

**EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
THE KIRK SESSION MET ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM**

Present: Mesdames M Fulton, M Hynd, M Marshall, S Riddoch and S Ward
Messrs C Campbell and Rev M Frew

Apologies: Mesdames L Baillie, L Campbell, D Brown, A Fairley and J Gordon
Messrs I Welsh

In attendance for part of the meeting L Chalmers

The Rev Michael Frew opened the meeting with a reading from Romans Chapter 1 and a prayer.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of meeting Monday 3 October, previously circulated, were approved.

2. Finance Committee

Budget 2017: The minister welcomed Liz Chalmers, Treasurer to the meeting to present the draft budget for 2017 as prepared and agreed by the Finance Committee. After considering the figures presented and agreeing some minor changes the budget was approved by Session. Liz was thanked for the work she has put in to produce the budget. A copy of the revised Budget will be shared at the meeting.

Grants: The treasurer reported that we are awaiting receipt of grants from Presbytery towards costs for the Activities Hall Flooring and printing of Christmas cards.

Annual Audit of Congregational Organisations Accounts: Session agreed delegation to Finance Committee to organise the date of the annual audit and to select the auditors.

3. Communion Roll: Session noted

- a) Deaths: Marjorie Morrison
Shona Duncan,
- b) Additions: Carolynne Mitchell
- c) Removals: Adherent - Vicky Robertson moved out of district, address unknown
- d) Change of Address: Cath Donaldson from to Davidson House, Colinton Road

4. Minister's Report

Bike Ride: The minister thanked everyone for their moral support and sponsorship for his recent Cycle the Galilee bike ride for the Nazareth Hospital, which had been challenging but very successful

Pulpit Supply: The minister explained in relation to his absence on Sunday 4 December (for a family event) that the General Assembly had last year agreed that ministers should be entitled to take seven pulpit supply Sundays (though not seven weeks holiday). He expressed personal thanks to Sheila Ward and Bob Henderson for leading the service.

Welcome Duty: The minister raised the matter of welcome duty at the Watchnight Service and the need for volunteers. It was agreed the clerk would find people to cover.

5. Unitary Constitution

The minister reported that we had now received the Unitary Deed from the Church of Scotland confirming we have moved to the Unitary Constitution with 17 October as the official date it is effective from. The official Unitary Deed document will be held with other Church records.

It was agreed we should have coffee and cake after the service on Sunday 8 January 2017 to mark the occasion. Sheila Ward agreed to purchase a cake with a picture of the Church on it. Crofton Palmer will be asked to speak about service on and the work of the Congregational Board at the service on that Sunday. The Slateford Longstone Church Guidelines for Operating the Unitary Constitution were reviewed and agreed by those present. This document was drawn up following discussions at the Office Bearers Conference in August.

6. Local Church Review

The minister and the clerk met with Hazel Hastie, Deputy Presbytery Clerk to discuss progress on our 5 Year Plan. It was noted there had been good progress on a number of things.

7. Property

Quinquennial Report - It was noted that the five-yearly property inspection had been carried out and the report's urgent recommendations are relatively minor and concern some roof repairs.

Crime Prevention: There had been an offer for the local Crime Prevention Officer to visit the premises but this had been declined as we had done this before and also there is nothing of any great value on the premises.

8. Pastoral Care

Visits: The minister asked that Elders keep him informed of members becoming more frail and in need of more visits.

Sandra Davidson: There were a number of tasks previously undertaken by Sandra Davidson and replacement cover is now in place for these.

9. Worship Committee

Bereavement Service: Dennise Brown is organising the catering and all other arrangements are in hand for the Service on Sunday 11. December at 3pm.

Communion Services: It was agreed the April Communion will be held on Easter Sunday and there will be no Communion on 2 April 2017.

10. Presbytery Report

Sheila Ward reported as follows:

- There was a reception of candidates for Ordained National Ministry, which included Fraser Edwards, and for Ordained Local Ministry, which included Rita Welsh. They were encouraged by Presbytery in their studies.
- The Convener of Ministries introduced an Overture under the Barrier Act about the Registration of Ministers. - There was discussion about whether it would be beneficial to have a central Register of Ministry which was thought to be an efficient way of knowing who was a practicing minister in the Church of Scotland and who had the right to function as such. There were concerns about the complicated categorisations, but the committee felt it would be the best way for the Church to ensure that parish ministers were as best informed as possible. After further discussion there was a vote, and it went 132 for and 2 against so Presbytery resolved to carry it forward.
- There were Local Church Reviews for Greyfriars, Portobello and Joppa, and St John's churches.
- There was further discussion on the Union of Holyrood Abbey and London Road Church, and about the Dissolution of Dean Church.
- There was discussion about appointing a Communications Co-ordinator, and a job description and person specification was given.
- World Mission Report - There was a report on the Crisis in Syria.
- Social and Community Interests - The 2050 Edinburgh City of Vision was discussed. This has been initiated by Edinburgh City Council to encourage the citizens of Edinburgh to produce a vision for the city to achieve by 2050.
- Finance Committee - They noted that there had been 12 appeals from congregations against their proposed 2017 Ministry and Missions allocation, Slateford Longstone being one of them.
- Administration - It was noted that the Unitary Deed had now been issued to the congregation of Slateford Longstone.
- Fabric Loan Trust has approved a grant of £575 to Slateford Longstone.

11. Correspondence

Nothing to report

12. Any Other Business

Elder for Nalda Cole: Marion Marshall reported she has spoken to Dennise Brown who has agreed to be an Elder for Nalda Cole. As Nalda is less able to attend Sunday worship it was thought she would appreciate visits from an Elder.

Cleaning: A query was raised regarding the frequency and timing of cleaning the glass windows at the front door and this was going to be referred to the Property Team who have responsibility for the cleaner.

3. Dates of Next Meetings

Dates for the next meetings were set as 6 February, 6 March, 3 April and 5 June 2017 at 7.00pm in the Session Room unless advised otherwise.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.25pm with each blessing the others.

SUZANNE E RIDDOCH
Session Clerk

REV. MICHAEL W FREW
Moderator

**SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH AGENDA
SESSION MEETING MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2017 at 7.00PM**

1. Any business to be added
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. Communion Roll - Including attestation of the Communion Roll

Attestation of the Communion Roll as at 31 December 2016.

Annual Statistics: The Clerk has submitted Annual Statistics as at 31 December 2016 to Presbytery as follows:

Members as at 1.1.16

214 (plus 2 adherents)

<u>Removed</u>	by death	13	
	by transfer	0	
	<u>otherwise</u>	0	-13

<u>Added</u>	by profession	2	
	<u>by transfer</u>	1	+3

Members as at 31.12.16

204 (plus 1 adherent)

Supplementary Roll as at 31.12.16

29

5. Minister's Report
6. Unitary Constitution
7. Local Church Review
8. Finance – if required
9. Property – if required
10. Pastoral Care – if required
11. Worship Committee – if required
12. Presbytery Report – Sheila Ward
13. Correspondence
14. Any other Business added at 1
15. Dates of next meetings – Mondays 6 March, 3 April and 5 June all at 7.00pm in Session room unless advised otherwise.