

Minutes of Elders' Session – 2nd August 2016

Members

1. The session spent time in prayer
2. The minutes of the Session 28th June 2016 were accepted

3. Main Items

Future Ministry. Presbytery has approved the request to call a replacement. It will now go to the Association meeting in the autumn. Presbytery is asking also for a full time minister to oversee all the 28 congregations in Gwent, in team leadership with the elders of the churches. It is clear there is an increasing expectation of involvement of church ministers in wider pastorate ministry than just single congregations.

Christian Aid Strategy. Janet has met with the Christian Aid link leads in the church. The group has agreed to meet for a limited number of meetings to develop a strategy for the next couple of years. The group agreed this was necessary. There is the need for greater engagement of the whole church family in collections as well as giving feedback to the church on the annual total, bringing all the separate sums together (street collections, Lent lunches etc.). It was agreed to continue with a more strategic house-to-house collection. The group will also explore the possibility of an event in Christian Aid week. A consideration is that next year will be the quinquennial appeal of the Presbyterian Church, with an expectation of @£3500 for the nominated charity from Park End

CAP Church Cardiff. We received a message from Luke Moreno thanking us for the offer of support but the church has found an alternative location.

Worship Group - Contemporary service on 24th July. There was generally favourable feedback with many reassured how similar much of the service was. The main feedback is that there was too much standing for some. Whilst we need to enable people to feel comfortable to sit if they wish, we also need to minimise the requirement when possible and consider arrangements such as leaflets and screens. The issues may have been accentuated by unfamiliarity. A few suggestions were made to address the concerns.

There has been good feedback from some of the young people and families, who wanted a more contemporary service.

Action: Robert will reinforce the request for views to be fed to the elders from the front in addition to those messages already given at the service and in the announcements.

Action: We will repeat a few more times taking on suggestions made so far.

Agreed we try to do 3 more before the end of the year. Rob Tucker & Richard agree to liaise with preachers.

Teaching. Robert suggests Book of Ephesians for the new programme and it was suggested the theme is followed in any Contemporary services. **Agreed.**

No other groups have met.

Pulpit arrangements.

Clarification on communion service for the evening August 21st, Ted Pilling is preaching.

Open Air Service. As no arrangements been made for 28th August and, due to the numbers of leaders on holiday over the period we will hold the service in the church.

Holiday Club review for September elders meeting

6. Main focus for next session: Christmas outreach.

7. Date of next meeting: Trustees meeting on 14th August 2016 to approve charity commission report and accounts. A form of words has been suggested on risk management. **Accepted.** We need a paragraph on future plans.

Agreed: Robert Bebb to complete in time for 14th August

Next Elders session 27th September 2016

8. AOB: email from Llanishen Evangelical Church. Bible Bus visits to Cardiff November 2016. Suggest discuss with those involved in local school work and possibly use for church group.

Agreed we should explore further. Jo Perry happy to liaise with .

Presbytery – Prayer. 1-5th August 5 days at midday everyone asked to take a minute to pray for the country. National Prayer weekend 23-25th September national-prayer-weekend.com It is suggested we go out to pray for the church local community.

Events - Presbytery The South Wales Mission Rally is at Siloh, Gelligroes Wed Sept 21st at 7pm.

- Fairwater Presbyterian Messy Church 23rd August 10.30-12 &
- Olympics Funday 11th August 11-2
- Computer Football October 15th am

Communion preparation rota. Only 5 people are currently on it and need help on Saturday evenings. Elders agreed to fill gaps. Other volunteers required. Janet will take on the rota preparation. Thanks to Margaret for her long period of service

Choir. Since the change at the front of the church there have been concerns expressed regarding future of choir. It was emphasized there are no plans to remove any more pews. Chairs are about to be ordered for choir and the future role of choir in leading the worship is to be discussed at a choir meeting on 12th September. There are no plans to disband the choir.

Photocopier. Feedback form the engineer is that it is obsolete. Chris S suggested we replace both machines (photocopier & risograph) with 1 good machine that can fulfill both jobs and we use the Risograph until it stops

Agreed we proceed on that basis. Chris & Keith to discuss further.

Harvest Supper. Elinor Bachelor is arranging the food and entertainment.

Agenda 27th September 2016

1. Apologies
2. Church Report.
3. Prayers
4. Minutes of the meeting 2nd August 2016
5. Main items
 - Update from groups
 - Managing change
6. Main Focus for next session
7. Date of next meeting - 1st November 2016
8. AOB