

Towards our New Parish

Joint Congregational meeting 16th October 2022

Questions asked.

Q	Will there be voting on the Presbytery Mission Plan on 15 November Presbytery meeting?
A	Yes
Q	The running costs of N/h's modern building are reasonable, was this a factor in decisions?
A	<i>That would have been taken into account. Further background on need for the changes was given and the challenges involved admitted.</i>
Q	Why is it difficult to split up the NL site? The AMBA score for the hall is good, why not retain?
A	<i>The site has shared services. Proposals at the moment. The Steering Group now to look at Basis of Union, use of buildings will be part of this. But note the only appeal to the Presbytery proposals is on the basis of the overall process used.</i>
Q	Does the release date of end December 2024 apply only to the current North Leith buildings?
A	<i>Yes The proposed Release Date is the latest date by which buildings should be released. The joining of parishes themselves will be dependent on the time taken for the Basis of Union process to complete. This process will be worked through by Steering Group. The timescale for this to be achieved will depend on the various stages to be worked through including both congregations and Presbytery. This Union is separate from any building Release Date. Further info given on the Basis of Union, noted that Presbytery approval to that is required before voting by congregations. All three churches have agreed to a union.</i>
Q	Does the SG have a vision and plan for how things will be in the future?
A	<i>Vision and outline Mission Narrative already shared. Some thought has been given to plans and work will continue on this.</i>
Q	Why have minister number dropped so far? Can it continue without ministers?
A	<i>The early church started without ministers. But there is a big investment in education and training ministers who are 'set apart' dedicating themselves to serving in God's church. The Church of Scotland welcomes and embraces all who feels the calling of Word and Sacrament.</i>
Q	Will worship be shared between the 2 buildings or will there just be one of the two used for worship?
A	<i>This should be addressed in the Basis of Union and thereafter by the new parish. Church is not about the buildings, can have worship out-of-doors and in suitable premises other than church buildings.</i>
Q	With the number of ministers dropping to such a low level can the church continue to function?
A	<i>We all of us have a role to share the good news. Team ministry is being encouraged and courses are being made available.</i>

Q	Will Sunday worship take part in one building?
A	<i>Worship should be shared. Worship should be people centered and we should worship where the people are. The services in Starbank Park and the Secret Garden were good examples of being people centric and not building centric.</i>
Q	Will we still retain links with other churches, e.g., Leith Churches Together?
A	<i>Different services like the Annual Seafarers Service, Leith Festival are good examples of these links along with the monthly Ecumenical Lunches. Joint activities like these are included in the analysis that the Steering Group will include in building the Basis of Union.</i>
Q	Already lost a lot of buildings in the area, cutting this to 2 is not sufficient for the size of the population.
A	<i>The Plan is about Mission, need 'the right spaces in the right places' to support the mission, it will be up to the new parish to determine viable site options for the future.</i>