

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report

Year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland
Charity registration number NI104502
Principal office 53 King's Road
Belfast
BT5 6JH

The trustees

Rev D Moore (Resigned 31 August 2022)
Mr P Brown
Rev M Casement
Dr S Craig
Mr R Dekker
Mr B Ditty
Miss H Donaldson
Mr K Glasgow
Mr J Gourley
Mr M Hamilton
Mr S Jemphrey
Mr W Leitch
Mr I Long
Mr T Manson (Resigned 17 February 2022)
Mr N Martin
Mr J Moore
Mr C Mounstephen
Mr D Mounstephen
Mr T Mounstephen
Mr M McCartney
Mr I McClatchey
Mr J McClelland
Dr D McComb (Resigned 15 September 2022)
Mr D McConkey
Mr F McDowell
Mr S McKee
Mr C McLoughlin
Mr T McQuoid (Resigned 20 January 2022)
Mr J McWatters
Dr P Orr
Mr A Spratt
Mr H Wilson
Mr K Woodrow

Auditor Muir & Addy
Chartered accountants & statutory auditor
Muir Building
427 Holywood Road
Belfast
BT4 2LT

Bankers Danske Bank Limited
Belfast
Donegall Square West
BT1 6JS

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Structure, governance and management

The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation and setting the remuneration of key staff having regard to relevant national statistics. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister, an associate minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative role but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held at least nine times in each year.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attender at its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. The newly elected elders undergo a 6-week training period of induction and then participate in the ongoing elders training programme which covers all aspects of their role as both elders and trustees.

The Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance, the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which generally superintends the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Knock Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and elders appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation. The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and/or one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administrative and judicial authority in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business, it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and representative elders appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation. The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Public Benefit Statement

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion. The direct benefits which flow from the purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need (including the sick, disabled and bereaved). Generally, the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways. The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and ad-hoc feedback from members, their families, and members of the public. The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However, this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and worldwide which benefit from our engagement with and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public. The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commissions public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Objectives and activities

Knock Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

The **Vision** of Knock Presbyterian Church is, by the grace of God, to be an inclusive, welcoming community of Christ's people of all ages, which: is increasingly characterised by love for God, and love and concern for others; is committed to the historic Christian gospel as revealed in the Bible; and is relevant to people of this time and place.

The **Mission** of Knock Presbyterian Church is, by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Now summarised as Making Mature Disciples.

The **Values** of Knock Presbyterian Church are that we aim to live out our Mission and Vision as a family of God's people by being:

- a Covenant community where our relationships are rooted in the promises of God by living faithfully toward Him and toward one another.
- an Intergenerational community where adults intentionally take the lead to engage with, encourage and nurture younger members to maturity in Christ.
- an Outward Looking community where we want the blessings of God that belong to us in the Gospel to become blessings for others beyond the bounds of our community.

To fulfil the Church's Mission, Vision and Values, the elders are developing the following nine strategic areas. Each year specific and measurable Action Plans are agreed by the elders which will develop and the strategies and it is the delivery of these Action Plans which will determine the success or otherwise of the strategies:

- **Worship** - To engage each member in vital and meaningful worship of God.
- **Prayer** - The elders continue to develop the prayer life of the congregation by creating many opportunities for individual and corporate prayer recognising that without prayer the work of the Church is in vain.
- **Pastoral Care** - It is each members responsibility to pastorally care for each other with elders having particular responsibility to ensure that there are congregational structures in place to deliver every member pastoral care.
- **Mission** - It is each member's responsibility to engage in the work of Christian mission to wherever God has placed them. In addition, Elders encourage all of the Church members to support those members working in full or part-time home or overseas mission work prayerfully, practically, and financially and to support the home and overseas mission partnerships in the Church.
- **Youth** - Elders continue to put a priority on the nurture, discipleship, and leadership development of our young people as well as the transition and engagement of our young people into the full life of the Church.
- **Discipleship** - With a focus on Welcome, Word and Welfare, the Church fully engages with its membership helping them to grow in Christ through the development of Learning Spaces and to engage in fellowship through Community Spaces.
- **Evangelism** - Developing ways of sharing the gospel in the Church and in the community.
- **Outreach & Community Service** - Developing ways for the Church to reach out into the community.
- **Property** - Deploying our premises to provide an inviting space, welcoming to all of the community.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performance

In the past year, Session meetings have been dominated by 2 significant matters:

- **The Kairos Moment.** Having reaffirmed the Church's Mission statement and summarised it as 'Making Mature Disciples', Session's mission is to develop the following characteristics of a mature disciple in each one of us as taken from the Great Commandment in Matthew Ch 22 vs 36-40:

Growing

- intentionally pursuing a relationship with Jesus;
- being transformed by the Holy Spirit; and
- learning more about God.

