



**Church of Scotland  
Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian**

***Steering Group (SG)***

**Newhaven Church (NC)  
North Leith Parish Church (NLPC)  
South Leith Parish Church (SLPC)**

***Notes / minutes of Meeting No 12  
Held on Sunday 19 February 2023 @ SLPC***

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>The Chair welcomed those Steering Group (SG) Members present</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<b>The meeting was constituted by prayer – Chair</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Sederunt  Apologies In attendance - by phone Scribe</b>	<b>K McKay (Chair), Rev P Bluett, Rev I May, A Lamont, J Hodge, A Rutherford, T Bell, G Booth, C MacNeill, M Doig, Sheena Glen, J Robertson, S Lowe, Keith Martin  S Edwards H McDiarmid</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes of meeting held on 15 January 2023</b>	<b>These had been previously circulated and were approved.</b>

Agenda	Item	Notes
5	AOCB – items to be notified prior to Agenda Item 12 below	Public Meetings (Tim)
6	Updates from <b>Worship</b> and <b>Mission</b> short life working groups – reports previously circulated	<p><b>Worship:</b> Discussion Points allowed considered and comprehensive responses, as witnessed in the Action Points provided. In addition to the report items, the logistics of travelling to church on a Sunday was raised, especially with bus/tram timetables considered. It was agreed to pursue the survey/focus group to try to understand the logic employed in deciding when and where to attend church.</p> <p><b>Mission:</b> several points were raised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Include photos of Steering Group members on the new parish website</li> <li>➤ Continue and review what is currently being done in each congregation</li> <li>➤ Balance keeping what we're doing versus change</li> <li>➤ Identify core mission activities/challenges</li> <li>➤ Promote “pulling together”, acting as one, becoming involved in cross congregation activities ie Newhaven Café volunteers, SLPC Garden Club, Friends of Starbank Park, SLPC Sunday Breakfast</li> </ul>
7	Time Line to 31 October 2023	Discussion centred around <u>how</u> a union might be achieved by this date, and what “hoops” would have to be jumped through.. A firm draft <u>Basis of Union</u> would be required. The involvement, agreement and votes by the Sessions, congregations and Presbytery were explored, possibly also involving our DG Reps, Derek and Donald, to inform the process. Rather than trying to achieve this in Steering Group meetings, it was agreed that Karen and Hugh would produce a “reverse” timeline, working back from 31 October, highlighting dates, actions, personnel and documents required to achieve the overall aim. It was suggested that the 31 October deadline was unnecessarily ambitious. However, this date was <u>not</u> “set in stone”, and could be amended if necessary.
8	Forward Plan – short, medium and long term	It was felt that this would be subsumed within Item 7 and addressed as and when appropriate. The resulting documentation from Items 7 and 8 would be available in electronic form.
9	Additional Joint Services	<p>April: 2 joint services to be organised by the ministry team – both at Newhaven.</p> <p>9 April: Easter Service in Starbank Park, <u>10.30 start</u>. John to process and advertise.</p> <p>16 April: service @ NC with <u>10.30 start</u>.</p>

Agenda	Item	Notes
10	Annual Events (3 congregations)	It was proposed that personnel be “pooled” for events, and where necessary specific help requested. A central contact was suggested to coordinate, with guidelines, such activities and requests across the 3 congregations ie the Tea Tent to be advertised to ascertain the level of support this might attract.
11	Communication	The Communication Group will await guidance from Karen, Peter and Iain – see next month
12	AOCB	<p><b>Public Meetings (Tim):</b> It was suggested to hold a series of “public” meetings to make the communities aware of what was happening in the formation of the new parish. This could form a New Parish Project. However, it was felt that this might be a more appropriate effort after the union of the 3 congregations.</p> <p><b>Session Clerks Meetings (Anne Lamont)</b> The Session Clerks have resumed meeting monthly. In January we had a general catch-up and discussed some of things that might be done now jointly to bring the congregations more together. For example, we talked about possibly having a joint list of intimations which could be posted on the NP website. This month we met with the joint Session Clerks from Inverleith St Serf’s to learn about their experiences of a union. This was a very useful meeting with a lot of information shared, including a mind-map with a number of matters to be considered. <i>See separate document.</i></p>
13	Closing Prayer	The Chair thanked members present for their attendance and contributions, and then asked Rev I May to close the meeting with prayer
14	Date of Next Meeting	<b>19 March 2023 @ NLPC</b>

Written by: *Hugh*  
Vetted by Chair: *02.03.2023*

Date: *20.02.2023*  
Issued: *03.03.2023*