

MINUTES – Council Meeting 10/10/22

UNITARIANS IN EDINBURGH

Monday 10th October 2022

7pm

Zoom

Present : Joan Cook, Julie Finneran, Naomi Keir, Brian Robertson, Ann Sinclair

Apologies : None

Conflict of Interest : None

Agenda Items

1.

Julie welcomed everyone and there were opening words from Brian

2.

The minutes of the last Council Meeting on 26th September were confirmed. Proposed : Brian Seconded : Ann

Last AGM - It was agreed that amendments suggested had not been sufficiently scrutinised. In particular, names would only be used when action were delegated or allocated. It was agreed that this would be done at the next Council meeting and the draft finalised.

3.

Matters arising from last Council minutes

Joan reported on progress with volunteers and there was discussion. Hilary Anderson and Lesley Hartley (technical streaming matters). Margery Mackay, Ruth Bartram, B.Jones (teas and coffees), Richard Ross (as required) had all volunteered.

Under present circumstances, it was agreed that volunteers be asked to turn up at 10.30 on service days and deal with jobs as required.

It was agreed that there were others in the congregation who, whilst not formally volunteering, might have the expertise and be willing to help with well-defined tasks as they arose. **Action - Joan**

Naomi reported that the Pastoral Committee was at full strength and no further volunteers were required at the moment.

No progress could be reported as regards co-opting further members of Council. It was also agreed that, whilst any new members of the various Committees need not be formally approved by Council, the

relevant convenor should discuss with other members of the group before confirming any new request for membership. **Action – Naomi (to communicate to various convenors)??**

Pulpit Secretary Update – Joan reported.

Some consultation with the retiring Pulpit Secretary (Lesley) was still required but this was in hand. For various reasons given, travelling services might not be as easily arranged as they have been up to now.

Children's Programme Update – Joan reported.

Someone had expressed interest in the post of Children's Coordinator and this was being followed up. **Action – Lesley Hartley**

4.

EIFA AGM Update – Joan reported.

Joan had attended and been most impressed with proceedings. Council should note that Margery Mackay has been made an Hon. President of the EIFA and that this is a measure of the respect that she commands in such circles.

5.

Updates

Management Team – Ann reported.

A written report had been circulated. There was discussion about the condition of the building. It was suggested that informal meetings of the congregation over tea and cake would give everyone an opportunity to contribute to and help to plan our future. Meetings on both a weekday evening and a Sunday afternoon might reach the greatest number of people. No decision was reached as to whether and when this would be taken forward.

Ministry Team – Joan reported.

Jane Aaronson is now the Convenor of that team and Lesley Hartley is standing down from the Ministry Team. Sound quality during streaming remains an issue and it was suggested that perhaps professional help should be sought. Brian agreed to take that on from November onwards and mentioned how impressed he had been with the sound system in Greenside Church at a recent event. **Action - Brian**

A Membership Review is underway and, during a service in the New Year, an appeal will be made for increased financial contributions from members.

At this point there was considerable discussion regarding provision of flowers for church services and also distribution of flowers. It was agreed to pass this back to the Ministry Team for resolution. **Action – Ministry Team**

Communication Team – Naomi reported.

Naomi is working on the website until Hazel's return from maternity leave. Similarly, Monika is keeping an eye on our Facebook account.

Pastoral Care Team – Naomi reported.

This team was working well and was up to full complement of members.

Monthly Financial Status – Ann reported

There was considerable discussion regarding whether we needed to continue to employ Lindsays and whether we continued to need their expertise. It was agreed that their contribution had been invaluable but, at present, was no longer required. It was agreed that we would dispense with their services but that enquiries would be made, before doing this, about the ease with which we could re-engage them should circumstances require. **Action - Ann**

Namesco – It was agreed that their website hosting facility was worthwhile and we would continue with this. It was agreed that the email hosting facility taken out in November 2020 was proving difficult to operate efficiently and generally did not represent good value for money for St Mark's. Thus it was agreed to terminate this aspect of the arrangement. **Action - Ann**

However it was agreed that de-personalised emails were generally desirable for work being done on behalf of the Church. It was agreed that Naomi would work to standardise emails using gmail. **Action-Naomi**

6.

SMART goal updates.

Roof – already covered

Recruiting -already covered

Social Events –

An in-person Quiz Night with a Pot Luck Supper is being planned for Friday 2nd December. **Action-Naomi**

A pot luck lunch after a service is also being discussed, and perhaps a Halloween Trail in the Botanical Gardens – more on these to follow.

AOCB

Various items notified had already been covered earlier in the meeting.

Closing words were given by Brian. Next meeting – Naomi

Date of next meeting – Monday 7th November at 7pm.

This will be an IN-PERSON meeting.

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