CORSTORPHINE CRAIGSBANK CHURCH  
Kirk Session Meeting

Tuesday 27 August 2019. The Kirk Session met at Craigsbank Church. The Interim Moderator Rev Rolf Billes welcomed everyone. The meeting was constituted with a prayer and a bible reading of Psalm 23, read by the Locum Minister Rev Peter Wood. **Attendance:** The attendance was recorded in the Sederunt book. Present were: the Interim Moderator, Rev Rolf Billes; the Locum Minister, Rev Peter Wood; Lesley Lawrie, Children & Families Worker; 20 Elders, 4 District Visitors and 1 member of the congregation. Apologies were received from 5 Elders and 2 District Visitors.

The minutes of the Kirk Session meeting held on 11 June 2019, having been previously circulated, were approved.

1.0 **Matters Arising:**  
   1.1 **Doors Open Day:** John Baker reported that everything was in place for the weekend of 28/29 September. Christine Karacaoglu has made a poster. *If you would like to volunteer at this event or supply home-made goodies to go with the teas and coffees, please contact John Baker.*  
   1.2 **Secretarial Assistance:** In the absence of Jean Mowle who is Gemma King’s Acting Line Manager, Peter Wood reported that all is going well. Gemma starts her PhD in October and once she knows her timetable, she will advise us of which days she will work. Gemma works 10.5 hours per week.  
   1.3 **Care Van Fundraiser:** Christine Laurie reported that it is proposed to hold a Congregational Meal on Saturday 25 January 2020 with all profits going to Cunningham House, the former People’s Palace, homeless shelter. Further details to follow.

2.0 **Kirk Session:**  
2.1 **Vacancy:**  
   2.1.1 **Letter to Congregation:** The Kirk Session approved a letter, prepared by the Nominating Committee, to the congregation informing them of the date and time that Rev Alan Childs will be preaching as Sole Nominee. (The letter had been previously emailed to the Session and will be sent out in the name of the Session). It will be a joint service at Craigsbank at 10.30am on 22 September. There were a few minor amendments which were noted by the Clerk to the Nominating Committee. *This letter will be posted to all members on the Congregational Register before 8 September 2019. The verbal announcement of the date and time of this service will be made on 8 and 15 September by Peter Wood at each Centre.*  
   2.1.2 **Voting Procedure:** Rolf Billes outlined the voting procedure. The Session Clerks, overseen by a member of the Presbytery Advisory Committee, will check names on the Electoral Register as the congregation enter the church and give a voting slip to each eligible person. After the service the votes will be cast, either in the pews or if people prefer to mark their vote anonymously, at two ballot stations at the sides of the church *which will be supplied by Sandy Turnbull.* All votes will be collected and the Kirk Session will be constituted in the small hall by the Interim Moderator. The count will be carried out by members of the Presbytery Advisory Committee and overseen by the Kirk Session. The congregation will be offered teas and coffees in the Sanctuary. Rev Alan Childs will be asked if he would like to wait in the Iona Room while the vote takes place. Members of the Nominating Committee who are not Elders will be asked to join Alan in the Iona Room. Once the result of the vote is known, the Presbytery Advisory Committee/
Committee will declare the outcome to the Elders and the congregation. On hearing the result of the vote, Alan may decide to accept it immediately or ask for a day or two to think about it. If the vote is close, Presbytery may not sustain the call. Only those people who have heard Alan Childs preach will be able to vote but any person who attends church is entitled to sign the call. The call is a register of people who would like Alan Childs to be their next minister. A recording of the service will be made available to those who want to listen to it. It will be available on the website. As part of the vacancy process, Alan Childs will meet with Lesley Lawrie, Moya Boonzaaier and Gemma King on 31 August; Rolf Billes thanked the Elders who are on the Nominating Committee for their hard work in identifying a Sole Nominee. Regardless of the outcome of the vote on 22 September, the Nominating Committee has completed their task of identifying a Sole Nominee. If the congregation chooses to reject this Nomination, a new Nominating Committee will need to be elected and the whole procedure begun again. 2.1.3 Peter Wood: Rev Peter Wood said that he would be working with Lothian Presbytery on a new project beginning in October but he would not be taking on the role of a Parish Minister. 2.2 Diary of Worship Events: October - Joint Harvest Service at 10.30am at Craigsbank - David Coleman from Eco Congregation will be speaking. David and Peter to discuss the format of the service; 13 October - communion at Craigsbank; 20 October - communion at East Craigs. It was decided to wait until we know the outcome of the vote on the Sole Nominee before planning other services such as the Youth Service and the Bereavement Service. 2.3 Children & Families Worker: 2.3.1 Lesley Lawrie reported that it had been quieter over the summer. The Toddler Group continued to meet over the summer and this was so popular that some people had to be turned away. Lesley has a meeting arranged with East Craigs School to discuss her involvement in school assemblies. She is also doing a refresher course on, “Raising Children with Confidence” so that she can deliver this course to others as she has done in the past. Lesley Lawrie asked that volunteers who could help at Messy Church on Saturday 5 October contact her. 2.5 Resignation of Dick Whyman: Thanks were given to Dick Whyman on the occasion of his retirement from active eldership. The Session Clerks will write to Dick thanking him for his many years of service.

