

The Stated Annual Meeting of Newport on Tay Church of Scotland (Scottish Charity No. SC006758)

Constitution:

The Congregation of Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland met in the Church on Sunday 13th March 2022 according to intimation and the Stated Annual Meeting was constituted and conducted by the Moderator the Rev Dr Amos Chewachong as part of the Morning Service.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Bill Imlay and Graham Johnston. Fifty-five (55) members attended in church with 7 others registering online (via Zoom).

Minute of the Annual Stated Meeting of Sunday 10th March 2019:

The minute of the 2019 meeting having been circulated by e-mail and reviewed was adopted by Elizabeth Thomson and seconded by Kirsteen Cruickshanks.

Finance Report:

As a result of the ensuing Coronavirus pandemic and our inability to conduct Stated Annual Meetings in 2019 and 2020 - the Finance Convenor, Philip Owen, took the meeting through a combined summary of the Annual Report and Accounts for the years ending 31st December 2019, 2020, and 2021. Using a range of charts within his PowerPoint presentation Philip focussed primarily on the past year, but also highlighted trends and similarities over the past three years. He explained that the Accounts presented had already met with the approval of the Kirk Session, as Trustees, and had since passed the scrutiny of the independent examiner and had subsequently been submitted to Presbytery. The Convenor reported that the figures were very much in line with those of the previous two financial years showing an encouraging position at the year-end, despite the struggles imposed by the Covid pandemic and the enforced church closure. He acknowledged that this position had been significantly aided by grants from the Scottish and UK Governments to both the church and to manna.

With the continued easing of lockdown measures and a return towards 'normality' the Finance Convenor anticipated an increase in overall income but had realistically forecast for a budget with a deficit of £4,000. It was hoped that this deficit could again be overcome through an active Stewardship campaign and enhanced giving.

The Moderator thanked the Finance Convenor for both the hard work undertaken in the last year and for the clear and precise manner, in which the report, accounts and budget had been presented.

Minister's Report:

The Rev. Dr Amos Chewachong commented that his appointment as Minister at Newport on Tay Church of Scotland was fast approaching five years and that he continued to feel blessed in this role and encouraged by the support of the congregation for his ministry in revealing God's word. He also indicated that his absences were part of the extended role placed on him by Presbytery (as Interim Moderator within other Cluster churches,) in conjunction with his ongoing personal and professional development (speaking at conferences, completing a Diploma course on Mediation, and his recent appointment as an Honorary Lecturer at the School of Divinity, St Mary's College, St. Andrew's University). He acknowledged the support provided by the church's Worship Team and thanked them for their ability to cover both planned and unplanned absences. Within the Parish he continued to focus on Pastoral Care, both through the weekly services he conducted at St. Serf's

Care Home and the telephone conversations held with the ill and vulnerable members of the congregation. Spiritual Care was also provided for through a published list of 'Daily Readings' and a 40-day programme of 'Lent Reflections'. With the uncertainty surrounding our future role in the emerging North Fife Cluster he concluded by saying "We don't know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future!"

Presbytery Report

Elizabeth Thomson our Presbytery Elder explained the timeline and progress made to date in formulating the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan which must ultimately be completed by the end of this year, 2022. In terms of the North Fife Cluster, a consensus on the future structure, operation and co-operation of the participating churches had not been reached. Two solutions prevailed – one large super-parish with essentially one minister and one Kirk Session, or two parishes with two ministers and two Kirk Sessions. The ultimate decision will undoubtedly be influenced by the Presbytery's conclusion on future staffing allocation and the identification of the buildings to be retained for the purposes of worship and mission outreach. Elizabeth indicated that the Kirk Session will continue to keep the congregation up to date with progress as it unfolds.

Closure:

The Rev Dr Amos Chewachong thanked the contributors for their reports and the membership for their attendance before re-joining the Service with the closing Hymn and the Benediction.

_____ Moderator

_____ Session Clerk.

