St Mark’s Unitarian Church

Meeting of Council 29th May 2023, *by zoom*

1. Welcome & Apologies;

Present; Julie Finneran, (Convenor) Ann Sinclair (Treasurer), Brian Robertson, and Joan Cook.

There were no apologies.

1. Opening words;

Ann read from an article in the New Scientist including references to work by Marc Wittman, a psychologist in Freiburg and Fuchsia Sirois, psychologist at Durham Univ.

1. Confirmation of minutes of 1st May 2023

Proposed as correct by Ann Sinclair, seconded by Julie Finneran.

1. Roof Repair update

* Edinburgh City Council have now granted Listed Building Consent, which was the reason for much of the delays.
* The work is about to be put out to tender by our agents Hardies, with an expectation that work should be starting in September, after the Festival.
* It is expected that the work will take 3-4 weeks (excluding time for any repairs which may be found to be necessary as the planned work progresses) also a week at either end for erection and dismantling of scaffolding.
* The upper hall will be available during the day, but there may be some noise. The hall will be available during the evenings, but there may be some dust.
* Ann Sinclair will liaise with hall users.

1. Grants Update

We have received a grant of £3,000 from the Benefact Trust, thanks to the efforts of our Convenor Julie Finneran. Julie has also reapplied to the National Churches Trust now we have Listed Building Consent.

Council extended their thanks on behalf of the congregation to Julie for the work she has put into grant applications.

1. Discussion of St Mark’s AGM

St Mark’s AGM 2022 will take place on 25th June 2023, on zoom following the service at 12md. Julie will liaise with the service leaders re: timings.

Provision has been made for those who wish to attend, but are without online access.

The necessary documents will be sent out electronically, with paper copies available on request, for those who require them.

The proposed amendment to the constitution was discussed, and with some minor adjustments will be presented at the AGM.

1. Feedback from SUA AGM held on 20th May 2023

St Mark’s was represented at the AGM of the Scottish Unitarian Association by Lesley Hartley and Jane Aaronson on zoom,

Ann Sinclair and Joan Cook in person. There were discussions on representation from Churches and the recent review of the SUA constitution.

The meeting closed with a short service of worship led by Rev Dr Rob Whiteman (President SUA) and Roddy Macpherson (Chair, Glasgow congregation)

Glasgow was thanked for their hospitality.

1. Team Updates

*Management Team*

Ann Sinclair has formed a Venue Lettings Group with Lesley Hartley, and Ross.

In order that decisions which may need to be made at short notice while the work on the roof is underway, a sub-group of Council has been formed, consisting of Ann Sinclair, Brian Robertson, Euan McGlynn, and Joan Cook. [Euan is undertaking this work as a volunteer].

*Financial Team*

Details enabling access to various accounts will be distributed to signatories, it was noted that 2 members of the previous Council have access should that be necessary.

The paper regarding payments from the Speed Trust has been presented to the Finance Group of the GA, and we await their response.

*Ministry Team*

Corrections to the Membership list have been made, other suggested corrections related to the Database, and will be addressed in due course.

B. Jones has been preparing Teas & Coffees following the services, but is not available on some dates over the summer, a sign-up sheet has been added to the noticeboard in the church and will appear in the next bulletin.

*Pastoral Care Team*

There was a general discussion of the Safeguarding policy, no specific issues were raised but it was agreed that Council would return to this issue in the near future.

1. Upcoming Social Events;

It is hoped that there may be an opportunity to enjoy some social events over the summer months.

1. AOCB;

It was noted that Elyse Jacks has offered to connect the church with a group offering ‘Listening’ services. Elyse has also offered to give technology training to those who wish it. Both offers were gratefully received.

[New SMART goals will be set by the incoming Council]

1. Dates of next meetings;

Provisional date set for 23rd June, *[should there be a need to meet prior to the AGM on 25th June]*

AGM, on zoom 12md 25th June 2023

Scheduled Meeting of Council 3rd July 2023 with Opening & Closing words from Brian Robertson

1. Closing words;

Ann read an extract from an article in the New Scientist referring to work by Fuchsia Sirois, a psychologist at Durham Univ.

*JMMC*

*02/06/23*