

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Stormont Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The Presbyterian Church in Ireland, as a Reformed Church within the wider body of Christ is grounded in the Scriptures, and exists to love and honour God through faith in His Son and by the power of His Spirit, and to enable her members to play their part in fulfilling God's mission to our world.

The congregation's mission statement is:

Stormont Presbyterian Church seeks to share with all, the accepting, forgiving, caring love of God shown in Jesus Christ.

This brief description of our purpose attempts to answer the question, "Why do we exist?"

From our **Mission Statement** we have identified four Aims:

- To be a fellowship of worshipping Christians whose learning **results in responsible living**
- To be a fellowship of worshipping Christians **committed to one another** under God and filled with the Holy Spirit
- To be a church that **ministers unselfishly** to persons in the community in Jesus' name
- To be **witnesses for Christ** in the community and throughout the world

The essence of our mission statement is captured in our **Purpose Statement**:

Showing People Christ

Objectives and activities

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on several occasions during the year and all those who have been baptised and who have made a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular Bible study meetings and has a wide range of organisations both for church members and for people in our wider community.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Public Benefit Statement

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland meets the public benefit requirement by providing benefit to its members and the general public by making known the Christian Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the advancement of religion.

The direct benefits which flow from the purpose of the Church include the gaining of an under-standing in Christian beliefs as set out in the Bible and in the Church's subordinate standards (the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter and Larger Catechisms) leading to spiritual and moral development and opportunities for response to Bible teaching. In turn, this framework leads to practical expressions of Christian beliefs and standards in the local community such as through the care of those in need, (including the sick, disabled and bereaved).

Generally the above benefits are delivered locally by congregations and their members, or are facilitated through presbyteries or are organised and delivered locally. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services, and informal ad-hoc feedback from members, their families and members of the public.

The purpose does not lead to harm. The only private benefit flowing from our purpose is related to Ministers, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Irish Mission workers and Lay Agents who receive benefits as a result of their holding office or employment. However this is incidental and necessary in order to further our charitable purpose. There are no other private benefits. The beneficiaries of this purpose are members, their families, other individuals that the Presbyterian Church in Ireland is in direct and indirect contact with, the community in which pastoral services are provided and other communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and worldwide, which benefit from our engagement and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public. The Kirk Session has had regard to the Charity Commission's Public Benefit requirement statutory guidance.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Worship, Prayer and Mission

Our congregation meets for worship each Sunday at 11am with the focus on meeting with God as we listen to reading and teaching from his Word and as we speak to him in prayer. It is also a time of preparation for living out our faith during the week by caring for one another as a church family and showing God's love to our community and wider world in mission and service. Members of our congregation help to read and provide prayers for others and our singing is led by our musical director Mr Tim Crawford. One or two singers lead from the front each week, alternating with the choir, which also prepared special music for our Easter services, Harvest, Connect Sunday, Remembrance Day and Christmas. Our pre-school-P7 children leave during the service for JAM (Jesus and Me) for their own Bible stories, songs and craft. In September a Bible Class for year 8-year 14 began meeting monthly during the service. Communion has been celebrated five times this year. Fellowship time with tea and coffee takes place after the morning service. Sunday afternoon services for the elderly and less able in our congregation are held monthly. This is a short thirty minute time of worship and teaching followed by a cup of tea and time for conversation and helps keep people connected who might otherwise feel isolated.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Our Sunday morning teaching began in January with a continuation of the 2023 series in Mark's Gospel, "Unfiltered", looking at the big questions of "Why am I here?" and "where am I going?" During Easter week there were two evening opportunities to gather to be still, worship and reflect on God's gift to us in the Easter story and on Easter Sunday communion was celebrated. We were delighted at this service to welcome three of our young people as communicant members of Stormont and to hear something of their faith stories. In July and August a short teaching series "Leading Together" helped us to look at the model for church leadership we find in Scripture as we prepared to consider the election of new elders. This was followed by a new series based on I Peter, "Everyday church: Living for Jesus where we are". From September- November our theme was "Present: Engaging and enjoying God." Five services were held during the Christmas period on the theme of "Promise: Our Saviour has come". These included an all-age nativity, carol service and two Christmas Eve services, one for families and a reflective late night service. During the month of December we were delighted to be able to accommodate the congregation of Knock Presbyterian at worship on three Sunday mornings while they have embarked on a major church building programme, and look forward to welcoming them back again on several occasions in 2025. While this involved a significant increase in numbers at our services and making provision for extra numbers in JAM, creche and hospitality after the service, it was a wonderful opportunity to share leading, prayers, preaching and worship with another congregation. There were some special morning services during the year. In March an all-age service focusing on our uniformed organisations was led by Ruth Bromley, (Children's Development Officer in PCI), and in November, Pauline Kennedy (PW and Women's Ministry Development officer in PCI) was the speaker at the Women's Ministry service, which recognised and celebrated the work and achievement of Stormont Presbyterian women. In preparation for this service, a special ladies' choir was formed to lead the worship, and small "blessing bags" which had been made by women in the congregation were distributed to all the ladies present, and in the following weeks to other ladies in the congregation. Our Minister's weekly pastoral emails accompanied the Sunday teaching throughout the year, setting the scene for each study and offering practical application on how we might respond to the message. Our Sunday morning services are also recorded and available for those who are unable to attend in person. From January 14th our Sunday morning worship gatherings were held in the main hall, providing a warmer and more cost-effective space to heat. We resumed meeting in the sanctuary on 31st March.

