



# The Church of Scotland Presbytery of Ayr

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC020676

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## **TO ALL CONGREGATIONS AND MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY**

Dear Minister / Session Clerk / Member of Presbytery,

Happy New Year! We start 2022 in a period of yet more Covid-19 concern, but hopefully with a renewed sense of optimism for the future, trusting in God's great goodness and providence.

Thank you for your continuing support of Presbytery Mission Planning. As we press on through this challenging process, it is important that we keep everyone informed, and with that in mind please pass on this communication to your Kirk Sessions and Congregations.

In December, Presbytery agreed on its future pattern of new charges, on the next steps for congregations, and – fortunately given the latest pandemic restrictions – an extended timescale for local mission planning discussions.

The Working Draft of the Presbytery Mission Plan has now been updated to incorporate all these decisions, and a copy of the latest revision (1.3) is attached.

To help you proceed, we offer the following notes as guidance:

### [Phase 2: Local Mission Plans – Step 1](#)

Kirk Sessions have been instructed to summarise their congregations' mission priorities for each of the five marks of mission, as soon as possible, in preparation for discussions with their partner congregations in the proposed new charges.

So, Kirk Sessions should consider how the five marks of mission relate to their local context, and list what they believe are the most important ways to apply each mark in their congregational life.

This doesn't need to be a fancy document: a couple of bullet points for each of the five marks are all that's needed to share with your partners ahead of the Step 2 discussions.

For reference, you can find the five marks on the front cover of the Presbytery Mission Plan, together with a set of expanded notes on pages 3 through 5.

## Phase 2: Local Mission Plans – Step 2

Kirk Sessions have also been instructed to participate in discussions with their partners, in order to produce local mission plans for their new charge.

It is important that all our new charges develop and maintain a Local Mission Plan in the long term. However, for now it is enough for partner congregations simply to make a start, and to submit their agreed outline local mission plan to Mission Committee by 1<sup>st</sup> April.

We are not prescribing any particular format for Local Mission Plans, but the outline plan will be used for two specific purposes:

1. Key elements will be extracted and incorporated into the main Presbytery Mission Plan
2. It will be one of the two main inputs into the Buildings Review

and should therefore include

- A combined list of mission priorities for the new charge, expressed in terms of the five marks of mission
- An indication of how resources (ministry, local staff, buildings) will be used to best achieve those mission priorities

## Phase 3: Local Transition Plans

There is no requirement to submit a Local Transition Plan along with the outline local mission plan, but we expect that thoughts about transition will naturally emerge during Phase 2 Step 2 discussions. Keep a note of those ideas because they will be useful in detailed Basis of Adjustment negotiations when the approved Presbytery Mission Plan is implemented.

Partner congregations are also encouraged to consider how they might put their future relationship into practice now, without waiting for Adjustment formalities to be completed.

## Phase 4: Buildings Review

We had hoped to have building review audits completed by Christmas 2021, but due to circumstances, a small number of audits are still outstanding. These will be completed as soon as possible, pandemic restrictions allowing.

The final decision-making phase of Buildings Review is now scheduled to take place in April. It will be based on the General Trustees' analysis of the audits, combined with the future requirements for buildings for worship and mission identified in the outline Local Mission Plans.

At this point we are about halfway through Presbytery Mission Planning. The difficult half is over, but the more important half is just beginning.

Mission Committee will do its best to provide any assistance it can to facilitate discussions. If you need help, please contact us directly, or via Paula Lennox (Mission Committee clerk).

With warmest regards,

**Brian Duncan,**  
**John McCutcheon**

*Convener of Mission Committee*  
*Vice-convener of Mission Committee*