new and imaginative proposals. Paper 2, Area Group Conversations, set out the various cluster groups along with a contact person in the Strategy Team for each group, and some suggestions for ways of working. Paper 3, The Parameters of Presbytery Planning, set out the planning principles as contained within the Appraisal and Adjustment Act (Act 7, 2003) and also the 5 Marks of Mission. Paper 4, A Proposed Timeline, set out the timeframes and the activities that happen alongside the cluster meetings including input from other Committees and groups.

The hope is that by the time Presbytery meets some of the cluster groups will already have met or certainly have agreed dates to meet. While there have been some changes to the membership of some clusters it should be said that the focus for now is on conversation and working through the possibilities for mission in a wider area, albeit the future may bring different collaborations and groupings.

The Team is grateful to all the congregations for their participation in this move to create a new Plan for Presbytery.

### Appendix 3 – Finance Committee

The Finance Committee would like to thank the whole Presbytery for the serious commitment to paying their M&M and this in no small way indicates the commitment the Presbytery has to the Mission of the Church.

The next year will be a significant challenge to everyone and we would encourage the continuation of the sterling work.

Congregational Treasurers have been notified of the gross M&M assessments. We are grateful that the Assembly Trustees have reduced figures overall by 18%.

The Business Committee has concurred with the Finance Committee to reduce Presbytery assessments by making some savings in Lockdown. The Finance Committee will report next month as to the reductions.

### M&M 2021

Congregation	Average Income 2017- 2019	Proposed 2020M&M	2021 Scale M&M
Balerno	139,225	82,670	73,112
Currie	148,446	90,659	77,723
Dalmeny	40,686	22,939	20,343
Blackhall St Columba's	205,742	115,801	100,796
Broughton St Marys	93,745	57,891	49,059
Bristo Memorial Craigmillar	42,418	31,488	21,209
Barclay Viewforth	220,999	126,391	106,899
Gracemount	18,999	10,631	9,499
Canongate	151,291	84,731	79,016
Carrick Knowe	70,523	43,321	36,287
Colinton Parish	215,155	120,114	104,562
Craigsbank	108,586	67,054	57,222
Corstorphine Old	116,735	71,561	61,704
Corstorphine St Anne's	116,438	71,327	61,540
Corstorphine St Ninian's	175,250	100,459	88,600
Craiglockhart	144,504	85,295	75,752
Craigmillar Park	65,371	42,804	33,454
Cramond	363,231	190,682	163,792
Davidson's Mains	228,554	123,930	109,921
Drylaw	26,277	12,832	13,138
Duddingston	126,404	77,762	66,702
Fairmilehead	151,009	85,918	78,903
Granton	50,464	32,760	25,255
Greenbank	260,940	141,913	122,876
Greenside	59,325	35,298	30,128
St Giles	350,358	189,170	158,643

Holy Trinity	148,262	84,206	77,631
Inverleith St Serf's	116,330	71,597	61,481
Juniper Green	104,393	63,459	54,916
Greyfriars Kirk	168,554	100,818	85,921
Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse	126,995	79,467	66,997
Leith St Andrew's	81,949	53,002	42,571
Leith South	127,703	77,759	67,351
Leith Wardie	147,190	87,146	77,095
Liberton	228,739	125,179	109,995
Liberton Northfield	49,385	30,973	24,692
Mayfield Salisbury	264,981	148,553	124,492
Marchmont St. Giles	139,167	79,310	73,083
Murrayfield	154,852	91,635	80,440
Newhaven	81,878	49,371	42,532
Morningside	214,239	123,085	104,195
Palmerston Place	188,538	111,795	93,915
Priestfield	90,529	57,389	47,290
Reid Memorial	110,487	62,318	58,267
Pilrig St. Pauls	62,611	39,314	31,936
St Andrews And St Georges West	309,026	170,442	142,110
St. Andrew's Clermiston	61,547	35,274	31,350
St. Catherine's Argyle	64,689	37,706	33,078
St.Cuthbert's	138,837	86,670	72,918
St David'S Broomhouse	35,907	19,945	17,953
St Margaret's	69,489	44,015	35,718
St Martin's	28,667	12,649	14,333
St John's Colinton Mains	65,556	41,530	33,555
St Michael's	80,235	49,435	41,629
St. Nicholas Sighthill	43,886	28,008	21,943
St. Stephen'S Comely Bank	104,905	62,394	55,197
Portobello & Joppa	275,782	151,929	128,812
Slateford Longstone	40,957	25,530	20,478
The Old Kirk & Muirhouse	42,841	25,218	21,420
Stockbridge	98,985	62,331	51,941
Tron Kirk (Gilmerton & Moredun)	31,975	15,439	15,987
Kirkliston	104,030	61,939	54,716
Queensferry	122,010	72,297	64,505
Ratho	62,480	42,265	31,863
Polwarth	96,245	58,612	50,434
North Leith	75,805	49,162	39,192
Richmond Craigmillar	29,670	12,887	14,835
Willowbrae Parish	61,054	36,921	31,079
Medowbank Church	53,139	26,601	26,726