We had two special musical evenings during the year with our own 'Not the Youth Club' band. These were wonderful times of worship, bringing together church members and friends, and included tea and cake.

Throughout the year it has been encouraging to see increased numbers engaging with our Connect groups, which meet fortnightly. These small groups give opportunity to share life, think about what living out our faith looks like, and support one another pastorally and in prayer. This year the groups have looked at Tim Chester's "Life with Jesus" discipleship course, and in September we began the Bible Course produced by the Bible Society, which combines video teaching and discussion questions to trace the 'big story' of the Bible, showing how key events, books and characters fit together.

Prayer is an essential part of the life of our congregation. Each Friday as part of our church 'What's Happening' email, there is a series of prayer points to prompt and inform our personal prayers for our church family, community and wider world. The congregation is also invited to make use of prayer cards, which are available in the church. On the second Saturday of each month, we hold an early morning prayer breakfast. A new prayer initiative, 'Together in Lent' took place at the start of the year.

Inspired by the picture in Acts of the early church gathering every day for worship and prayer, we began a forty day period from 14th February – 30th March of meeting in person every morning to take time to be still before God, pray, listen to God's Word, and share breakfast and life together. The "Together" model continued in May and June with three consecutive mornings for quiet prayer, reverting in the autumn to our regular monthly prayer breakfasts.

In the spring another prayer initiative was launched in collaboration with two neighbouring congregations, 'Praying for your street', which will continue into 2025. With the focus on loving our neighbours by praying for them, over a period of three months a small team delivered prayer promise cards to houses in our neighbourhood, letting people know that in the following week we would be praying for them and offering a way for them to get in touch with the church for specific prayer requests. During the year our small prayer room was refreshed and is a quiet space for prayer and reflection.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Pastoral Care and visitation continued to be an important way of connecting and supporting all members of our congregation and also an important way of keeping our minister up to date with particular needs within families. Our Pastoral Care teams endeavour to visit where possible in person and were able to deliver Easter and Christmas cards, giving details of these seasonal services. At Christmas each family also received a book 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' by Andrew Wilson. In June an in-house training event was held for pastoral visitors on mental health awareness.

Cultivating community is a key part of mission and during the year we continued our Messy Church partnership with the neighbouring congregation of St Molua's. Messy Church is held monthly on Sunday afternoons with each church taking it in turns to host. It provides an opportunity for people of all ages to worship together, be creative and have fun. A typical Messy Church has drinks and biscuits on arrival, crafts and activity time around a theme, and celebration time with stories, songs and food to finish. Messy Church has been well attended throughout the year and has been successful in linking two churches of different denominations, involving enthusiastic volunteers of all ages and building relationships with families in the local community. A Messy Church Fun Day was hosted by Stormont on 9th June.

We continued to act as a Supporters' Hub for the Belfast Marathon which took place on Sunday 5th May. The church buildings and grounds were open from 8.00am with toilet and changing facilities available. There was a short drop-in service and hot drinks and hot dogs were available, with bottled water provided for the runners. A group of volunteer marshals also covered part of the route near the church building. Many church members came along to cheer on the runners at the start of the race and share in the service. We have had some encouraging feedback from the marathon organisers and members of the public for our visible support for this event.

In April many members of all ages participated in a joint community outreach project in Tullycarnet Park, planting trees together with St Colmcille's church at Ballyhackamore.

An important event took place on Saturday 28th September, when Stormont held an open day, 'We Are Stormont', offering an opportunity for all the organisations to showcase their activities. Careful thought and planning went into this afternoon and though numbers attending were not large, it was a good opportunity to make our church more visible in the community.

Mission support at home and abroad continued throughout the year. Christian Aid week took place from 12th-18th May, supporting work in Burundi to give hope to those facing extreme poverty and the effects of climate change. Fundraising for Christian Aid included a street collection, church donations, house to house delivery of Christian Aid envelopes and a Big Breakfast, held at the end of our three day "Together in May" prayer mornings. A total of £4353.07 was raised. Our regular partnership with Storehouse continued with weekly donations of food and special contributions for harvest and their Christmas hampers. Several of our members also volunteer with Storehouse on a regular basis throughout the year, helping in the Storehouse warehouse and with deliveries of furniture. Donations of selection boxes, tins of biscuits and grocery vouchers were made to the Belfast City Mission Christmas appeal, and a retiring offering was taken after our Remembrance Day service for the UDR Benevolent Fund, which raised £545. Once again our Evergreens co-ordinated the annual Shoebox Appeal and 87 boxes were passed on to the Blythswood Trust together with £439 in monetary donations. Our weekly contributions for Fellowship time on Sunday mornings are currently distributed to Storehouse and projects supported by PW. In April a fundraising coffee morning was held to support one of our young members in Stormont who was planning to travel with Go Make a Difference charity to Tanzania to help with local projects in Musoma. Stormont Presbyterian Church is one of over five hundred congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and one of the ways in which we can demonstrate our unity and commitment to the wider church family is through the United Appeal for Mission. It supports programmes and staff at home and overseas and helps congregations and individuals to build God's kingdom through youth and children's ministry, social action and the training of leaders. Our contributions, together with those of other churches mean that we can do far more together than we could ever do on our own. We are pleased to report that in 2024 Stormont has been able to meet our target of giving to United Appeal. We also gave generously to the World Development Appeal, supporting Tearfund and Christian Aid projects in Rwanda and Honduras.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