Going

- being passionate in service;
- being relational, loving your neighbours in our Church family; and
- being missional, loving your neighbours in the world.

Action Plans commenced in January 2022, under 5 Church activities:

- worship services;
- community spaces - developing relationships with other disciples across the generations;
- learning spaces - studying and learning together what it is to be and to live as followers of Jesus;
- mission; and
- prayer.

Action Plans continued through 2022, as detailed in each of the strategic development areas outlined below, together with six-monthly progress reviews, incorporating feedback, ensuring effective progress is being made. There has been and will be regular communication from Session with the congregation on these Action Plans and other relevant matters.

- **Minister Vacancy.** At the April 2022 Session meeting, Rev David Moore advised Session that he had accepted a Call from the PCI Council of Mission in Ireland to the post of Minister in 'Special Work in West Belfast', initially for a four-year period commencing on 1 September 2022. Rev Moore advised the congregation of this Call in May 2022. In light of Rev Moore's Call, Session agreed to defer the appointment of an Associate Minister until a new Minister had been installed. This decision was agreed by Presbytery and Linkage Commission who extended the time for Knock to Call an Associate Minister to 24 months. At the June Session meeting, Rev Moore advised that Rev Gareth MacLean, Minister of Orangefield Presbyterian Church, had been appointed by Presbytery, as the Convenor of the Vacancy Commission for the Minister position at Knock. As Rev Moore would not be leaving the Minister position at Knock until 31 August 2022, Rev Moore gave permission for the Vacancy Commission and Session to prepare the necessary New Minister documentation over the months of July and August for presentation to Presbytery and Linkage Commission in September 2022 who both gave their approval for Knock to Call a new Minister. Rev Moore was installed into the role of Minister in 'Special Work in West Belfast' on 1 September 2022 at West Kirk Presbyterian Church and Rev MacLean declared the Knock pulpit vacant on Sunday 4 September 2022. The Vacancy Commission then prepared a Preaching Schedule of visiting Ministers and Accredited Preachers for Knock.

Session has continued to progress the following nine strategic areas of development, which incorporate the Kairos Moment Action Plans, throughout the year.

Worship Services

Session's vision for worship services is to increase the intergenerational family feel of Church, move to more regular single Sunday morning worship services over time and to create a hunger for more.

Following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, in February 2022 single morning services commenced at 10.30am and the first service of a two-morning service commenced at 10.15am, with the second service commencing at 11.45am. As the year progressed, the single morning service time was changed by Session to 10.15am to reduce some of the confusion over start times and the Church, with the exception of the side transepts, returned to every pew seating following a significant easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

In November 2022, Session agreed to transition to a single morning service at 10.30am commencing on 5 February 2023. This single morning service will reunite our Church family once again, as we worship and praise God together as a family. As part of the transition process, Session has engaged with, listened to, and invited comment from those attending both morning services and will work with the staff to shape a single morning service in a unifying way. Regular reviews of the single morning service will be undertaken.

Evening worship services at 6.30pm recommenced in February 2022, alternating with the Engage Sunday evening programme.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Prayer

Session's vision for prayer is to grow the corporate prayer life of the Church as a foundation for Church life.

Session approved Action Plans in relation to prayer under the following headings:

- **Doing Prayer**
- **Resourcing Prayer**
- **Learning Prayer**
- **Receiving Prayer**
- **Community Prayer**

Session continues to provide as many opportunities for individual and corporate prayer as possible. Powerhouse, which meets on the first, third, and fifth (if there is one) Wednesday of each month together with the corporate prayer times before the Sunday morning and evening services/Engage programme as well as the corporate prayer weeks in September and January, are the main opportunities to participate in corporate prayer in the Church. The Prayer Intercessors group (praying for members on request), continues to be busy supporting members who are grieving, struggling, hurting or in pain. The Prayer Ministry group (praying with members on request) has been reassessing its strategy post Covid-19 and anticipates being able to offer this ministry again in 2023.

Pastoral care

It is each members responsibility to pastorally care for each other with Session having particular responsibility to ensure that structures are in place to deliver every member pastoral care. These structures include: (i) pastorates, for members not in small groups, which are led by Elders who are supported by pastoral visitors from the congregation; (ii) small groups, where members pastorally care for each other; and (iii) Pastoral Assistant, for members who are housebound, in hospital, or in nursing or care homes.

Rev Robert Beggs (retired Minister of McQuiston Memorial) was appointed Pastoral Assistant on 1 October 2022. Dr Richard Dunlop had been covering the Pastoral Assistant position for the previous 12 months.

