

01.10.2014 At Inverness on Wednesday 1st October 2014 the Kirk Session of Crown Church met in the Lower Hall and was constituted with prayer.

Sederunt The Rev Peter Donald, Rev Stewart Frizzell, Farquhar Forbes (student), the Mrs Eileen Ardern, Lily Baillie, Heather Beck, Anne Bowen, Lena Clarke, Pat Crippin, Angy MacDiarmid, Judith MacLeod, Elizabeth Matheson, Linda Moncur, Evelyn Reid, Morag Russell, Margot Tuley and Miss Irene Whyte; the Messrs Edward Adie, John Akers, Richard Ardern, Colin Baillie, John Barbour, David Crippin, Robert Forrest, Alex Grant, Brian Macgill, John MacLean, Donald Matheson, William Mein, Bruce Merchant, Donald Morrison, Douglas Murray, Stewart Robertson, Robin Stewart and Douglas Taylor.

Apologies The Mrs Marion Barbour, Ruby Coe, Sheena Ferguson, Marion Forrest, Janet Fraser, Ella Low, Miss Eleanor MacKenzie, the Mrs Mairi Main, Jean McGowan, Dorothy Mein and Angela Murdoch. The Messrs Peter Collinson, Pat Douglas, Iain MacDiarmid, David MacKenzie, Donald MacKenzie, Theodore MacKenzie, Alastair MacLeod and Neil Stuart.

Minutes The minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2014 were approved.

Matters Arising Communication

At its previous meeting Kirk Session had agreed to take forward the proposals tabled by the LCR ad hoc committee on Communication. In particular the proposal to form a Standing Committee of the Kirk Session on Communication. To this end nominations were being sought and the matter would be brought back to Kirk Session in order for appointments to be agreed.

General Assembly 2014

The Moderator advised Kirk Session that a digest was outstanding on discussions regarding the issue of same sex relationships and church ministry, as reported at this year's General Assembly.

Presbytery A report of Presbytery business for September 2014 had been submitted by Mrs Angy MacDiarmid and highlighted a most successful training day led by Suzie Farrant from the Mission and Discipleship council of the Church of Scotland.

Communion Statistics on the September 2014 Communion would be reported at the November meeting of Kirk Session.

Safeguarding Reports received from Mrs Joan Merchant, safeguarding co-ordinator, were tabled. The names of those who have obtained membership of the Disclosure Scotland Scheme were noted as follows:

Organist and Choir Director: Brigid Donald.

Crèche: Muriel Choppy, Irene Munro, Helen Grant, Mary-Anne Buchanan, Helen Taylor and Reay Macgill.

Treasure Seekers: Dorothy Mein.

Boys Brigade: Lynn McAra, Lynn Forbes, Laura Morrison, Calum Fraser and Adam Morrison.

Cloud Ten: Mairi Fraser and Jude Madeleine.

Musical: Adrienne Adie, Eileen Ardern, Helen (Ella) Low, Irene Whyte and Peter Collinson.

The Kirk Session then appointed the aforementioned persons for the various activities, as indicated by italics, within the congregation.

The Session Clerk will write to the Safeguarding co-ordinator on this minute.

Assisting Ministry

Kirk Session re-visited this theme, last considered at the June 2013 meeting at which time it was agreed that a 'first step' in assisting ministry was to 'refresh and re-invigorate Elders within six-months'. Subsequent ad hoc group activity plus further initiatives due to a Local Church Review (LCR) had produced a number of inter-connecting goals. One such goal was to develop and eventually publish a Church Plan. This goal was now linked back to the original 'assisting ministry' theme which itself had been in response to the Moderator's observations about adequately covering all areas of ministry within Crown Church. Currently there are two key actions being deemed to 'assist ministry' in this regard:

- a) To progress a planning process with the next step being a consultation of all Committees, Groups and Clubs in an around Crown Church.
- b) To consider all the elements of engaging a youth or young families worker and prepare a proposal for Kirk Session to consider.

item a) will be progressed by Brian Macgill and item b) by Farquhar Forbes for which dedicated ad hoc groups will be convened.

Church Pews

The Congregational Board has proposed to undertake a study, as to whether more pews might be removed from the sanctuary in order to further improve wheelchair/pram access. Kirk Session gave its approval for the study to proceed.

Prayer

Some time was taken in the meeting for prayer. The Moderator invited prayer points and also spoke of vision and aspiration at Crown Church; hope for young people and families; uses of our church building; our desire for communication; our stewardship of time and talents; the way forward following the Equip conference at the Kings Factory.

Newsletter

Retiring editors Richard and Eileen Ardern were warmly thanked by the Moderator for the excellent work in producing the monthly Newsletter for over 9 years. Also noted with great satisfaction was the appointment of Bob and Marion Forrest as the new editorial team.

Bridge Club

It was noted that guidance from the Church of Scotland's legal department is that letting agreements carry a requirement for insurance. However in the case of a very small club, like the Bridge Club, this requirement could be waived at the option of Kirk Session. It was agreed to waive this requirement for the Bridge Club.

World Mission

The Moderator noted that Mrs Linda Moncur has stepped down as Crown Church's contact to the Inverness Presbytery Committee on World Mission. In thanking Mrs Moncur for her years of service he was also pleased to note that the Rev Morven Archer was appointed as Crown Church's new contact to this committee.

Beadles

It was with some belated thanks that the Moderator noted that Mr Donald Matheson had stepped down from the role of Chief Beadle. Donald had served Crown Church faithfully in that capacity for many years. It was also noted with great satisfaction the appointment of Mr David MacKenzie into the role of Chief Beadle.

Elder Training

Several training courses both of relevance and interest to Elders were noted: "Go for it" Mission and ecclesiology workshop being held in Edinburgh; Dementia Workshop being held in the East Church Inverness; a Vocations Conference being held in Linlithgow St Michael's.

User Survey

The Mission and Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland were seeking feedback from church members who attended the 'Equip' training events.

Memoriam

It was noted with due respect the death of Mr Bill Devlin a former Organist and Choirmaster at Crown Church.

Newsletter Attention was drawn by Mr Bob Forrest to the October newsletter edition. The copy date for the next edition will in fact be Sunday 26th October 2014.

Date of Next Meeting

The next business meeting of the Kirk Session will be on Wednesday 12 November.

Elders are also reminded about the Elders Annual Day Conference on Saturday 24th January 2015.

The meeting was closed with the benediction.

Peter Donald.....Moderator

Paul Macquarrie.....Session Clerk