

Bathgate E.U.United Reformed Church Charity in Scotland SC: 014304 Church Annual Business Meeting held after the church service on Sunday 21st May 2023.

Rev. Jan Adamson Interim Moderator Chaired the Meeting.

1. The minutes of the previous Annual Business meeting held on Sunday 8th May 2022 having been circulated previously were proposed by Mrs. Kathleen Grant and seconded by Mr. Willie Peacock. The meeting agreed the minutes.
2. The minutes of Church Meetings held during 2022. Sunday 26th June 2022, Sunday 2nd October 2022, and Sunday 13th November 2022. Having been circulated previously were proposed by Mrs. Barbara Haddow, and seconded by Mr. Robert Harkness. The Meeting agreed the minutes.
3. **Matters Arising.** There were no matters arising from the above meetings.

However there was a correction to the Minutes of the Church Annual Business Meeting of June 27th 2021.

In the Treasurers Financial Report it was noted that the Church continued to pay Jackie the cleaner and Patsy our church organist as normal during the closure of the Church due to the Pandemic to ensure that they were not financially affected. This was mistakenly stated and Patsy would like this addressed. When Patsy took over playing the organ when her husband Robert died she decided to gift her salary back to the Church. Patsy's salary is recorded in the Church Accounts so that at some time when Patsy might retire we would have budgeted for an organist. Mrs. Angela Watson on behalf of the Church Meeting thanked Patsy for her generosity to the Church and her faithful service.

4. Revd. Jan Adamson, Interim Moderators Report.

Another year and another A.G.M. and whilst it may not seem like it, there has been much to keep the church building in a sound state, and providing regular pastoral care and spiritual nourishment. All this has largely fallen to the officers and Elders, without whom, we as an organisation would find it difficult to maintain an active role and presence within Bathgate. With regards our buildings, as we were fully into post Covid period, we took the opportunity to undertake a risk assessment and review of general Health and Safety issues and practices as well as enhancing our fire safety in particular.

The Elders have exercised their responsibilities for pastoral care diligently, in particular through times of illness or distress. As for our spiritual nourishment, we have been blessed with exemplary pulpit supply from a variety of sources and theological backgrounds- the variety being a healthy challenge to our spiritual growth and development. Our relationship within Bathgate Churches Together goes

from strength to strength, supporting joint worship, and each others' events. Our support to the High Church Food Bank is greatly appreciated and recently learned that many were doing without warmth these past winter months. The Elders discussed this at length and will keep this focussed in the months to come. Thanks to Aileen for arranging pulpit supply, and to Kathleen Grant for representing us at Bathgate Churches Together.

The Autumn Show returned! New members were welcomed and seasoned performers re-grouped, and our thanks to Alison from the High Church who tried to keep us musically together, and to Angela who in vain tried to organise us all. Since the last AGM Revd. Jan has been unwell and not able to do as much as planned, but was grateful to the secretary and treasurer who on a few occasions had to step in to lead worship as all the Revd. Jan could do was 'write the script'. Jan was very conscious of the support so willingly given and hopes that she continues on the road to full strength.

Sadly, we have said our goodbyes to three members of the congregation: to Muriel Stevenson, Billy Millan and in the past few days, Marilyn Smith. We thank God for their service and support of this congregation and prepare for a wee memorial later in the year. Each have had differing stories and recollection of their church community and I know without any hesitation that they are remembered and appreciated for all they brought to our membership

In the Revd Jan's report last year she made mention of the 50th birthday of the United Reformed Church as a denomination, of which we are a part, we were about to celebrate with a major event in October. Due to the unexpected death of her majesty Queen Elizabeth, all that got postponed until April of this year. Whilst many were disappointed, it really brought home to many more that it didn't matter about the date as it mattered more that we remembered and celebrated our own contributions to the denomination. As members of the United Reformed Church our decisions, our local leadership, our activity and growth of our spirituality matters. It matters to us, to our community in Scotland and within the UK and beyond. As we seek to get our 'wee hoose' in order here, may we not loose sight that we are part of a bigger picture? A picture we discover more about and are challenged by, week after week, through our diligent reading and interpretation of the scriptures. As your Interim Moderator, I commit to continuing to serve you-drawing upon God's grace and strength and through the guidance of his Holy Spirit

5. Financial Report and Independent Examiners Report.

The Treasurer Mrs. Eilidh Young noted some significant points in the accounts for 2022: The church insurance company has paid almost £12,000 for loss of earnings

during the Covid Pandemic. This was a significant addition to our normal income: Last year it was agreed to reduce our Maintenance of Ministry payments from £24,846 to £21,996. The manse rental income was £9,043-14, but we spent a similar amount in maintenance and refurbishment as our tenants left in October. Castlebrae supported a quick turnaround and refurbishment, meaning a new tenant was able to take occupancy before Christmas.