In January 2022, 24 members of the congregation expressed a desire to become Pastoral Visitors and following training they were allocated to one of the pastorates working alongside the Elders, providing pastoral care and support for the members of the pastorates including the re-commencement of home visitations, following the significant easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

In April 2022, Session reformed the Bereavement Team, whose initial role was to draw alongside those families who were bereaved during the Covid-19 pandemic period but who will also have an ongoing role supporting members who are bereaved.

Mission

Recognising the current active congregational involvement in mission work on an individual and corporate basis, Session will continue to develop a mission mindset in the members.

Session approved Action Plans in relation to mission under the following headings:

- **Develop a theology of mission;**
- **Review mission relationships;**
- **Encourage members in mission;**
- **Develop our mission member care; and**
- **Focus on missional prayer.**

Session recognises that there are a number of members of the congregation who work in full time or part time ministry or mission either in an individual capacity or with a mission organisation.

A final 24-month Memorandum of Understanding between Tearfund and the Diocese of Muhabura in Uganda was signed. Session and the Uganda Partnership Committee have put plans in place for this final cycle with Tear Fund and the Diocese of Muhabura. Following Tullycarnet Presbyterian Church becoming vacant in April 2022 and being under Presbytery review, Session encouraged and continues to encourage members of the congregation to support the congregation prayerfully, financially, and practically. Rev Graham Connor and Rev David Mollwrath are leading services at the Church with an assistant who was appointed over the summer and a community worker to be appointed.

The Creation Care Group, which meets to consider and implement ways in which the congregation can, collectively and individually, better care for the environment, undertook many activities during the year providing practical advice and support to the congregation on sustainable living and reducing our carbon footprint. The Group will be undertaking an environmental audit of Knock Church in 2023.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Youth

560 children and young people from Knock, neighbouring churches and the local community attended the Church youth summer outreach programmes which included King's Cross Holiday Bible Club, Activate, Game of Three Halves, and Adventure Days with only one third of those attending being from Knock. Youth weekends were held at Castlewellaan Castle on 18-20 March 2022 and 26-29 August 2022 and a P5-P7 weekend was held on 6-8 May 2022.

Greenhouse, the Sunday evening youth fellowship, continues to provide opportunities for our young people to praise God and pray with each other, to study the Bible, and to grow as disciples. The Lighthouse and MADhouse Sunday morning Bible classes help our children and teenagers to better understand the Bible and the Christian faith and the Creche allows parents of babies to hear God's Word in the Church services. The 'Deeper' and 'Mentoring' programmes, run by the staff, as well as the OCN courses on offer, help our teenagers develop and transition into serving in Church. The Genesis group supports our young people in their faith at university or in their formative years of work as they move away from home.

Knock Youth reaches out to the local community through the busy Church Youth Club on Friday evenings and through the large number of uniformed organisations (Girls and Boys Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorer Scouts) meeting on the Church premises through the week. In the first year of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at Knock, 22 young people took part, 17 silver and 5 gold, with 25 young people registered for the current year. In light of the number of asylum-seeking families staying in Belfast hotels, Session agreed that Knock provides outreach respite youth work to the children and young people in these asylum-seeking families.

Following the Education Authority's provision of a 2-year funding package from April 2021 to cover the costs of the two Youth Support Worker positions and associated programmes, Session undertook regular reviews of the funded youth programmes as did the Education Authority who assessed the Knock youth programmes as 'outstanding.' In light of this and to continue the programmes, in December 2022, Session agreed that an application be made to the Education Authority for a further 3-year funding package for the youth programmes commencing in April 2023.

Discipleship

Session renamed the 'Learning Spaces' programme as 'Engage', which commenced in February 2022 on alternate Sunday evenings, providing intentional opportunities for the formation of disciples in terms of core beliefs, spiritual discipline, contemporary issues, and evangelism, through a discipleship curriculum and through complementary interactive learning.

As part of the 'Community Spaces' programme, creating space for relationships to be initiated and developed and exploring the potential of these for developing the intergenerational nature of Church, Session undertook a review of the existing small groups, in the first half of the year and, following the significant easing of Covid-19 restrictions, recommenced occasional congregational breakfasts and BBQ lunches to facilitate development of relationships within the Knock family. Towards the end of the year, new 'Connect' Groups were initiated which will be intentionally intergenerational in their make-up.

In November 2022, Christian Guidelines ran a 'Promoting Good Mental Health' course in the Church and as part of Family Ministry, the 'Faith at Home' programme recommenced towards the end of the year. The monthly Lunch Club continued to provide regular fellowship, encouragement, and support for the older members of the congregation.

Music Ministry saw the formation of a choral group to help lead praise at the second morning service and single morning services and some new praise groups with several new praise leaders being approved by Session toward the end of the year. There will be further music ministry development through 2023.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Evangelism

A 3-week Hope Explored course was run in May 2022 with a further 3-week Hope Explored course planned for January 2023. This course looks at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in Luke's gospel and is about real hope - a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about the present. Members were encouraged to invite those they knew to the courses.

