EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD HELD A JOINT MEETING WITH THE KIRK SESSION ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2015 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Dennise Brown, Chris Campbell, Liz Chalmers, Sandra Davidson, Alison Fairley, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Marion Fulton, Jean Gordon, Mary Hynd, Marion Marshall, Yvonne Paterson, Suzanne Riddoch, Angie Simpson, Sharon Taylor, Sheila Ward

Apologies: Nathan Baillie, Betty Bald, Jane Fox, Crofton Palmer, Ian Welsh, Rita Welsh

The Rev Mike Frew welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Bible reading and a prayer.

2 Trustees Report and Annual Accounts

Everyone was given a final draft of the report and accounts. Mike briefly went over the contents and asked whether there were any questions or comments. After a couple of minor corrections were highlighted the Trustees were happy with the report.

Liz Chalmers talked us through the financial pages of the report highlighting that weekly offerings had gone down and the number of organisations using the church has been reduced resulting in a loss of income. There were two annual payments made to the auditors as an accrual for next year. There had also been two costly unexpected repairs one to the roof and one because of the theft of lead from the roof. By the end of the financial year there was a deficit of £1,403. The report, together with the accounts, was approved

Thanks were expressed to Liz Chalmers for preparing the accounts and for her work on the accounts throughout the year.

3 Local Church Review

Mike had met with Hazel Hastie who is monitoring our progress. Hazel was pleased with what we have achieved so far; Messy Church, Fresh Start, the Food Bank, the Lent course and the three-year cycle of Stewardship Seasons

The areas we still need to work on are:

- Members of the congregation to be more involved in services
- The introduction of new families to the congregation
- A new property convenor
- To carry out a feasibility study

How we aim to address these areas:

- When Rita Welsh returns from her placement she is willing to work with members of the congregation to help them be more involved in morning worship
- Mike is interim moderator at Davidson's Mains Church and will make enquiries to find out if any families would be interested in joining our congregation
- Mike will again ask at Davidson's Mains church whether anyone there would like to be a property convenor for us
- There has been a sub-committee; Mike Frew, Suzanne Riddoch and Jean Gordon, set up to discuss a feasibility study and they are still to hold their first meeting

It was also agreed at the meeting that the Trustees would have another away-day at Heriot Watt in early September to discuss these areas and more

4 Stated Annual Meeting

The members due for re-election on the Board are Ros Fraser, Angie Simpson and Michael Taylor. Ros has resigned but Angie and Michael are willing to be re-elected for another three years. This will leave 2 vacancies on the Board. Everyone at the meeting was encouraged to think of people who could be approached to become members.
There are 2 vacancies from Session and this will be addressed at the next Session meeting. Lin Baillie is stepping down as Clerk to the Board and as there were no other offers the Session Clerk, Suzanne Riddoch, has offered to step in.

5 Letter of thanks

Our music leader, Marion Henderson, has been off since 16th December due to an accident. She is receiving physiotherapy at the moment and is not due to return before 29th March. The Board agreed to grant her full pay until the end of April. Marion had written a letter of thanks to express her gratitude for this, which the Clerk read out.

6 Date of Next Board Meeting

The dates of the next meetings are as follows:
22nd March – Stated Annual Meeting straight after the Sunday service

20th April 2015
15th June 2015
Mondays at 8pm with committees meeting at 7.15pm

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 7.45pm with each blessing the others.