



The Church of Scotland
Presbytery of Fife

Cluster: Aberdour: St Fillan's, Dalgety, Inverkeithing I/w North Queensferry and Rosyth

Facilitators: Alan and Margaret Kimmitt)

Date of meeting: 17th February 2022 in Rosyth Parish Church

Summary of Discussion Points

Since our last meeting, each Kirk Session has had a chance to look at the summary notes from previous meetings and representatives brought feedback.

The engagement of the members of this group and the congregations they represent has been overwhelmingly positive, encouraging, creative and open.

Bearing in mind the imperative to be focused on mission, there was agreement from representatives from each congregation that we should recommend to the presbytery Mission Strategy and Planning Task Group that a single Team Ministry is formed from the five congregations, as defined in the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act VIII 2021). This would have a single Kirk Session and congregation, but with more than one minister in more than one manse as part a team which might include MDS posts and people in other roles.

The question of buildings has been outwith the discussions of this group as the Buildings Review has not been finalised, but there was agreement that a worshipping presence should continue to be maintained in each of the five communities. Such a presence does not necessarily mean worship on a Sunday morning in the existing buildings, but local worship is important in addition to shared worship opportunities.

The creation of a Team Ministry requires a Basis of Team Ministry to be created. It was felt that this should be drawn up and owned by the local Kirk Sessions and congregations, so that it is appropriate for this area.

It was acknowledged that although the plan needs to be agreed before the end of 2022, the transition will take time after that. We glimpse exciting missional opportunities and better use of our collective resources, but this transition will be very difficult and will need to be carried out with pastoral sensitivity and excellent communication.

Representatives from each congregation shared specific comments from the Kirk Sessions.

- It is good that we seem to be moving forward
- We are not sure about the way ahead but can see no good viable alternative

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- Concern about how the finances might work in a Team Ministry and how the transition will be achieved.
- Concern about the process in cases of vacancy and in the formation of Nominating Committees.
- Concern about the size and structure of the Kirk Session, especially in ensuring representation from and attention to each community.
- Concerns about loss of identity
- Concern about continuity of pastoral care
- Concern about local buildings and local issues being considered by local people.
- Question about necessity for safeguarding in each part of the congregation.
- Suggestion to have, in the meantime, some shared worship / socialising opportunities.

Some discussion around these points and around some personal experiences of team ministry took place.

The cluster group feels strongly that there are many opportunities for sharing while the rest of the presbytery planning process is carried out.

- Opportunities for joint activities were shared:
- Social gathering of elders from each congregation hosted by Inverkeithing on 30th March at 7pm
- Sharing in local and shared Mission Mapping
- Joint Christian Aid week activities
- Hosting of World Day of Prayer to which all churches are invited – 4th March at 2pm in North Queensferry.
- Formation of a joint cluster group Facebook (or similar) page with news from all churches in the cluster.

It was felt important to embed any possible changes in the structure of the five marks of mission. Different models about identifying each congregation's current work, including areas of strength and weakness were shared.

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The importance of good communication to Kirk Sessions and congregations was stressed.

The future of this group was mentioned with no clear ideas about the process for going forward, as the remit had been to meet until end of February with an external facilitator. It was generally felt that continuity of external facilitation would be helpful.

Actions from meeting (What/Who)

Alan and Margaret to draw up summary, seek comments from the cluster representatives and submit this to the presbytery committee.

Everyone to consider opportunities to share with each other in mission, fellowship and worship.

Jude (Dalgety) to create an online way of publicising shared activities.

Inverkeithing to host a social gathering of elders from each congregation hosted by Inverkeithing on 30th March at 7pm

All to look out for opportunities in sharing and inviting people from across the cluster to groups and activities.

Agreed goals

As above

Any Questions for Mission Strategy & Planning Group

The group has found the role of the external facilitators very helpful and wonder whether similar support will be available for the next stage.

Any Support required

Not at the moment

Any other notes / matters arising

Date of next meeting

No more cluster meetings planned in this form. Joint Kirk Session gathering, including the facilitators on March 30th.

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