

Minutes of Elders Meeting held on the 2nd July 2020 at 7.30pm by Zoom

Elders : Norman Cordiner, Allan Dunbar, Duncan Dundas, David Goudie, Angus Jamieson, Kenny Mackenzie and Alasdair MacLeod.

Apologies : Matt Alexander

In Attendance : William Hamilton

Secretary : George Mackenzie

1. Opening Devotion

Angus opened the elders meeting in prayer.

Alasdair read from Hebrews 12 v 28 to Hebrews 13 v8. He highlighted verse 7 - "Remember your leaders"

People will follow if they see the leaders are following God's word. Elders need not only to teach but live a life in accordance with God's Word. Some examples are at the start of Hebrews 13.

2. Membership Update

David, Heather and Kyle Fraser applied for church membership, were interviewed and will be accepted into membership on Sunday 12th July.

Megan Bee applied for membership, was interviewed and will be accepted into membership on Sunday 12th July.

Mike and Ruth Miller resigned their membership. CCC wish to acknowledge their involvement and help over several years with the church.

3. Elders

Norman was formally welcomed back after his illness.

A farewell video has been made for Matt, Ruth and Izzy and this will be shown on the live stream on Sunday 5th July. Matt resigned his position as Elder and Trustee.

4. Accounts

Draft accounts have been prepared and presented to the elders. The elders approved the draft accounts. Duncan was thanked for all his work over the years and for the preparation of these accounts. The AGM will be delayed this year due to the virus. It needs to be held by second December and it was agreed to have the AGM on Wednesday 25th November 2020.

5. Planning for re-opening of Sunday services

William Hamilton had prepared a paper on reopening the church and had been presented to the elders.

We are almost into phase 3 of the Scottish government route map reducing lockdown. It was estimated that 100 to 130 people can worship in the church auditorium at 2 metre social distancing with an additional 60 at 1 metre distancing. No sung worship will be allowed. No children's activities. Do we continue with online services? No social connection during phase 3.

It is estimated that phase 4 will follow approximately four weeks after phase 3. No official guidance at present as to what is allowed at each stage. It is estimated that the church can be made ready for opening within two weeks.

Perhaps there are spiritual dangers in not meeting together (see Hebrews). One option is to have livestream in the morning and a physical meeting in the evening.

It was agreed to have a provisional date for opening the church of 30th August with an evening service. Then to have a morning service on September 6th. This will be subject to government guidance and the elders reviewing the situation nearer the time.

Due to limited space everyone will not be able to attend church at the same time and the elders are looking at ways to livestream the service. A booking system will need to be established so that the maximum number is not exceeded and also to allow for "Track and Trace".

The broadband signal at the church is weak and this will cause technical problems in live streaming the service. William is looking at the cost and options of upgrading the broadband.

Alasdair will prepare a statement for the church website

The elders thanked William for the work he has done in digital ministry and for the advice on COVID re the church building.

6. On-line services

Over the last eight weeks viewing figures have held up with approximately 140 families connecting on live feed each Sunday morning. 79 families connected with the communion service.

This is a new means of communication for the church, pushed into at short notice and in general a new area of service for those involved - most of which haven't had training .

It is challenging for presenters speaking to a Camera.
Different people have different expectations and requirements.
It was agreed that it was a challenging opportunity.

The Elders considered where improvements may be made but some principles cannot be compromised. Churches which have radically changed their style of worship do tend to have a lot of resources behind them. The Elders felt that we need to try and keep all components of our service but to try and deliver this within an hour. The elders wondered about including personal testimony to try and reach non-believers – perhaps early on in the service.

The Elders are conscious in the planning that there is a diverse viewing audience including both Christians and non-Christians

7. Sung Worship

Social distancing is recommended at 4 metres for praise groups. This limits the number of people that can participate in the music on the stage.

8. Furlough

All employees currently on furlough will remain on furlough for the foreseeable future.

9. Screwtape letters

This production was cancelled earlier in the year and the new proposed date is Friday 26th of March 2021.

10. Schools

The church had been approached by two local schools over the availability of rooms to allow social distancing while teaching. The church responded favourably but no further contact had been made.

11. Grow Trust

Donation is to be made to the Grow trust who are currently employing Oscar Forbes.

12. Developing our leadership and ministry structure in a growing Church

Clarity is needed going forward. Building a leadership team is a huge priority. Proposed elders meeting at a venue to be decided on Saturday 12th of September 8.30 to 12 noon.

13. Other business

It was agreed to buy a Gazebo which will have multi uses

David closed the elders meeting with prayer

Next Meetings

Proposed next elders meeting
Thursday 20th August
Saturday 12th September