

What's Going on in Session? (November 2011)

This insert is the first of a monthly report on the topical points being discussed by elders at their monthly Kirk Session meetings.

We hope you find them interesting and informative.

We would encourage you to give feedback through the Minister, any elder or the Church office. We would also encourage you to raise any matter you feel requires discussion, through the same channel.

Introduction

At the beginning of 2011, the Kirk Session agreed to restructure itself into 5 Areas of Ministry. This was done because we have a large number of elders and it was difficult to find time to discuss everything properly and come to proper decisions. Elders therefore sit in one of the 5 groups and discuss issues relevant to that Area of Ministry.

In addition to the Kirk Session we have a Session Council where representatives of each group together with the Minister, Session Clerks, Church Manager and Treasurer meet on a monthly basis to discuss matters in more detail.

Areas of Ministry

These were set up so that elders could properly focus on the people for whom it has responsibility - Church members, the Church family and the wider community. Our Church Mission statement is "To know Christ and make Him known" and each group is challenged to bring this statement to all the people for whom we are responsible.

The 5 Areas of Ministry are WORSHIP, CONNECT & GO, GROW, SERVE, and SUPPORT.

In the paragraphs below we highlight the aims of each group and the sort of things that are being looked at just now.

Worship

The purpose of this group is "**that we might grow together in faith, through praise and prayer**". We look at the different styles of worship being offered in Perth North - the different Sunday services as well as the Thursday lunchtime service. We are looking at possibly commencing a service of healing in 2012.

This group has responsibility for music through the choir, praise band, organist, Fresh Sounds etc. We are looking at the possibility of different music styles at the Sunday 11am service. The group are also taking forward the recruitment of a new organist following the departure of Jeanette.

We also take responsibility for the flowers and Church garden. Volunteers are always required to help in the many tasks.

Connect & Go

The purpose of this group is "**to connect with the wider community and to introduce them to the Good News of Jesus Christ.**".

We encourage a wide range of groups within the Church family, all outward looking, at connecting with the different communities in the parish and town centre. We try to demonstrate our faith in practical ways.

We have been involved with the successful Stuart Townend concert and in December we start a new venture called the 'TODDLE IN'. This is a Friday morning opportunity for parents with young families, to take time out and chat over a coffee in the New hall. This is only the start of what we hope will be a fruitful ministry.

Grow

The Grow group has as its purpose “**to nurture and equip Christians to grow in their faith**”. To that end we are the link between the Session and the various groups of the church family which aims to build “unity in the faith” and “knowledge of the Son of God”(Ephesians 4:13). Our activities in recent months have centred around children and young people . We have been involved in the change process as Kenny Simpson has assumed the responsibilities of BB Captain. The leadership of Adventurers has also changed with a team involving the parents of children currently attending Adventurers taking on this role.

We are starting a round of visits to groups and organisations with whom we are linked. We hope that this will encourage and empower leaders and be a continuing contact with the Kirk Session for support and help where necessary. Currently under consideration are thoughts on encouraging greater involvement in the prayer groups in the North Church. We would love to hear from you if you have ideas of your own.

Serve

The Purpose of this group is “**to support and enable the members of organisations and ministries within the Church**”.

The Serve Group is involved with Pastoral Care of our Church Family.

Development ideas include further development of the pastoral care team and re-establishing a systematic visiting system, though not the former District system. We are also looking at establishing and developing a central, church office based system of pastoral referral.

Support

This group, although last on the list, plays a central role in the practical running of our Church. This group looks after finance, property, IT, media and communications. This is a large responsibility overseen by a few dedicated people. They are very keen to get more support (you don't have to be an elder) particularly helping with media and property. If you have an interest in music, the sound desk in the Church needs manned every Sunday; similarly the computer for presenting the songs etc on the Church screens also needs manned every Sunday. Or if your talents are more DIY, why not offer your name for one off assistance in the myriad of property matters that regularly turn up.

Other matters

Although the above groups deal with the majority of the regular activities there are always matters dealt with by the Session as a whole.

For instance we have had a lot of discussion regarding the appointment of the new Associate/ Assistant Minister. The Session have now agreed to proceed with a slightly altered job specification and we intend to re-advertise the position immediately after Christmas.

We have also brought back ‘Friends of Perth North’ to look at arranging and co-ordinating activities & events. These will be for all our Church family when we can enjoy fun and possibly raise funds in the process.

Another large project under review is a visitation of all our Church family during 2012.

We hope, from the above, that you will get a feel for the type of things that are going on at your Kirk Session. One last thought is that although the Session is a formal Church court, anyone can attend to observe.

“To know Christ and make Him known”