

Joint Ardchattan Kirk Session and Congregational Board

Wednesday 8th November 2017, Campbell Memorial Hall

Attend: Rev Jeff McCormick (chair), Catherine Robb, Morag Allward, Donnie Campbell, Charlie Bavington, Quintin Goldie (treasurer), John Campbell, Ann MacLeod, April Barron, Elliot Yates, May Macdonald, Andrew Binner, Robin Dodman and Jane Eccles

Apologies: Allison Davies, Aileen Binner, Graeme Bruce.

1. **Minutes of last Board meeting:** approved
2. **Board Handbook:** Comments on Contents, relevance, accuracy or anything else to be passed to Clerks.
3. **Stated Annual Meeting:** Minute of 2017 meeting augmented and agreed.
4. **Treasurer:** Began by reviewing property activity to date: based on the Quinquennial report and assistance from Graeme Bruce, board members with Quintin and Graeme met with Ronnie Neil of Architects Bruce & Neil to formulate a plan of works for St. Modan's. Due to the ministers impending departure this process will have to be reviewed. Quintin issued a handout on Financial performance over the previous 5 years; all showing a deficit, unless sales of assets and legacies included. The conclusions in the report were discussed and agreed as below
 - a) Donations likely to decrease during a vacancy
 - b) Increased income is essential to survival
 - c) Two churches are unsustainable
 - d) Neither church nor the congregation can survive independently
 - e) Without a survival plan the Church of Scotland may insist on amalgamation with another parish.
 - f) *In a vacancy situation there is no abatement of Ministry & Mission (M&M) contributions.
 - g) M&M and Presbytery levies are likely to continue to increase and are linked to revenue achieved.
5. **Vacancy procedure:** Chair advised the Board and Session of the "Vacancy Procedure". Following the incumbents' departure, the Presbytery Plan is consulted and brought to the Congregation. We must be prepared by having things in order and have positives to present to presbytery and any "prospects". We need to prepare an effective and positive profile of the Parish. The Manse will be inspected to ensure standards are met. The Manse Condition Schedule will need to be completed with works either agreed or completed. Currently there are vacancies in Connel, Taynuilt and Dalmally. The Presbytery is looking at a system of "Hub" Ministries.
6. **Future Plans:** Where do we go from here? Do we retain the Manse? Sell it and buy a new one? Approach 121 for assistance with rehabilitating the manse and Churches? Possible Presbytery grants? What can we afford?

What can we do? Charlie suggested our own priority list of works and costs. We have 2 main priorities: Manse and St. Modan's, work to be costed against current identifiable funds. The Kirk Session re-affirmed their decision to release funds for building work.

Professional guidance must be sought and Presbytery approval to be obtained. Presbytery Property Convenor has been contacted but not available till the end of November.

Ronnie Neil to be contacted and new scope of works agreed.

7. **Future Chair**: Either Interim Moderator or Board member selected from membership.
8. **Close**: Joint Board & Session meeting closed, Session to continue.

Next meeting

Weds 14th February 2018 at 7:30p.m. in Campbell Memorial Hall

* Item 4. -Treasurer – f) At the meeting of February 14th the Treasurer advised the Board that he has since learned that in fact there is to be an abatement of Ministry & Mission contributions during the vacancy.