

**KIRK SESSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th OCTOBER 2016
IN THE SESSION ROOM**

1. CONSTITUTION

Meeting constituted by the Interim Moderator, Rev Gray Fletcher, with a reading from Psalm 84 and a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Marie Owens, John Curror, George Fairweather, George Finlayson, Alastair Graham, James Mathieson, David McKee and Steven Owens.

3. SEDERUNT

Rev. Gray Fletcher, Rev Jack Drummond, 20 elders and four other Trustees.

Mr Ronald Kirkwood was welcomed to the meeting. It was explained that Ronnie Kirkwood had been ordained as an elder in Stamperland but had moved to Greenbank Church in 1981. The Moderator said that arrangements should be made to re-admit Mr Kirkwood as an elder.

4. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as previously circulated.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Minutes of meetings held on 7th September, 19th September, 27th September and 23rd October

Draft minutes of the meetings held in September were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was pointed out that the heading of section 9 of the minute of 7th September was incorrect and it was amended to read "Report from Roll Keeper". With this amendment acceptance of the minute of 7th September as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Kay Bolton. Acceptance of the minute of the 19th September as a true record was proposed by Anne MacKenzie and seconded by Ray McNiven. Acceptance of the minute of the 27th September as a true record was proposed by Gordon Robertson and seconded by Anne MacKenzie.

The minute of the meeting on the 23rd October was read to the meeting by the Session Clerk. Acceptance of this minute as a true record was proposed by Edith Moseley and seconded by Jane Curror.

The Minutes were signed by Interim Moderator and Session Clerk at the conclusion of the meeting.

6. TRIBUTE

Norman Bolton read a tribute to Sam Esler. He recalled that Sam had been ordained as an elder 9th February 1969 and had served as Session Clerk from November 1990 until December 2000. A copy of the tribute was placed in the Tribute file.

7 CORRESPONDENCE AND INTIMATIONS

7.1 Session Clerk

7.1.1 Letter from Lodging House Mission

Norman Bolton read excerpts from a letter from Lodging House Mission acknowledging the donation of the gifts from the Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

7.1.2 Letter from CofS Solicitor regarding Data Protection Compliance

Norman Bolton read excerpts from a letter from the Church of Scotland solicitor relating to compliance with the EU data protection law and, specifically, in relation to the church membership roll. After more than four years of discussion, the EU-wide General Data Protection Regulation which will come into force in May 2018 will no longer require that explicit consent is given by members of religious organisations for their personal details (i.e., name and address) to be held on a data base. Notwithstanding this important relaxation, it was vitally important that the church roll must be kept secure so as to prevent unauthorised access and accidental loss and that no information was disclosed to any third-party without the explicit consent of the person concerned.

7.1.3 Letter from CofS regarding nominations to serve on church committees

Norman Bolton read excerpts from a letter in which it was intimated that the Church of Scotland is seeking some ninety people to serve on a range of national committees. He explained that the range of committees could be viewed on the Church of Scotland web site. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should indicate their interest to the Session Clerk.

7.1.4 Letter from Business Stream

Norman Bolton advised that he had received correspondence from Scottish Water Business Stream regarding registering for exemption in relation to charges for the supply of fresh water and drainage services. To maintain exemption the church had to register on-line. This had been done and it was hoped that maintaining exemption status would, in future, be much simpler.

7.1.5 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Clarkston Churches Together evening service marking the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity would be held in our church on 21st January 2017. The preacher would be Rev Sally Foster Fullerton. Stamperland would be expected to provide tea and coffee after the service.

7.1.6 World Day of Prayer

The Clarkston Churches Together service for the World Day of Prayer (Friday, 3rd March, 2017) would be held in our church.

8 SAFETY AND SECURITY

No issues were reported in relation to PVG, Health and Safety or Food Hygiene.

9. REPORT FROM KIRK SESSION COMMITTEES

9.1 Resources

9.1.1 Property

Fraser Neilson advised that he had received a quotation from Poletek in relation to the external cleaning of the church vestibule windows and the clerestory windows on the north, west and south sides. Cleaning would be undertaken quarterly at a cost of £45 per visit. Elders agreed to accept the quotation.

Scott Russell raised an issue related to the "push-bar" on the fire escape door for the large hall. Whilst the push-bar worked well in relation to opening the door, he believed the mechanism was such that it was not easy to close and lock the door. Several people indicated that, whilst it might not be easy, there was a straight-forward procedure to close the door. It was agreed that a diagram giving a step-by-step explanation of how to close the door should be provided. If, after some time, it was apparent that people were still finding closure difficult, then a new type of bar would be fitted.