## Appendix 4 – Property Committee

### St John's Colinton Mains

St John's Colinton Mains is a union of St John's Oxfords and Colinton Mains Parish Churches (1 January 2014), on the Colinton Mains campus. The Oxfords site was sold and at December 2019 the value of the funds held on behalf of the congregation was £1,734,000. While the Colinton Mains buildings have been kept in good order, there has been no significant upgrading of the facilities over the last fifty years for the needs of the present time. This project is intended to expand and upgrade the site facilities in line with the vision of the congregation for its mission to the community and beyond.

Four mission priorities have been identified in reflections over the last few years (including the LCR), drawing on the demographic profile from the census material. The project would provide facilities and a base for engaging in these priorities:

- Families with young children (there are 3 primary schools, 1 special needs school and 1 secondary school in the parish).
- The pastoral care of the congregation and wider community.
- Evangelism and outreach.
- Working with local groups for the good of the community.

There are several main aspects of the design that pull the project together (drawing on the experience of designing the Madoch Centre in St Madoes):

- The SJCM building is a well-known feature of the community landscape. The church is a B-list structure. The project seeks to capitalise on this identity by retaining the profile of the church.
- Fundamental to the design is that the spaces being created and renewed should be functional and flexible, so that they can readily be adapted to suit the different sizes of groups using them.
- Clarity of entry point. Presently the access to the building is unclear, and the new design would guide people to one entry point with a welcoming feel from which all the facilities can be reached.
- The intention is to turn the campus from an underused space to a seven-day-a-week space, providing the facilities and people needed to make that happen.
- The demographics of the parish require this to be a cross-generational facility if it is to fulfil the mission priorities.

Note: good sized space and flexibility are seen to be important in a post-C-19 world.

Total project cost is estimated to be £2.1m, but with expected VAT recovery, this reduces to £1.75m, most of which is in hand. The full effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the value of the available funds and on construction costs is yet to be tested, but this can only be done at the next stage of the project.

Recent circumstances mean that there has been no opportunity to have pre-submission talks with the planning authorities, so the only way to identify planning issues and resolve them is to make an application. The Committee recommends both that action and the seeking of tenders to bring some clarity to the project's overall picture in order that Presbytery can consider it fully once costings are in place.

### **Dalmeny**

The Session undertook alterations to the Hall in 2017, however no valid building warrant was in place. Therefore, remedial works are required to comply with the valid building warrant issued in May 2020. Costs are estimated at £85k and in addition to local funding the congregation is seeking the help of the General Trustees, who are willing to offer a loan of £30k to cover the gap between funding and costs.

Legal advice has been sought from the Law Department at 121, and attempts will be made to seek redress. At the end of the process, a report will be written to see what lessons for the wider church may be learned from what has happened.

### **Notes: Property Committee meetings**

The next two meetings of the Property Committee will take place on:

**10<sup>th</sup> November** – applications for approval to be submitted by **3<sup>rd</sup> November**.

**19<sup>th</sup> January** – applications for approval to be submitted by **12<sup>th</sup> January**.

### **Presbytery Fabric Fund grants**

Applications are invited for the next round of small grants towards fabric works. The appropriate form can be found via the link below. Closing date for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> November.

[https://4cac2f24-975c-4020-9edb-7692916ca2df.filesusr.com/ugd/030308\\_840b30af69694209b6d85d943d0f2b90.docx?dn=Property%20Application%20for%20Financial%20Support%20July%202017.docx](https://4cac2f24-975c-4020-9edb-7692916ca2df.filesusr.com/ugd/030308_840b30af69694209b6d85d943d0f2b90.docx?dn=Property%20Application%20for%20Financial%20Support%20July%202017.docx)

A reminder to congregations with large projects to consider contributing 1% of the tender price ex vat to Presbytery Property Funds for congregations with fewer resources.

Congregations are also reminded that if their buildings are closed most of the week to inspect them regularly for damage over the winter months.