



Congregational Meeting

The Presbytery Mission Plan

How we Got Here – the Wider Church

- In 2019 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland received the **Radical Action Plan** (reduction of presbyteries/saving money) and the “**Well equipped spaces in the right places**” report (buildings)
- May 2021: General Assembly approves the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (PMPA) tasking presbyteries to come up with a plan to reduce charges (and buildings) by December 2022

HOW WE GOT HERE –PRESBYTERY

PHASE 1: Defining Charges

- October/November 21: 3 Representatives of each Congregation discuss the reduction of charges with presbytery (ministers not involved)
- 3 charges in North Ayr: Newton Wallacetown/St Quivox/St James (plus Lochside) discussed with presbytery
- 2-4 plans A-D: if plan is not agreed, plan A is default

- **Plan A:** NWC and Lochside as Mission Church/St James and St Quivox
- **Plan B:** A Parish of North Ayr with 2 ministers and one MDS (youth worker) working as a Team => St James Preference
- **Plan C:** Implementing plan A, but with view to work towards plan B at a later date (compromise) => St James would have agreed
- **Plan D:** (last minute/presbytery):
NWC/Dalmilling/Lochside (Mission Churches) /St James/Auchincruive (Mission Church)

- November 2021: Mission Committee decides on plan A for North Ayr, because the congregations could not agree => St James and St Quivox to go together when ministers relinquish their charge
- 7 December 2021: Presbytery approves the plan

What could happen

- Both ministers remain in post => no change
- 1 minister goes/one takes on both congregations => both congregations vote on Basis of Union(“contract”)/vacant congregation votes on minister
- 1 minister goes/one does not take on both congregations/is not voted for => Deferred union/ joint nominating committee (this should happen)
- 2 ministers go: joint call/nominating committee

Where we are now:

Phase 2: Local Mission Plans

- Presbytery instructed Kirk Sessions to compose local mission plan that discusses mission aims and resources (building/staff) and share with partner congregations => St James and St Quivox shared their plans
- St James and St Quivox meet for first joint Session on 10 March to discuss a joint local mission plan => to be handed in by 1st April, approved presbytery in May

St James Position

- Varied worship styles, strong youth work, groups to prevent social isolation (eg chit chat group), social commitment through foodbank, special services like gift services, events to support charities (eg Big Brekkie, Strawberry Tea), community garden => St James viable congregation in all marks of mission, needs their building
- Willing to cooperate with St Quivox
- Minister on unrestricted tenure: would take over or go as the case may be, but there are conditions: new tenure, good relationships between and with congregations, buildings, good for St James...
- WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENTS YET

The Next Steps

Phase 3

- Local Mission Plan: St Quivox and St James work more closely together => officially in May, but beginning to happen
- Transition Plan (how to realise plan A)
- Building plan (presbytery)
- **ONLY WHEN ALL 3 PHASES ARE IN PLACE THERE WILL BE A BASIS OF UNION**