Women's and Men's Ministry programmes and events continued through the year, providing Bible teaching, fellowship, prayer and discipleship development opportunities for members and those people that they invite.

Members of Knock were carol singing at King's Square shopping area on Saturday 10 December 2022 as part of an invitation to the community to: Knock's Community Carol Service on Sunday 18 December 2022; the traditional Carol Service on 24 December 2022; and the Christmas Day service.

Session continues to support the work of the SU E3 schools' ministry programme and in particular Sarah Coghlan, the East Belfast SU E3 worker.

Outreach and Serving the Community

In light of the influx of Ukrainian refugees into Belfast, Session encouraged Church members, who were able to, to register with the UK Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme opening their homes to these refugees. Session also gave consideration to other practical ways in which these Ukrainian refugees could be supported and engaged with the 'Starfish' organisation who actively seek to find hosts for refugees with several members of the Church subsequently hosting Ukrainian refugee families and individuals.

In September 2022, the Community Service Group was re-envisioned and became the Community Support Group whose vision is 'members of the Church, through God's grace, love, and care, providing practical Christian support in the community'. The new joint coordinators for the Group and are encouraging members of the congregation to become involved.

In light of the 'cost of living' crisis, in October 2022, Knock Church registered as a 'Warm Hub' providing a warm, drop-in space to Church members and the local community between 10am and 4pm each Tuesday until March 2023 offering free hospitality, free wi-fi, papers, board games and a friendly welcome.

In November 2022, Knock Church registered with the 'Welcome Churches' initiative for people who house asylum seekers. As part of the initiative, Knock will be notified when asylum seekers are housed in the Knock area and 'Welcome Churches' will then ask Knock to engage with these asylum seekers whilst providing appropriate training and support.

The Badminton Club, Drama Society, Wednesday Walkers, Saturday Striders, Craft Group, Knock Tots, Contact Centre, and Special Friends of Knock activities continue to provide fellowship and outreach opportunities to the community.

Property

The plans for the 'On the King's Road' Church Hall redevelopment project, which aims to provide an inviting space welcoming to all, were approved by the Planning authorities in April 2022 with no changes required. Session and Congregational Committee then approved that the appointed professional team be instructed to proceed with the detailed design of the planning approved scheme.

Safeguarding

As part of its responsibilities, Session continues to keep under review the Church's Child Protection Policy and Adult Safeguarding Policy.

Church Membership

At 31 December 2022, there were 724 persons on the Communion Roll, 719 families claiming connection with the congregation and 1,786 persons of all ages claiming connection with the congregation. In the 2022 year, there were 6 new communicant members, all on transfer, and there were 5 baptisms, 3 weddings and 19 funerals.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

Financial review

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through Weekly freewill Offering and donations for Mission.

During the year total income was £921,630 (2021: £941,437). The total income for the year included bequests received of £14,841 (2021: £53,124). In 2022 expenditure net of donations in respect of On the King's Road building project was £86,603 (2021: £7,244). The net surplus for the year is £52,135 (2021: net surplus £94,556) which has increased net assets at 31 December 2022 to £1,856,778 (2021: £1,804,643).

The Church's Investment Policy is to invest any surplus funds in zero risk Bank Treasury Deposits and to obtain interest on these funds. At 31 December 2022, there was £1,290,640 (2021 £963,808) held in Treasury Deposits. The Church also owns the Church property which is carried at cost and is fully depreciated. The Manse residential property for its Minister and a residential house on the Church site are valued in total at £600,000 (2021: £600,000). The Church has a low-risk attitude in all of its activities and seeks to mitigate risks where at all possible.

Plans for future periods

The Elders will continue to develop the 9 strategic areas of the Church, implementing and allocating resources as required, as they work towards delivering the Church's Vision, through its Mission and Values, to extend Christ's kingdom in the congregation, the local community and throughout the world.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustee Responsibilities

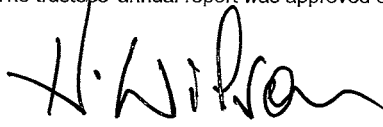
Members of Session are mindful of their Trustee responsibilities in charity law, given that Knock Presbyterian Church is a registered charity. Session works closely with the Congregational Committee to ensure that the necessary structures, policies, procedures, and mechanisms are in place and that legal and regulatory requirements are being met to deliver good governance as benchmarked by the Charities Commission NI. Members of Session will be receiving further training in 2023 on these responsibilities.

Knock Congregation Of The Presbyterian Church In Ireland

Trustees' annual report *(continued)*

Year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees' annual report was approved on 16 February 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr H Wilson
Trustee