

Minutes of Elders' Meeting Thursday 17th February 2022 (on Zoom)

Present: Alasdair Macleod, Norman Cordiner, Duncan Dundas, Allan Dunbar, Alan Cuthbert, Daniel Stephen, Angus Jamieson, Jonathan Dunbar, David Goudie

Apologies: William Hamilton, George Mackenzie

The meeting opened with a time of prayer

Church Membership: no changes in membership

Open Items:

- Family Sundaes: now planned for Sunday 24th April
- Renew Wellbeing group proposal: Alan Cuthbert & David Goudie have met with Janet Logue to hear more about the proposal and about Listening Ear. Janet is going to feedback further on the Renew Wellbeing proposal.
- Coffee Shop: recent appointment of additional person to work in Coffee Shop
- 40th Anniversary Thanksgiving: plans for a fellowship meal, possibly at Kingsmills Hotel on a Friday evening late September or early November: Angus to explore availability
- Welcome evening for those new to church: date to be discussed with James Campbell

Pastoral

- Several pastoral issues discussed and prayed about.

Agenda Items

1. Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Duncan gave an update on recent developments within the CAP ministry. Changes in current CAP team likely to occur this year. This provides an opportunity to review the ministry, including interaction of local ministry with CAP headquarters, training requirements for CAP, and guidelines that are followed when helping clients.

Action: Duncan to request a meeting of some CCC elders with leader(s) from CAP headquarters to explore direction of ministry. Further discussion at future elders' meeting to take place after this.

2. Communion

In a recent paper distributed by email prior to this meeting, Alasdair had proposed having communion in Sunday morning service 4-6 times per year.

Discussion in meeting about when communion services should take place, including overall frequency, and communion in morning/evening services. Issues considered included: making communion accessible to as many people as possible, including those who cannot attend in evening; practice in other churches; impact on people seeking God who attend our services; value of publishing in advance dates of communions, or establishing a regular pattern of communion; and history of communion within CCC.

Particular discussion occurred regarding desired frequency of morning communion, with focus on how communion is viewed by non-believers attending church: different opinions

expressed regarding this, with different views expressed on best frequency of morning communion. Majority decision made to have monthly morning and evening communion, aiming for next morning communion on Sunday 20th March. Agreed that it would be good to know dates of communion well in advance, and where possible, to aim for first Sunday in month for evening communion and third Sunday in month for morning communion.

Further discussion then occurred about Sunday morning services in general, with the following suggestions, to keep first part of service (i.e. until children go out) as child-friendly as possible:

- Minimise notices during this part of the service. Some further considerations raised that certain notices may be of interest to children so perhaps we should consider a short child-friendly summary of the issue in the early part of the service, with elaboration later if necessary.
- try to have all-age talk or children's chorus
- acknowledge presence of children in service in different ways so that they feel as welcome as possible.
- each service leader to be free to decide what to include in service. There will be some weeks when pattern needs to vary.

3. New elders' equipping

Alasdair continues to meet with the new elders, for times of mutual encouragement and also exploring issues of relevance. Recent conversation with new elders about how to help people new to CCC to get involved: further discussion about this in this elders meeting covering : making needs known, exploring people's gifting and interests at membership interview, getting alongside people.

Plan for time of informal prayer and fellowship for all available elders on **Saturday 26th March**.

4. Solas conference: 2nd April 2022

Promotion starting for this forthcoming conference. Andy Bannister preparing a video for use in promotion.

5. Midweek Youth Club

New proposal by Helen Cuthbert regarding starting a midweek evening youth club at CCC for P7-S2 age. More work to develop this idea is required but elders very enthusiastic about the proposal. Might be worth considering a promotional video for children to watch, if Club going ahead.

AOB

Requirements of ratios of leaders to children for childrens' ministries

- it was raised that the recommended ratios of leaders for children's work in CCC needs to be clarified with reference to guidelines. Angus suggested that Alison Macleod (Safeguarding Convenor) could assist with this. Nicki Hutchison is looking into this issue.

The meeting closed with a time of prayer.