

## **TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Sloan Street Lisburn Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland  
2C Sloan Street, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, BT27 5AG

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105229)

## **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

Rev Andrew Faulkner  
Dr Brian Craig  
Mr Kenneth Irvine  
Mr Paul McCarroll  
Mr James McDowell  
Mr Nelson Small

Dr Ivan Wiggam  
Mr Gary Wilson  
Mr Clifford Morrison  
Mr Alan Templeton  
Mr Graeme White

## **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister  
Clerk of Session  
Treasurer

Rev Andrew Faulkner  
Dr Brian Craig  
Mr Paul McCarroll

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

McCleary & Company, Garvey Studios, 14 Longstone Street, LISBURN, Co. Antrim, BT28 1TP

## **BANKERS**

Danske Bank, 62 – 66 Bow Street, LISBURN, Co. Antrim, BT28 1YS

## **SOLICITORS**

Donaldson McConnell & Company, 8 – 10 Graham Gardens, Lisburn, BT28 1XE

## **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 Sessions 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 of the congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session are held on the third Monday of January, March, May, September and November.

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. Sloan Street Lisburn congregation of the 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 the congregation.

## **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**

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

Sloan Street Lisburn congregation of the 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 Vision statement is: *Making and Growing Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

The Congregation aims to live out its Vision and Mission 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.
- As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (cont'd)**

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on several 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 along with small home groups and has a wide range of organisations including:

- Treasure Seekers and Adventurers
- Going Deeper
- Mothers and Toddlers
- Girl's Brigade
- Badminton Club
- B.B. Old Boys
- Presbyterian Women
- Mixed Fellowship (Bowling) Club
- Boys' Brigade
- Tuesday Night Kids' Club

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Worship and prayer**

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00am and 6.00pm. During the week the Bible Study provides an opportunity for members to meet 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 5 Sacraments of Baptism. We conducted one marriage service and gave thanks for faithful services and sought to comfort those who had been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 211 communicant members and 237 families connected with the Congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is 200 and 60 at evening worship.

**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 the congregation's pastoral visitors.

### **Mission and Outreach**

At a local level the congregation supports a number of members who serve in a range of mission agencies both at home and overseas. Regular updates and prayer requests are provided through the Mission Support Committee and missionaries are given the opportunity to provide personal updates whenever they are home on furlough.

In addition to our support for those from within the congregation actively involved in mission at home and overseas, 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 a 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, assist 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.

The congregation also contributes to the denomination's annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

### **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.

### **General Assembly**

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.

### **Property**

Remedial repairs to Church property continued to be made when required throughout the year.

### **Organisations**

Our Sunday Children's programme, Adventurers for ages 3 – 5 and Treasure Seekers for ages 6 - 11 moved to an online presence and attracted an average of 20 children in the age range of 0 -11 where an attractive programme of teaching and learning was provided by our volunteer leaders. Sunday evenings, Going Deeper, a programme specifically aimed at those aged 12 – 18, also used the online facility when opportunities to share together and explore their faith and developing their spiritual well-being.

A new children's ministry was established in September 2023 – Tuesday Night Kids' Club for children of primary school age. This will act as an alternative to The Boys' Brigade and The Girls' Brigade ministry that has existed for over 70 years.

### **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.

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 146 contributors during the year (146 in previous year, 2022) donating a total of £165,101 (£152,170 in previous year, 2022).

Total Income of the congregation during the year was £445,893 compared to £264,268 in the previous year.

Total expenditure decreased from £219,921 to £190,695

### **STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

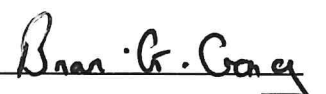
The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 31 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by

Signed 

Paul McCarroll

31 October 2024

Signed 

Dr Brian Craig

31 October 2024