

Minutes of Elders' Meeting Thursday 24th March 2022

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

Apologies: Daniel Stephen, George Mackenzie

The meeting began with time of prayer. Several pastoral issues prayed for.

Devotion

Alasdair shared from Jeremiah 29:7 "...seek the peace & prosperity of the city.... Pray to the Lord for it...". Peace is 'Shalom' – total wellbeing. Jesus speaks of us being yeast, spreading our influence, or like a mustard seed – growing large from seemingly small beginnings, and how we need to "work... for food that endures to eternal life". We are to lead people on to deeper things. Our agenda is the mission of God that is touching our community. Jesus calls us to faith as we do the work of God.

Church Membership:

One person has asked for membership. Several people have asked about baptism.

Open Items:

- **Finances:** (see accompanying February financial statement). Shortfall in income compared to expenditure in February. Important to monitor this going forward. Increased expenditure on salaries due to expansion of paid roles. Encouraging news however is that income from lets has started to increase again, and March has seen the receipt of a significant amount of rental income. Negotiations have now been concluded with Calor gas and a significant reduction agreed for next two years over price per litre.
- **Communion dates:** agreement to plan for 6 morning communion services per year. Next one on Sunday 22nd May. Discussion about Remembrance Sunday plans: pros & cons of communion that day; also possibility of having a service to remember members of congregation who have died.
- **Youth Club:** plans underway for this, with full support from elders. Recognition of need for more volunteers, and also likely need for purchase of equipment e.g. games console, for club – intention is to make these needs known to fellowship.
- **Welcome evening** for those new to church:
Action: Alasdair to email James Campbell about possible date.
- **Royal Messy Church** scheduled for Saturday 4th June (Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend). Discussions occurring about possibility of special **Lunch Club** on afternoon of Saturday 5th June.

Agenda Items

1. Forthcoming Evangelism opportunities

- 36 currently booked for Kingsmill dinner on Friday 1st April
- Solas Conference on morning of Saturday 2nd April
- Alpha Course- first meeting scheduled for Monday 25th April. Several people have signed up already. Alasdair in process of building team. Agreed that it would be good to ask homegroups to each commit to providing catering for at least one week of the course if

possible. Would also be ideal to identify someone to be in overall charge of coordinating the catering for the course.

- Baptismal service to be planned.

2. Listening Ear

Paper sent by Janet Logue prior to meeting describing proposal to pilot outreach of Listening Ear in Hilton area. Previous submission of an initial proposal to Highland Council has received favourable feedback from Highland Council, with encouragement for us to submit a full application: aim is to provide a 1 year pilot, offering Listening Ear drop-in and follow-up support to people in Hilton. The application, if successful would lead to a grant for the pilot project and it is expected that the costs of the project would be fully met by the grant, and that this would include allocation for administration. Janet has capacity to increase her time by one day per week to lead this pilot, and already has adequate numbers of CCC volunteers to support this, and to continue the existing CCC Listening Ear ministry. The elders are fully supportive of the submission of this application.

3. Renew Wellbeing group

Paper sent by Alan Cuthbert prior to meeting, including links to website and videos, describing this possible future ministry opportunity, which Janet Logue has been exploring for some months, including talking with the originator of the ministry. Janet has described (in meetings with Alan David & Alasdair, and in summary papers), how these groups have been run in other areas, providing places to develop holistic wellbeing of those who attend, through participation in hobbies/skills, and use of prayer spaces. Elders agreed that it would be good for Janet to explore further this ministry opportunity further. Janet will seek out a church where it has been implemented already, and also consider a risk assessment process. Agreed that we can discuss this proposal again at a future elders' meeting but that Alan, David & Alasdair would first meet again with Janet to hear more.

4. Safeguarding Training

With the increased ministry opportunities available due to the relaxation of pandemic-related restrictions, there is a need to review our safeguarding requirements within CCC. Current priority is to provide safeguarding training for volunteers. A local person has been identified to provide this training, (perhaps with the possibility of this person training some CCC Safeguarding Committee members to become trainers themselves.)

The Safeguarding Committee is aiming to add two additional people, one of whom could give administrative support to the Committee (a particular need due to the requirements to keep accurate records of names, training & PVG checks).

5. Elders fellowship & prayer

We hope to have a time of fellowship for the elders, outside of a formal elders' meeting, in the coming months.

AOB

- Alasdair on holiday 18th to 24th April
- Elders & Ministry Team Leaders Meeting Thursday 28th April
- Elders Meeting Thursday 19th May

The meeting closed with a time of prayer