

## Minutes of Elders' Session – 28th June 2016

1. 4 apologies and 15 present
2. The session spent time in prayer
3. The minutes of the Session 26th April 2016 were accepted. Thanks to Sue for taking minutes. Rob Tucker clarified what would be presented to the congregation regarding the worship survey.

### 4. Main Items

#### Communication

There has been feedback from many members of the congregation. There is a general concern at the amount of change on top of impending minister change. There is a need for the elders to provide a united message that supports decisions and does not give the opportunity for the impression of division. There is an acknowledgement that the Eldership is not communicating as effectively as it could with all the membership. It is important that all Elders are clear about the decisions taken in session at the summation of discussions. A discussion took place regarding effective implementation of decisions and the need to avoid, unless absolutely necessary, the appearance of reversing decisions between sessions.

**Agreed – Agenda Managing change for next session**

**Agreed - Main items of the session minutes (excluding personal information) to be shared on church web site and available at the back of church after approval by session within a week of the meeting.**

#### Holiday Club

**Agreed - Need to review future of Holiday Club early in autumn**

#### Christian Aid

As a result of some discouraging experiences of late, we aim to diversify our support for Christian Aid to include areas other than just house-to-house collections. This will need more advance planning and consideration than was possible this year.

**Agreed - establish a small group to produce a plan and recommendations for next year's collection - Janet Chapman to discuss and meet with relevant people to convene a small task-and-finish group**

**Sanctuary Changes.** It was confirmed that the elders are recommending and supporting the changes to the front of the sanctuary as described by Nick Hawkins to Committee

**Worship Survey.** The elders restated the plan discussed at the last meeting. These will be circulated to the congregation on Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> and available on web site and in the Survey along with the detailed charts and analysis of questions (web and printed copies only). It was clear that we need a mix of defined service styles. We plan to hold a contemporary service on July 24<sup>th</sup> led by Dave Kitchen with opportunity to reflect on this. To implement a regular schedule will require changes to the pulpit rota so will take some time to fully implement.

**Action - Minister to promote both feedback and Contemporary service from Pulpit**

**Future Ministry** - Congregation vote taken by Presbytery approved. Request will now be presented to Presbytery in July for full approval by Association in October 2016.

5. **Main focus for next session: Items from groups. Managing Change.**
6. **Date of next meeting: 2nd August 2016**
7. **Prayer points. New services.**

## 8. AOB:

- Meeting with Billy Graham association (Joe Perry).
- Recent request for literature from member of public.
- Email - SW Baptist College training coordinator. Request for placement for female ministry student 2016/17 to be explored
- Suggestion of Church Trefecca Week in Easter 2017 18th-21st April - provisionally booked £137 pp
- Holiday Club- Ishmael attending on last day and doing concert for Adults - need to publicise evening concert Friday 29th July.
- Next presbytery Saturday 30th July - Winford Ellis Owen speaking on addiction specifically Gambling
- Request from Capital City Church – they may need alternative accommodation at least in the short term.

**Agreed - Park End prepared to offer some help. Support to use big hall. Happy to offer on a long term basis.**

## Agenda 2nd August 2016

1. Apologies
2. Church Report.
3. Prayers
4. Minutes of the meeting 28th June 2016
5. Main items
  - Update from groups
  - Managing change
6. Main Focus for next session
7. Prayer points
8. Date of next meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016
9. AOB