**Minutes of meeting of Unitarians in Edinburgh Church Council**

**Meeting held at 7pm, Monday 1st May 2023 on Zoom.**

**Present;** Julie Finneran [Convenor], Brian Robertson, Ann Sinclair, Joan Cook.

**Welcome and Apologies**

There were no apologies.

Julie read some opening words which were by Wendall Berry (“ I am free…”)\_

**Minutes of the SGM**

The minutes of the Special General Meeting of 5th March 2023 were confirmed. (Proposed – Julie, Seconded – Brian).

**Minutes of last Council Meeting**

The minutes of the Council Meeting of 6th March were confirmed. (Proposed – Joan, Seconded – Ann). It should be noted that the Council meeting due on 10th April 2023 did not take place. There had been no urgent business.

**Discussion of Forthcoming AGM**

Julie and Ann had been working on the preparation of the Annual Report. Joan undertook to update various items in the Report. Ann would share the Annual Report with other Council members prior to it being forwarded to the Examiner. It was noted that the minutes of all of the 2022 Council meetings would also have to be forwarded to the Examiner. There was some discussion as to what constituted expenses to Trustees and how this should be recorded.

There was discussion about the merits, in the light of the much reduced membership numbers, of reducing the size of Council to max of 7, min of 5 with a quorum of 4. This would require to be presented to the AGM as an amendment to the constitution.

The date of the AGM was agreed to be 12 noon on Sunday 11th June. There would be a short service of about 45 minutes followed by a short comfort break of 15 minutes.

It was confirmed that members should receive “not less than 14 days” notice of the AGM and its business.

**Roof Repairs**

Julie reported that there would be no funding available from the National Churches Trust. Various reasons had been quoted. Benefact was the only organisation from which a reply was awaited but this was not forecast to be positive. It was agreed that Ann should make immediate contact with Hardies and ensure that matters could progress without any delay. It was thought that timescales would be able to tie in with our letting commitments, etc but this would be clarified with Hardies at the earliest. Regarding the finance for the repairs, Ann reported that Hardies had already submitted their first invoice for £660. Ann and Brian had had a meeting with Brewin Dolphin to discuss appropriate realisation of investments and Ann was able to report that this was proceeding as expected.

**SUA AGM**

There was discussion about the forthcoming meeting in Glasgow (and also on Zoom) on Saturday 20th May, 11am-1pm Joan and Ann would attend and there was discussion as to which two other members of St Mark’s might be available to attend.

**Team Updates**

Management

Brian agreed to examine again the correspondence from Opus Energy to clarify what the implications might be for St Mark’s over the coming months. Opus were no longer going to be suppliers of gas.

It was noted that those organisations hiring our premises should have safeguarding procedures in place. This would be drawn to their attention.

Financial

This had largely been covered in discussions regarding the roof repairs.

Ministry

There would be a meeting on 10th May. The different reflective service on the 5th Sunday of the month seemed to have been successful in person (15 had attended) and on Zoom. This week’s speaker was from the Rock Trust. A link would go into the Bulletin for donations.

Pastoral

There was no report.

Vacant Secretary Post

Job were being dealt with as they arose. There were no major outstanding jobs.

Vacant Council Positions

Efforts were still being made to fill these.

Social Events

The walk around Cramond facilitated by one of our members had been successful. There was a proposal to visit Princes Street Gardens during the summer months to look at the monuments.

Membership

An application for membership had been received and was approved my Council. As Membership Secretary, Joan will notify the person concerned.

**SMART targets**

Roof – It was felt that this had been achieved.

Additional People – still in progress

Social Events – largely achieved.

**Closing Words**

Julie read some closing words. (Ann will do opening and closing words at the next meeting.)

**Date of next meeting** – 7pm, Monday 29th May 2023