

## Abbotshall Church

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly constituted with a reading and prayer.

<b>Sederunt</b>	Ena Hudson with I Anderson, M Baxendine, J Browning, G Bruce, I Clark, S Docherty, A Duncan, B Farrell, E Fraser, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, G Houston, J McLeod, M Michael, R Michael, A Moyes, D Murray, J Napier, W Page, J Paton, M Petrie, M Scriven, E Smith, A Steward, G Webster, K Wilkie, R Wright.
<b>Apologies</b>	J Farrell.
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	The Interim Moderator explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hold the second vote on a potential Minister in either a Same Sex Marriage or Civil Partnership.
<b>Elders Comments</b>	<p>During their visits prior to communion Elders had asked members for their views on a potential Minister in either a Same Sex Marriage or Civil Partnership. These were reported as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The church should be seen to be tolerant and progressive</li><li>• The arrival of such a minister could result in members leaving</li><li>• Of no concern either way</li><li>• Acceptance would be In keeping with society</li></ul>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	The Session Clerk reminded the Elders of current circumstances and tolerance in society. She noted that some members had family who were not of a traditional orientation.
<b>Vote Preamble</b>	<p>The Interim Moderator read from Proverbs Ch 3, how Solomon had sought a discerning heart to govern the people and this had pleased God.</p> <p>She also read from James 1 v 5, <i>“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”</i></p> <p>She then prayed for the guidance of the Elders and after a time of silence the votes were cast.</p>
<b>The Result</b>	<p><b>19</b> Elders voted <b>FOR</b> a change <b>8</b> Elders voted <b>AGAINST</b> a change.</p> <p>As the vote required a simple majority to be carried the Interim Moderator declared that those FOR a change were in the majority and consequently the Elders had agreed to depart from current practice.</p>
<b>AOCB</b>	The Session Clerk asked Elders to consider encouraging the congregation at communion to sit in the central pews to

facilitate the distribution of the elements and reduce the number of duties. This was agreed.

Anne Steward enquired about the number of home Communion and was advised that only one had been requested but more would be accommodated if needed.

**Nominating Committee**

The Interim Moderator reminded Elders that the Nominating Committee members:-

- Would not be allowed to discuss any of the committee's activities out with the committee
- Might need to travel away from home and stay overnight.

**Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 23rd August at 7.30 pm.  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30 pm.

**Close**

The meeting was closed by all saying *The Grace*.

Minute Clerk

Interim Moderator

DRAFT