3.0 Presbytery News: 3.1 Report of Presbytery Meeting: The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on 3 September 2019 and Carol will submit her Report thereafter. 3.2 Engaging with New Housing Event: Peter Wood and Lothian Presbytery are organising an event to discuss how to connect with people in the new housing communities. There will be stories from churches that have experience of this and other practical advice. Peter made an appeal for someone to attend this on Saturday 28 September from 9.15am - 12.45pm.

3.3 Strategic Planning Survey: The Presbytery Strategic Planning Group has been tasked with creating the next 10 Year Plan for the Presbytery of Edinburgh. The first phase of this is about collecting information and data that will inform the plan. Each congregation has been asked to consider various questions. The Kirk Session split into 4 groups, discussed and answered the questions. The Session Clerks will complete the questionnaire and return it to Presbytery.

4.0: Teams: 4.1: Finance: 4.1.1 Finance Report: Alan Kennedy had previously/
previously circulated the Finance Report covering the first six months of the year and two pages of Summary Accounts. The finance budget looks healthier than anticipated thanks to Presbytery agreeing to continue to pay the salary of Lesley Lawrie until September 2020.  

4.1.2 Proposal Re Charitable Donations: The Finance team prepared a proposal which had been circulated to the Session prior to the meeting. A discussion took place between Liz Brash, the Teas and Coffees Convener and the Session. No final decision was made but it was agreed to adopt the Finance team’s proposal to hold a meeting of interested parties. Liz Brash and Julie Wilkinson will represent the “Tea Teams” at Craigsbank and East Craigs. Penny Greig volunteered to represent the Kirk Session. This item will remain on the Agenda.  

4.2 Property: 4.2.1: The outstanding written protocols are a work in progress. 4.2.2 The tenancy of the manse will end on 23 September 2019. 4.2.3 Mike Brough requested Session approval to spend £3,250 to refurbish the parquet flooring at East Craigs during the Easter holidays next year. This was granted. 4.2.4 Mike Brough asked for approval to spend up to £5,000 on redecorating the manse should this be required. This was approved. 4.3 Pastoral Care: An Afternoon Tea was held on 18 July for people who have a church visitor and their church visitors. The list was widened to include more elderly members, about 30 people in total. It was greatly appreciated by all who attended.  

5.0 Roll: There has been one death since the last meeting: Archie Fleming - 21.8.19. The roll now stands at 392.  

6.0 Safeguarding: There was nothing to report.  

7.0 Correspondence: There was no correspondence.  

8.0 AOCB: There was no AOCB.  

Dates of next meetings:  
Sunday 22 September after the Joint Service at Craigsbank  
20 November 2019 at Craigsbank at 7.30pm  

Thanks were given by the Interim Moderator to everyone for all that they do. The meeting was closed with the saying of the grace together.  

_______________________ Moderator  
_______________________ Session Clerk  

_______________________ Session Clerk