

**THE EAST BELFAST PRESBYTERY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

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

The East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
C/O 234 Lower Braniel Road
Belfast
BT5 7NJ

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC106435)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Rev William Harkness	Rev Frank Sellar	Rev Mervyn Burnside
Rev Richard McIlhatton	Rev Edward McKenzie	Rev William McCully
Rev Jonathan Frazer	Rev Stephen Moore	Rev Mark Brown
Rev Noble McNeely	Rev James Warburton	Rev Johnston Lambe
Rev Robert Beggs	Rev Colin Burcombe	Prof. Drew Gibson
Rev Gareth MacLean	Rev Martin Gray	Rev Albin Rankin
Rev Danny Rankin	Rev Uel Marrs	Rev Mervyn Gibson
Rev Jim Stothers	Rev Gary Ball	Mr Ken Brown
Rev Stuart McCrea	Rev Robin Aicken	Rev Philip Boyd
Mrs Daphne Caldwell	Rev Enrique Tagle-Aguiar	Rev Graeme Kennedy
Rev Jim Campbell	Rev Alastair Dunlop	Rev Ron Savage
Rev George Moffett	Rev William McKeown	Rev Robin Quinn
Rev Hastings McIntyre	Rev Ivan McKay	Rev Denis Whitley
Rev Robert Hornby	Rev Derek Drysdale	Rev Marlene Taylor
Rev David Maxwell	Mr David Gillespie	Mr Alastair Mills
Mr Fred McKee	Mr John McKibbin	Mr Andrew McCann
Mr Ivor Lowry	Ms Margaret Grayson	Miss Leonora Wasson
Mr Colin McRoberts	Mr Tom McCullough	Mr Martin Hampton
Mrs Anne White	Mr Aubrey Bell	Mr John Dempster

Mr Alan Bousfield

Mr George Dunbar

Mr Hugo Wilson

Mrs Margaret Grayson

Mr John Boyd

Mr Jackie Patterson

Mrs Rosemary Hamilton

Mr George Hampton

Mrs Annette Wright

Mrs Lynda Francis

Mr Kevin Cooper

Rev John Maddock

Rev David Thompson

Mrs Julie Power

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Moderator

Clerk of Presbytery

Finance Convener

Rev James Warburton

Rev Stephen Moore

Mr Martin Hampton

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mr Robert Martin Russell

38 Woodbrook Manor

Lisburn

BT28 0AD

BANKERS

Ulster Bank Ltd

Connswater Branch

Arches Retail Park

Belfast

BT4 5AF

SOLICITORS

Hewitt & Gilpin Solicitors Ltd

Thomas House

14-16 James Street South

Belfast

BT2 7GA

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

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. The following congregations of the Presbyterian Church have been assigned to The East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Belmont	Knock
Bloomfield	McQuiston
Castlereagh	Mersey Street
Christ Church	Mountpottinger
Cregagh	Orangefield
Dundonald	Ravenhill
Garnerville	St Andrews
Gilnahirk	Stormont
Granshaw	Strand
Hollywood 1 st	Tullycarnet
Hollywood High Street	Westbourne
Kirkpatrick	

A Presbytery makes arrangements for the election of ministers in congregation, ordains licentiates and installs or inducts and appoints ministers in the congregations assigned to it. They also ordain or install and appoint elders, commission and appoint deaconesses, senior lecturers, auxiliary ministers, lay agents and missionaries who have been called by an authorised body in the Church. A Presbytery has a role in seeing that ministers preach the Word faithfully to their congregations, regularly visit the families under their charge, visit the sick, promote peace and temperance and see that the duties of the eldership are properly discharged. Presbyteries oversee the resignation and retirements of ministers and elders.

Presbyteries provide advice to Kirk Sessions and Congregational Committees when required and have a role in approving matters in relation to congregational property. They report annually to the General Assembly and have the right to make a nomination for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly.

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. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

Stated meetings of Presbytery are held on the second Tuesday of September, and the first Tuesday in November, December, February, March and May.

All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, who is a minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

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, administration and judicial authority, in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the second 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 presbytery is the advancement of religion.

The East Belfast Presbytery is a presbytery 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The presbytery meets on the second Tuesday of September, and the first Tuesday in November, December, February, March and May and on other occasions as required. All meetings commence with a time of worship and are opened and closed with prayer.

The presbytery carries out the following activities

- Supports those candidating for the Ministry
- Ordains and Installs ministers and ruling elders
- Provides pastoral support for ministers and their families
- Holds a number of events such as an Annual Missionary Support Service for all congregations of East Belfast to attend.
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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During 2023, the Presbytery:

- Held meetings in February, March, May, June, September, November and December
- During the year no students were licensed for the Ministry and three Ministers were installed in vacant congregations

At the 31 December the following numbers of personnel were under the care of Presbytery

	2023	2022
Ministers in active service in congregations	22	20
Retired Ministers	22	23
Licentiates	4	5
Students for the Ministry	4	1

The Presbytery encourages the congregations assigned to it to support 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 Presbytery also encourages congregations to contribute to the denominations annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

General Assembly

Presbyteries are represented on the various Councils of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and report on an annual basis to the General Assembly

Property

The Presbytery has no ownership of, or direct responsibility for, any property.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on Presbytery, its commissions and panels.

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 congregational churches and 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 charities beneficiaries are its 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 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 Presbytery has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Presbytery's main source of income is an assessment that is levied on the congregations assigned to it and £18,661 was received in the current year (£17,424 in previous year, 2022)

Total Expenditure for the year was £19,347, as general running costs, plus £1,700 raised and sent to support mission work within PCI.

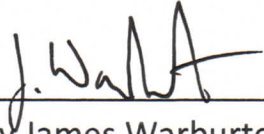
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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

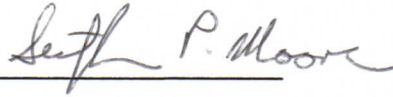
As the presbytery's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

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

Approved by the Presbytery at a meeting on 10th September 2024 and signed on its behalf
by



Rev James Warburton
Moderator



Rev Stephen Moore
Clerk

