

MOIRA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
a Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Ireland

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 including a Balance Sheet as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Moira Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
18 Meeting Street,
Moira,
BT67 0NR

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105174)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were

Ian Watson
Benny Lyness
Thomas McGeown
Sam Brockbank
Dr. Harold Rice
James Logan

Richard Brown
Roy McCleary
Wilfred Dunlop
Jackson Blakely
Rev D Howard Gilpin

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Clerk of Session
Treasurers

Rev D Howard Gilpin
Ian Watson
Ivan Barnett / Roy McCleary

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

John McCleary FCA
McCleary & Company Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Garvey Studios
14 Longstone Street
Lisburn
BT28 1TP

BANKERS

Danske Bank
Main Street
Lurgan

SOLICITORS

Mr. John Neill
Watson Neill Solicitors
43 Main Street
Moira
BT67 0LQ

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STRUCTURE 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. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee.

The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders. In March 2023 we will welcome a further 4 Elders on to Session after an election in 2022. 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 but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held five times during the year.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Moira Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Dromore 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 an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

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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 a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

Moira Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission purpose is to seek to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by word and by action. We believe in the importance of preaching, what is biblical, relevant and applicable to living in the 21st Century. We believe in the vital importance of individual and corporate prayer in the life of our congregation. We believe in the importance of evangelism as Jesus commands us to.... "go and make disciples of all nations" and to... "be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1vs8). Together we aim to obey Jesus' call to local and international mission. We believe in the importance of being a warm and welcoming Christian community promoting fellowship between people of all ages. We believe in the importance of praise that is God centred and biblical and believe that singing praise to God is a witness in itself (Acts 16 vs25). It is also a means of spiritual encouragement (Coloss. 3 vs16).

As a multi-generational denomination, we believe there is a place for all generations in our Church family. We recognise the importance of welcoming all families to our congregation and will seek to identify and support family needs and integration into church life. We will achieve this by means of organised activities, events, Church Services and provide opportunities to share ideas that help shape the future of our Church. We believe

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in providing sensitive and loving pastoral care (1 Thess. 2 vs7-8) for all those not only within the congregation but any who venture into our building and who express a need for such care. We desire to be Christ centred and people orientated in our approach and we will offer Christian compassion and grace to all those who come under our care.

We believe it is important to recognise that our Church is a living, spiritual organisation that needs to be managed through a structure of different roles, policies, procedures and systems to achieve God's purpose for his Church in Moira. It is important that leaders take responsibility for the spiritual and temporal governance of Church activities in accordance with Christian principles and legal obligations.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords Supper is observed on four occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular Bible Study meetings and has a wide range of organisations including:

- Sunday School
- Boys' Brigade
- Girls' Brigade
- Badminton Club
- Bowling Club
- Friday Morning Prayer Group
- Home Bible Study and Prayer Groups
- Crochet Club
- Presbyterian Women
- Choir & Praise Group
- Men's Fellowship
- Youth Fellowship
- Young at Heart Senior Citizens
- Cycle Group

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am and monthly at 6.30pm. During the week the Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study the scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life at 2 Sacraments of Baptism. We gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

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At 31 December 2022 there were 276 communicant members and 298 families connected with the congregations. The average weekly attendance at morning worship was 220.

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

Mission and outreach

At a local level, as a congregation we want to reach people in Moira for God, to tell them about God's love for everyone and the good news of the gospel. We plan to discover what the people in our community today need most, and how we can demonstrate God's answer to these needs in real practical ways. We are using the Umoja process for church and community mobilisation as an additional tool to help us reach the community in Moira. Internationally we will continue to support Presbyterian missionaries and other mission organisations such as Tearfund and Christian Aid.

The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assists with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

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General Assembly

The minister was nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Organisations

- ❖ On Sunday mornings during the main Church service the Sunday School meets in our Church halls comprising of c20 children and teenagers.
- ❖ On Monday evenings the Boys' Brigade meets in the Church Halls. This comprises of c40 boys and teenagers.
- ❖ On Wednesday evenings the Bowling Club meets in the Church Halls comprising of c30 members.
- ❖ On Wednesday evenings the Bible Study and Prayer Fellowship meets in the Upper Room, in the new Church building comprising of c40 members.
- ❖ On Thursday evenings the Girls' Brigade meets in the Church Halls comprising of c55 members.
- ❖ Moira Presbyterian Women (PW) meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Upper room. The PW is led by a Group Leader and a committee of eight who are elected annually by the members. There are approximately 30 to 40 ladies in attendance at each meeting.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

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.

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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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions through the Weekly Freewill Offering. There were 240 contributors during the year (276 in previous year, 2021) donating a total of £108,270 (£108,745 in previous year, 2021)

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Total Income of the congregation during the year was £251,556 compared to £234,532 in the previous year. (2021)

Total expenditure increased from £198,901 (2021) to £227,399, less than a 15% increase.

RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the congregation and the financial activities for that year. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Funds will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the funds transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the congregation and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (1 January 2015)". They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

GOING CONCERN

The activities of the congregation are dependent on ongoing contributions from its members. The Trustees are of the opinion that the congregation has sufficient resources at the date of approval of these financial statements to meet commitments which will arise in the year from the date of signing this report and subject to the continuing support from members to be able to fund, on an ongoing basis the congregation's current activities and other financial commitments.

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RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees have considered the level of unrestricted net current assets that it is appropriate to hold, taking account of current and ongoing commitments. It is the policy of the Trustees to hold at least 4 month's unrestricted expenditure. At the year end net current assets (excluding loan amounts) were £131,710 which represents a higher level of reserves than the four months amount of £64,911. The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain the net current assets to a level equivalent to or above four month's unrestricted expenditure.

RISK REVIEW

A review of major risks has been undertaken by the Trustees and systems and procedures implemented to manage identified risks. The principal risks are in relation to the likelihood of reputational damage and financial risks associated with the expectation of ongoing financial support from members. These risks are mitigated by the Trustees, and the Congregational Committee, regularly monitoring the various activities of the congregation at stated meetings and by encouraging members in their regular giving.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 16 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Rev. D Howard Gilpin

D. Howard Gilpin
16th May 2023

Mr. Ian Watson

Ian Watson
16/ May / 2023