A question was raised about the servicing of the defibrillator and it was confirmed that this was undertaken by Brian Stokes.

9.1.2 Finance

9.1.2.1 General

Kay Bolton reported that Alex Johnston was willing to act as Independent Examiner of the church's annual accounts. Mr Johnston is the Independent Examiner for Netherlee Parish Church's accounts. It wasn't clear whether he would charge a fee.

Recent expenditure has included a service of the heating boilers at a cost of £645 and the replacement of a fan on a boiler at a cost of £361.

9.1.2.2 Budget for 2017

A draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The information presented included the actual income and expenditure in 2015, the anticipated out-turn for 2016 and the proposed budget for 2017. Kay Bolton took the elders through the figures.

Key points included the following:

Donations in 2015 were high as a result of the £5,200 donation from Stamperland Residents' Association.

The payment from General Trustees represented income from renting the Manse. It was not planned to request any payment in 2016 but to let funds accumulate so that in 2017 there would be finance available to cover the cost of renewing the manse bathroom plus re-decoration of the property. It was hoped that the costs of refurbishment and redecoration would be covered by the accumulated rental funds as would costs associated with the arrival of a new minister - £2,000 disturbance allowance and £1,500 removal costs.

The fabric costs of £14,500 in 2016 included the purchase and installation costs of the new digital organ.

It was anticipated that with no unforeseen costs arising in the next two months 2016 would end with a small surplus in the annual accounts.

Elders present approved the draft budget.

9.2 Strategy and Engagement

9.2.1 Fund Raising

No report

9.2.2 Stewardship

There being no Stewardship Co-ordinator there was no report.

9.3. Mission

Nancy Fisher said that work was proceeding in the background.

Nancy said that there had been an increase in the number of people asking for transport to attend hospital appointments, etc. and that there was a need for more volunteer drivers for this type of duty and also on Sunday mornings.

Nancy said that it was fitting that tribute had been paid to Sam Esler earlier in the meeting. Sam had been instrumental in establishing Open Door on Wednesdays. In relation to Open Door, the lunch for Open Door volunteers had been arranged for 14th December.

A brunch was being planned for 5th February with proceeds going to a local charity.

9.4 Nurture

9.4.1 Worship

Margo Neilson advised that Colin Kirkwood had joined the worship committee and that Karen Cramb would attend when possible.

The recent committee discussions had concentrated on activities related to Christmas. There was a proposal that there would be a Gift Service to which members of the congregation and of organizations would be invited to bring a gift for a child which would, subsequently, be donated to East Renfrewshire Good Causes, Women's Aid, Social Services, etc.. Elders approved the proposal.

Services and events planned for the Christmas period included a family Christmas Movie Evening; Christingle Service; Pie, Pint and Prayer event; Stepping Stones Nativity Play in conjunction with the Gift Service; Pyjama Service; Watchnight Service; Christmas Day Service.

9.4.2 Education

No report.

10. REPORT FROM ROLL KEEPER

Bill Paterson reported a number of changes.

10.1 Change of Address

	Old Address	New Address
Mr Alan Henderson	98a Stamperland Hill	6 Strathkelvin Lane, East Kilbride
Mrs Vicky Henderson	98a Stamperland Hill	6 Strathkelvin Lane, East Kilbride
Mrs Catherine Mair	14 Greenholme Ave	8 Riverside Court, Linnpark Ave
Mrs Grace Esler	5 Homeblair House	Darnley Court Care Home, Nitshill
Mrs Nancy Bruce	131 Stamperland Gardens	Glenafton Care Home, Pollokshields
Mra Marion Conejo	66 Stamperland Ave	45 Strathview Park

10.2 Deaths

Mr Sam Esler 5 Homeblair House, Giffnock

11 UPDATE ON VACANCY

Gray Fletcher reminded those present of recent events. Both Stamperland and Netherlee Kirk Sessions had voted to depart from the church's traditional position on human sexuality. On the previous Sunday both congregations had elected members of their congregation to the Nominating Committee. Those elected by Stamperland were Mrs Christine Finnigan, Mrs Evelyn Graham, Mr Peter Dale, Mr Ronnie Kirkwood, Mr Steven Owens and Mr Norman Bolton. The next step would be for the members of the Nominating Committee to meet with the Presbytery Vacancy Procedures Committee.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Retiring Offerings

It was agreed that the retiring offering at the December Communion would be sent to WaterAid.

It was agreed that the offering from the Christmas Watchnight Service would be sent to the Lodging House Mission.

13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 5th December. Any meetings required to progress vacancy matters, e.g. approve the Parish Profile would be intimated at Sunday services and also via e-mail and telephone.

14 CLOSURE

All present stood to say "the Grace".