



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

Steering Group

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

***Notes / minutes of Meeting No 3
Held on Sunday 22 May 2022 @ Newhaven Church***

Agenda	Item	Notes
1	Welcome	The Chair welcomed everyone to Meeting No 3 of the Steering Group.
2	Prayer	The meeting was constituted by the Chair with prayer.
3	Attendance	Rev Peter Bluett, Int. Mod. Karen McKay, Rev Iain May, John Hodge, Anne Lamont, Anne Rutherford, Susan Edwards, Keith Martin, Jen Robertson, Stewart Lowe, Gavin Booth, Colin MacNeill, Michelle Doig
	Apologies	Tim Bell, Sheena Glen
4	Approval of minutes of meetings held on 7 April and 28 April 2022	The minutes of both meetings were reviewed and subsequently approved.
5	AOCB – items to be notified prior to Item 10 below	1. Leith Festival update - Michelle 2. Agenda for future meetings - Colin

Agenda	Item	Notes
6	Meeting Etiquette	The Chair asked that all business, and any further appropriate and / or relevant discussions, be kept strictly within the confine of the meeting(s). If any points arose that required clarification or development, this should be done <i>through the Chair</i> .
7	Collaborative working	<p>This item constituted the major part of today's discussions. The following points / issues were made / raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our 3 Session Clerks should meet, to familiarise each other with their individual procedures and practices. ➤ Our 3 Treasurers / Finance Conveners also need to meet to discuss which financial systems are in operation. ➤ Our 3 Fabric / Property Conveners need to liaise on their activities and systems. ➤ Note was taken that Anne Lamont is both Session Clerk <u>and</u> Treasurer for North Leith. ➤ The remaining unitary teams from the 3 congregations need to meet, to look at harmonising activities. ➤ Results of meetings are to be presented at the next FULL meeting of the Steering Group. (NOT 1 June) ➤ There was 100% agreement that the 3 congregations move forward to work towards the proposed union, thus allowing the development of a new entity – our new parish. ➤ This means that we are now on the way to determine what the new parish would, and should, look like. ➤ The new parish should consider having office bearers appointed on a fixed term basis. Deputies should also appointed, to shadow the respective office bearer(s), and to step up, when the main fixed term was completed. ➤ It was noted that a future General Assembly would be considering the composition of any new Session, to ensure that there was no imbalance due to elders coming from the uniting congregations – possibly also on a fixed term basis. ➤ Succession planning and continuity needs to be incorporated into arrangements, and maintained. ➤ Presbytery would be approached for assistance if any of the above matters proved problematic.

Agenda	Item	Notes
7	Collaborative working - continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The following questions were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Why do we do things the way we do? ✓ Why do them at all? ✓ How do we go forward, doing things (potentially) differently and more efficiently mission focused? ➤ Working towards, and achieving, union will not be a “big bang” event – there will need to be a gradual merging, permeating and integration of ideas and activities along the way. Articulating vision regularly is considered important, as this can inspire hope. ➤ We need to consider a local Nurture Committee – analagous to the central / national Faith Nurture Forum. ➤ Iain volunteered to forward the previous “One Church for Leith” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vision ✓ Covenant documents for study by the Steering Group. <i>These were emailed to members on Monday 23 May.</i> ➤ The development of a joint Calendar of Events should be implemented – entries to be uploaded to the web site.
8	Finance for our New Parish	<p>How were new Parish development activities to be funded? North Leith had already earmarked £200 from one of their funds for this purpose. The Newhaven and South Leith reps would approach their respective Treasurers to ask for similar £200 contributions to be made. John offered Newhaven as a holding area for such finance, and would supply bank transfer details.</p>
9	Communication(s)	<p>The minutes of the meetings held on 7 and 28 April would now be uploaded to the website. Michelle and Jen are managing the website and reported that there had been 90+ visits to the site, with an average stay time of 5 minutes. In order to compile a Calendar of Events for all 3 congregations, Team members were asked to arrange that events notices should be sent to TowardsOurNewParish@gmail.com</p> <p>A sensitive question had been received to the FAQ section. A considered response to this would be required – Iain to construct. The next communication update would be completed and added to the website as appropriate after the “Vision” meeting, to be held on 1 June 2022.</p>

Agenda	Item	Notes
10	AOCB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michelle – the Tea Tent activities, as part of the Leith Festival, would not take place this year, due to staffing difficulties. 2. Colin - to be revisited after consideration of the Leith Covenant documentation. It was felt the “Vision” meeting might not provide a comprehensive, complete or definitive statement, hence the need to mark time at present.
10A	Date of Next Meeting	<i>Wednesday 1 June 2022 - 7.30pm @ Newhaven - 1 Item Agenda - VISION</i>
11	Blessing	The Chair closed the meeting with a blessing

Written by: Hugh
Vetted by Chair: 24 May 2022

Date: 23 May 2022
Issued: 24 May 2022