

APPROVED MINUTE
ANNUAL STATED MEETING of PERTH NORTH CHURCH
Sunday 8 May 2022

1. Constitution of Meeting

The meeting was convened by our minister the [REDACTED] who, after offering a welcome, constituted the meeting in prayer.

2. Opening Remarks

The [REDACTED] referred to much change which had occurred in the life of Perth North Church since our last Annual Stated Meeting three years ago. In terms of Personnel changes alone he mentioned the appointment of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], as our Church/ Deputy Church Officers and the addition of [REDACTED] as our new Community Development Worker. Following the retiral of the [REDACTED] he indicated that the Kirk Session were looking to take steps to have a Pastoral Co-ordinator appointed. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had taken over as Session Clerks and [REDACTED] was now our Presbytery Elder. We had also welcomed [REDACTED] as Probationer Minister.

He noted, with grace, that a number of our members had passed away during the pandemic and that church organisations such as The Open Door, Tuesday Fellowship, 3rd Perth Girls' Brigade Company and 16th Perth Boys' Brigade Company had taken the decision to close. The intention is to hold appropriate Thanksgiving Services later this year.

The Convener considered that perhaps one of the most significant changes related to the current draft Presbytery Plan whereby, so far as Perth North Church is concerned, we would be looking to work more closely with our Partner Churches in the Network namely Letham St Mark's, Riverside, Auchtergaven & Moneydie, and Redgorton & Stanley. To this end there had already been engagement with our Network partners, including a Prayer Walk (at which representatives of other churches in Perth Presbytery also attended).

He could not underestimate the effect that the Covid pandemic has had on congregational life in the last two years.

He struck a positive note by referring to the Wellbeing Spaces which had been established in both the City Centre and Tulloch.

The Convener concluded his remarks by encouraging us to "move on" and seek God's guidance as to where he was leading Perth North Church.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2019 ASM

On invitation by [REDACTED] these draft Minutes were duly approved.

4. Annual Statistical Return 2021

In the absence of our Roll Keeper, [REDACTED] (for whom apologies were duly noted), it was noted that there was nothing to add to his report as contained on P12 of the Trustees Annual Report 2021.

5. Fabric Report

[REDACTED], Fabric Convenor, referred to the Fabric Report set out on P10 of the Trustees Annual Report 2021 and expressed thanks to [REDACTED], the author of the report, for all his work as Interim Fabric Convenor. He expressed the hope that the small working party referred to in the draft Minutes might re-convene at some stage to review improvements to our current buildings. [REDACTED] went on to summarise the main projects the Fabric Group have in mind for 2022 and, in conclusion, thanked, by name, all current members of the Group.

6. Finance Report

[REDACTED], Finance Convenor, presented the following report:-

"The Finance Group Convener role changed in the past year when I replaced [REDACTED]. We thank [REDACTED] for his dedicated service to the role and the church. The Group is responsible for ensuring the financial wellbeing of the church's resources and for administering the direct giving and fundraising, including the recovery of Gift Aid.

In 2021 the Finance Group approved the Annual Accounts, monitored financial progress against the Budget and prepared for the following year's budget. Grateful thanks must be given to [REDACTED] for continuing hard work in preparing the accounts, calculating the Budget and looking after the detailed aspects of church finance.

Also during the past year the Group reviewed the arrangements for insurance of the church and for non-church organisations and took responsibility for the assessment and calculation of staff salary increases. The detailed remit of the Finance Group is being reviewed and will be finalised soon.

The principal source of income for the church is voluntary income:

- Monthly giving and Gift Aid
- WFO Envelope giving and Gift Aid
- Open plate giving
- Tax recovered
- Other donations
- Legacies

Main expenditures during 2021

- Ministry and Mission contribution
- Church staffing costs
- Heating and lighting
- Computer and audio/visual upgrades (for live streaming, etc.)

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts were reviewed and approved at our February meeting. We give thanks that congregational giving continued more or less unabated throughout these Covid times. This, combined with reduced costs in areas of heat and light, and of salaries for staff who were furloughed for part of the year, resulted in a surplus in the Revenue Account".

7. Session Clerk Remarks

With the not insignificant back-drop of the Covid pandemic, ██████████ outlined the challenges faced by Perth North Church last year. He commended Pages 4-11 of the 2021 Annual Report as evidence of the steps which were taken by the Kirk Session to meet these challenges and thanked all elders (including Convenors) for their hard work and commitment. He was at pains to reflect on, and thank, the indispensable work of all volunteers in our congregation and offered an opportunity for any so minded to join any of the Area of Ministry groups. We were especially grateful to the technical team who operate our Audio-visual system, any (including ██████████, our Church Secretary and Office Co-ordinator) who assisted himself and ██████████ in accessing/operating our "Cloud based" computer system and all who provided much-needed expertise and advice to the Kirk Session on Health & Safety issues. He considered it appropriate to record our thanks to ██████████ for his many and faithful years of service as Session Clerk. Staffing changes included the appointment of ██████████ – a replacement for ██████████ ██████████ - as Community Development Worker, and ██████████ as Deputy Church Officer. The retirement of the ██████████, after nine years as Ministry Assistant (Pastoral Care) merited particular mention as did ██████████ who ██████████ commended for the significant contribution she had made, as a Probationary Minister, to the life of our congregation and to whom he extended a blessing as she continued on her journey to full-time Ministry. He was grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous support ██████████ gives to ██████████ and to thank her not only for everything she has done to contribute to his Ministry but also for all she brings in her own way to the life and witness of our congregation. Finally, ██████████ was able to express the thanks of the congregation to our Minister, ██████████, not only for adapting his Ministry so well to meet the challenges which the pandemic presented, but more especially, for his steadfast preaching of God's word, Sunday by Sunday, his leading by prayer and example and for all the countless hours of work, often unseen, which he undertook to serve our congregation and the Lord he loves.

8. Closing Remarks

The Convener re-iterated the good work which was ongoing by Perth North in Tulloch.

He invited questions but, in the absence of any, suggested this spoke of the trust which the congregation had in the Kirk Session and the decisions taken by them.

Turning to ██████████ reference to possible re-development of the church buildings he confirmed, for the avoidance of doubt, that nothing could take place until the current Presbytery Plan had been approved.

He once again re-affirmed the great work and service provided by so many volunteers within our congregation.

He closed the meeting in prayer.