During the year we have gifted £1,970 to charities, through specific donations for appeals and topping up from church funds. This does not include our support for the children through Compassion coming to just over £700.

Our total balance at the year end is over £11,500. Mr. Jim Notman has examined the church accounts and found them in order. Mrs. Fiona Cameron proposed the church accounts and Mr. Willie Peacock seconded. The Meeting agreed.

6. The Election of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Miss Aileen Baird was elected President. Proposed by Mrs. Angela Watson and seconded by Mrs. Nanna Christie. The Meeting agreed.

Mr. John Marr was elected as Vice- President. Proposed by Mrs. Eilidh Young and seconded by Mrs. Barbara Haddow. The Meeting agreed.

Miss. Aileen Baird was re-elected as Church Secretary. Proposed by Mr. Kenneth Watson and seconded by Mrs. Kathleen Grant. The Meeting agreed.

Mr. Casper Gouws was elected as Church Treasurer. Proposed by Mrs. Nanna Christie and seconded by Mrs. Fiona Cameron. The Meeting agreed

7. Election of Social Committee Convener and Committee.

Mrs. Angela Watson was re-elected as the Social Convener. Proposed by Mr. John Marr, and seconded by Mrs. Nanna Christie. The Meeting agreed.

Committee Members elected are Miss. Aileen Baird, Mrs. Nanna Christie, Mrs. Rae Clarke, Mrs. Karen Gouws, Mrs. Barbara Haddow, Mrs. Agnes Main, Mrs. Thelma Peacock, and Mr. Kenneth Watson. Proposed by Mrs. Eilidh Young, and seconded by Mr. Robert Harkness. The Meeting agreed.

8. Election of Representatives to the Property and Finance Committee.

Mrs. Fiona Cameron was re-elected proposed by Mr. John Marr and seconded by Mr. Casper Gouws. The Meeting agreed. Mr. Ian Stewart and Mrs. Mairi Stewart were elected. Proposed by Mr. John. Marr and seconded by Mr. Casper Gouws. The Meeting agreed

9. Election of an Independent Examiner. Mr. Jim Notman was re-elected. Proposed by Mr. John Marr, and seconded by Mr. Casper Gouws. The Meeting agreed.

- 10. Election of 1 member to the National Synod of Scotland.** Mr. Casper Gouws was elected. Proposed by Mr. Willie Peacock and seconded by Mr. Fred Godden. The Meeting agreed.
- 11. Election of 2 Members to serve on Bathgate Churches Together.** Mrs. Kathleen Grant and Miss. Aileen Baird were re-elected. Proposed by Mr. Robert Harkness seconded by Mr. Casper Gouws. The Meeting agreed.
- 12. Election of a Representative for the World Day of Prayer.** Mrs. Agnes Main was elected. Proposed by Mrs. Angela Watson and seconded by Mrs. Fiona Cameron. The Meeting agreed.
- 13. Election of a Representative to Christian Aid.** Mrs. Marion Sipavocious was elected. Proposed by Mr. Willie Peacock, and seconded by Mrs. Kathleen Grant. The Meeting agreed.
- 14. A.O.C.B.**
- (a) The Elders were recommending to the Church Meeting the transfer of Eldership of Mr. Casper Gouws from his church in South Africa to Bathgate E.U. United Reformed Church. Proposed by Miss. Aileen Baird and seconded by Mrs. Angela Watson. The Meeting agreed. The Revd. Jan Adamson set the date of Casper's transfer as Sunday 5th June which is Trinity Sunday as well as our Communion Service.
 - (b) It was agreed to have a short service of Thanksgiving for those of our Church Membership that have died during the year. The Secretary will contact Ruth and Edith Millan for a suitable date as they don't stay locally. It was agreed that this would be conducted by Revd. Jan on a Sunday that she would be conducting worship.
 - (c) We are delighted to say that Ian and Mairi Stewart have very kindly agreed to take on the editing of the Church Newsletter. We need to encourage the congregation to contribute items for this otherwise it's very difficult to keep it going.
 - (d) Thanks were recorded to Eilidh for her steadfast work as our Church Treasurer over the past years, and for keeping our finances in order.
- 15. Closing Devotions. Revd. Jan Adamson closed the meeting in prayer and by saying the Benediction together**