

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ELGIN HIGH CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL BOARD
HELD IN THE CHURCH ON MONDAY 23rd APRIL 2007.**

The Minister, Rev Julie Woods opened the meeting with a Bible reading and prayer.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted on behalf of M Crossland, W Duncan, Mrs Easterling, P Fyffe, Mr & Mrs McPherson, Mrs Morrison, E Stuart.

ATTENDANCE

There were 47 members in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, having been displayed in the Hall for over a month were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Mrs Stuart, seconded by Mrs Wilson. Members were asked whether they wished to be issued with copies of the minutes of Board meetings. In the interests of saving paper it was decided to retain the status quo. Copies of agendas will be made available at future meetings.

MATTERS ARISING

The Minister paid tribute to the wonderful event the previous day in celebration of the 90th birthday of the Rev John Evans. Thanks were expressed to all concerned, and in particular G Farquhar for co-ordinating the arrangements. Mr Farquhar expressed his personal thanks to those who had assisted him.

Board approval was given to meet the cost of gifts presented to Mr Evans and it was agreed to meet Mr Evan's request that £100 of the donations received on the day should be gifted to the Chapel/Quiet Room at Dr Gray's Hospital.

The Minister agreed to speak to Mr Evans regarding the proposal that an article and photo should go to Life and Work.

CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk intimated that he had had an informal discussion with Mrs Libby Mitchell about the possibility of her becoming a Board member and that she had expressed a strong interest. Board members unanimously agreed that she be co-opted as a Board member until she can be considered for election at the next Annual General Meeting. The Clerk to notify Mrs Mitchell accordingly.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer gave a report of all the financial transactions that had taken place since the previous meeting. He then spoke about the annual review of salaries for the Church Officer, organist and cleaner. Board members agreed that a 3% increase be granted to these employees.

Mention was made of the special receipts received since the last meeting. It was agreed that the offerings from Creena Stewart's funeral should go to the minibus fund and the surplus from the Vocal Zone concert should go to the general fund.

In the interests of cutting costs Mrs Jamieson questioned whether all Church members need to receive copies of Annual Accounts. It was agreed that this would be reviewed. Suggestions that copies being made available at the AGM and a summary in the Herald might be sufficient will be considered.

PROPERTY REPORT

Mr Urquhart addressed the meeting and gave a progress report on works completed since the last meeting and works in hand. Mention was made of the adjusted plans for the prayer corner and area for use by the disabled

Mr Urquhart outlined the proposed plans/timetable to proceed to the next stage of considering the future of the Church buildings. The Minister indicated that there are basically three options, 1) do nothing 2) construct/acquire a new building 3) develop the existing buildings. A wide ranging discussion then took place when a variety of issues were aired by Board members. It was agreed that the Property Committee would prepare an outline list of the options to be submitted to the joint Board and Session meeting due to be held on the 19th June 2007. Mention was made of the time constraints at that Board meeting. Given the proposed outline

nature of the options it was recognised that this would only be the beginning of what might be a lengthy journey. Mr Urquhart was urged by Board members not to feel pressured to proceed in unrealistic timescales.

SOCIAL REPORT

A report was provided by Mr Rae with particular mention of the Congregational Walk due to be held on Sat. 9 June 2007.

HALL REPORT

This was presented by Mrs Garrow who mentioned the proposed use of the Hall by Margaret King for elder training.

FUND RAISING

Mrs Urquhart outlined future events including the wine tasting evening on 27 April 2007 and a ceilidh due to be held on 23 June 2007. It is also proposed that a photographic exhibition takes place on the 25th and 26th August 2007 with the photos which receive the most votes being used to create a 2008 calendar.

MINIBUS

The driver/co-ordinator (J Morrison) and another driver are due to stand-down this year on reaching the age of seventy. They were thanked for their services. H Davidson was nominated and approved as the new driver/co-ordinator with effect from 1st August 2007. R Woods has also agreed to be included in the pool of drivers. The minibus will be based at the Manse from 1st August 2007 until other alternatives can be considered.

CALENDAR PLANNING MEETING

The Minister reminded all organizations about the Church planning due to be held in the hall at 7.30pm on Monday 25th June 2007. Representatives are asked to attend to present their requests for inclusion in the 2007/2008 calendar.

OTHER MATTERS

Mr Farquhar asked whether a decision had been made on the disbursement of offerings received from the Sunday school. The Minister indicated that this would be a decision for the Sunday school and will be discussed at a meeting which she is due to attend the following evening.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

After announcing that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th June 2007 at 7.00pm the Minister closed the meeting with the Benediction.

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Minister

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Clerk to the Board

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Date