**Drylaw / Blackhall New Parish Steering Group**

**Minute of the Meeting held on Sunday 30 April 2023 in Drylaw Parish Church**

1. **Welcome**: Reverend Iain May welcomed everyone.

**2. Prayer:** Reverend Iain May constituted the meeting with a prayer.

**3. Sederunt:** Elizabeth Martin, Hazel Hastie, Fiona Cooke, Rev Fergus Cook, Rev Iain May, Eddie Thorn, Jim Logan, Grant Macrae, Jill McIntosh, Myriam Wilkie.

 **Apologies:** Dianne Fulton and Amanda Lawson.

**4. Minute of last meeting:** The minute of the meeting held on 5 March 2023 was approved.

**5. Notification of any other business:** None.

**6. Matters Arising:** The constitution of our new Parish. It was agreed that there should ideally be a maximum of ten Elders from each of Drylaw and Blackhall or an equal number. It was recognised that at present Drylaw has less than 10 Elders.

**7. Joint Services:**

* **Timing:** Agreed these should be the last Sunday of each month, rotating between the two churches. The importance of Zoom was recognised.
* **Format:** The format used earlier that morning (at Drylaw) was considered by all to be ideal. Going forward we can look at a blend of music and the good things / best ways.Always an opportunity to try something new**.**
* **Offerings.** Envelopes of each congregation to be retained by that congregation. Cash placed in the offering plate should be retained by the hosting congregation.

**8. Social Gatherings:**

* Consider social gatherings in a ‘neutral’ venue.
* Events should be titled ‘joint’ and this subject kept on the agenda.

**9. Frequency of Steering Group Meetings:** Agreed these should be after the joint Services, unless there is no business. The Clerks to liaise in this regard.

**10. Communication:** Minute once agreed can go out on the various platforms*. (Certain of the foregoing matters will require Kirk Session approvals and therefore the Clerks will have to liaise so that there is a common approach to the flow of communication).*

**11. AOCB:** Basis of Union. It was agreed that we are not quite ready to progress the Basis of Union. Drylaw should be allowed a bit more time – have a Congregational meeting and give members assurance. Meantime it is considered that both congregations are content with the planned Union. There is nothing to stop the Steering Group pressing on while learning from others

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Sunday 28 May 2023 at 12.30pm in Blackhall St Columba’s.

**13.** The meeting was closed by saying of the Grace to each other.

EGT