

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stonehaven Fetteresso Church Kirk Session meeting</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Minutes of Meeting Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023; 7.30 pm; ZOOM meeting</b></p>	
No.		Actions
1	<p><b>Constitution</b> The meeting was constituted with a prayer and reading from Psalm 15 by the Rev. Mark Lowey</p> <p><b>Present</b> Rev. Mark Lowey, Robert Bell, Hazel Bell, Andrew Boggon, Janice Boggon, Lesley Clark, Neil Clark, James Dickinson, Sarah Dickinson, Frank Dunn, Sandra Dunn, Alison Dyson, Dick Jenkins, Susan Jenkins, Linda Lawton, Scott Martin, Len Montgomery, Allan Murray, David MacDonald, Joan MacDonald, Ian MacKenzie, Alistair MacLean, Fiona MacPherson, Roseanne Shewan, Peter Webster, Marieke Wood. Matt Sinar (youth and children's worker)</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Christine Anderson, Gloria Potter, Barbara MacLean</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes</b> The Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 meeting were circulated earlier and approved by James Dickinson and seconded by Susan Jenkins</p>	Noted
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Rev Mark Lowey returned from sick leave on phased return basis on 10<sup>th</sup> January, and will be preaching on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January. It was agreed beforehand that Mark would address the elders privately, at the end of this session meeting.</li> <li>2. The return of Mark to full time duties means that the C of S funding for pastoral locum position, taken up by Roseanne Shewan, ceases. It was agreed beforehand that this matter would also be addressed privately by elders.</li> <li>3. Hall and property projects. Dick Jenkins issued a comprehensive property report and costing spreadsheet. Dick explained the latest position, and asked session to give approval for these projects to move forward, subject to successful grant applications. Approval was given.</li> </ol> <p>These are major, technically complex, expensive projects, involving several contracts. Allan Murray thanked Dick and his team for professionally project managing these works.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Dick Jenkins spoke about the beginnings of the new presbytery set-up.</li> </ol>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

4	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keith Stewart sent a “WELL DONE FETTERESSO” Email to the session clerk, for circulation to session</li> <li>2. Anne Graham sent a letter of appreciation to the session clerk that arrived today, good timing for this meeting.</li> <li>3. Susan Jenkins and Fiona MacPherson reported on Fair Trade Fortnight, that will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March . Session agreed to support this event.</li> </ol>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discipleship</li> </ul> <p>James Dickinson verbally reported on discipleship and sent the session clerk this Email information, shown in italics</p> <p><i>The Discipleship Team is pretty informal, although there are notionally 4 core members –in practice we get most of our work done over occasional dinners with all the home group leaders (approximately 8 folks).</i></p> <p><i>During Covid, the number of our home groups dropped to 6 who meet regularly. These are mostly daytime groups. Re-building, we have decided to focus on short-commitment activities – rather than re-establishing classic home groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>We held a weekly Bible study starting in Lent and through to the summer, but this has now ceased.</i></li> <li>• <i>Sarah and Moira also revived the “Advent Retreat” in church, which was also well attended.</i></li> <li>• <i>In January we started the 8 week “Bible Course” - which has been very well attended so far.</i></li> <li>• <i>Lastly, in late 2021 we started a “men’s fellowship” group once a month in the Church, based around board games – however this was evolved more into a Dad’s and teens group and is no longer gender-focused.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Looking to the future we would like to see more regular home groups emerge, and possibly a revival of activities such as the Women’s Ministry. All of this, though depends on finding willing leadership to take this on. With that in mind we are considering options for offering training in group leadership – however this has little substance at present. Further short courses may well be the pattern for the future, if we can find suitable ones.</i></p> <p>James extended his discussion into the issue of finance and fundraising, since he is in the finance team, along with Scott Martin (treasurer) and Neil Clark. The church is projecting a financial deficit of £5,000 to £10,000 this year, and there was discussion about fundraising, possible stewardship campaign, open-plate offerings (stopped during COVID), giving as worship and sacrifice etc. The finance team will come back with a fundraising strategy and a communication strategy to highlight the new major costs, i.e. the new pastoral care worker and the building works.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding</li> </ul> <p>Janice Boggon gave the following verbal report and sent these notes to session clerk.</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to seek sessions' approval regarding the following 5 people who have recently had new PVG applications approved by the Church of Scotland.</p> <p>Mrs Rebecca Marie Bryce - working with children ( Previously agreed by session via email in November)</p> <p>Mrs Eleanor May McLuckie - working with children</p> <p>Mr Scott McAllan - working with children</p> <p>Mrs Anne Brown Sinclair - working with vulnerable adults</p> <p>Mrs Lorna Hazel Maclean has had a PVG update to add working with vulnerable adults to her previous role working with children</p> <p>Session approved all 5 names.</p> <p>Mrs Moira Deans is no longer able to take up her role as a driver for Tuesday focus due to a change in personal circumstances and although we had sessions agreement via email in November, Moira has asked for her PVG application to be withdrawn at present.</p> <p>Secondly, I would like to make session aware that the Fetteresso church website now contains a link to the Church of Scotland safeguarding newsletter and safeguarding publications (including the guidance handbooks) on the Safeguarding page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing</li> </ul> <p>Andrew Boggon sent a staff report around session before the meeting, and he gave a verbal summary.</p>	Noted
6	<p>The 2 matters taken in private were discussed. The minister spoke of his difficulties over the last 7 months, and his intention to recommence his ministry.</p> <p>It was agreed that Roseanne Shewan should be retained as pastoral care worker for a temporary period of 6 months, financed by Fetteresso</p>	Noted
7	<p>AOB</p> <p>Scott Martin spoke about change of accountancy for the church accounts.</p>	

	<p>Johnston Carmichael, who were the independent examiners of our accounts advised Scott that they have decided to "step back" from providing an independent examination for charities.</p> <p>They recommended another firm based in Glasgow who we could have used but as Scott hadn't heard of them , he instead approached Henderson Loggie, a reputable accounting firm of a similar size to Johnston Carmichael who have a large not for profit and charity sector, who have a few Church of Scotland clients, and who have agreed to take this on at the same fee as previously charged</p> <p>Finance committee accepted Scott's recommendation but as they are appointed by the trustees, Scott would like this approved by session. Session approved this request</p>	
6.	<p><b>Next Meeting –</b></p> <p>Thursday 16th February 2023.</p>	
7.	<p>The moderator closed the meeting with prayer.</p> <p>MODERATOR:</p> <p>SESSION CLERK: Robert Bell.</p>	