In January we welcomed Mr Ben Kirkwood, an applicant for the ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland as he began a six week placement in Stormont as part of his application process. We were delighted that Ben was subsequently accepted as a first year ministry student, beginning his studies at Union Theological College in September. This year one of our church members, Thomas Brennan, was accepted by PCI to train as an Accredited Preacher. Having completed his course in 2024, he will complete his training in the New Year with St Andrew's Presbyterian church. We also welcomed another Accredited Preacher trainee, Mr James McClure, to Stormont in the autumn. He will complete his training with us in January 2025. We wish Thomas and James every blessing as they become available to serve God through preaching opportunities in the future. During our Minister's leave periods in spring and autumn, our guest preachers included Mr Thomas Brennan, Mr Colin Neill, Mr Martin Hampton and Mr Ben Kirkwood. We were also grateful to Rev Stephen Moore for providing cover for emergency pastoral needs. Other guest preachers during the year were Ms Ruth Bromley, Rev David Moore, Ms Pauline Kennedy and Rev Marty Gray. During the year we have been grateful to those who have served on our Welcome Teams, led singing, served at fellowship time, provided audio-visual and technical support and helped to set up our church halls for activities during the week. Our church personnel and activities continued to be supported by our very able administrator Mrs Edna Bell and we are very grateful for this important contribution she makes to our church family.

As at 31st December there were 296 communicant members and 242 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning service is currently seventy five.

The Kirk Session

The work of our Kirk Session is to develop the church's mission and purpose. This year it met five times. A co-ordinating group consisting of our Minister, Clerk of Session, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Committee Chair and Pastoral Care Convenor also meet to help order the business for Kirk Session and Committee. The church committee continues to operate under two working groups: Buildings, Maintenance and Management, and Communication and Finance.

With the continued challenges of attracting new families to our congregation and encouraging members to connect and contribute to the work of our church, a major focus of Kirk Session in 2024 was to draft a Mission Action Plan (MAP) to drive our work of ministry and mission over the next five years. We want this to be a tool that will enable, envision and encourage us as a congregation to honour God and bless the city God has called us to serve in Christ's name. In the first phase we have looked at identifying and prioritising key goals in relation to our church gatherings and our community, both internal, (church family) and external, (community). We also want to consider how we can expand our church partnerships and how we can best support our existing young families and encourage others to join. In phase two, two smaller groups of elders took forward some of these action points in relation to our internal and external communities. A church picnic was organised in September at Delamont Country Park, and a church open day, "We are Stormont", was held on 28th September. Our MAP will help Kirk Session focus our resources on key priorities in our church and also give focus to our prayers.

The Code of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland requires that a record be kept of attendance at communion services and that the communion roll of each congregation is reviewed every three years to maintain its accuracy. In 2024 the Kirk Session have undertaken to carry out a review of our communion roll over the next two years and also reinstate the use of communion tokens which are placed in the pews for members to fill in at each communion service. On March 31st this year three young people were received as communicant members of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, and their names placed on the communion roll of Stormont Presbyterian church.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

In 2024 Kirk Session sought permission from Presbytery to elect new elders in addition to our existing fifteen members of Kirk Session, and the congregation was asked to nominate up to ten people for the eldership. Following the due process laid down by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Kirk Session presented six names to the congregation and these were formally agreed at the congregational meeting on December 8th. Training of the elders elect will begin in January, with a service of ordination planned for April 2025. There were several training opportunities for Kirk Session during the year. In October two elders attended "Leading for Change", a conference for Ministers and key leaders held in Assembly Buildings. Members of Kirk Session also participated online in PCI's "Afresh", exploring what it means to approach the calling of eldership in fresh ways. Our designated elder for safeguarding completed a questionnaire as part of a NI Executive investigation looking at historical instances of abuse outside residential settings covering the period 1922-2010. No safeguarding issues were identified. Brian and Elizabeth Millar continued to remain as elders under temporary release, under paragraph 25(1) of the Code, to be reviewed in May 2025. They took no part as active elders in 2024.

Presbytery

The congregation is represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our Minister and one other elder. This provides an important link between the congregation and the wider structure of the church. Six meetings of Presbytery were held in 2024. Session's nominated representative to the Presbytery is Mrs Julie Power.

General Assembly

Our Minister and one representative elder normally attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church which this year took place from 20th- 22nd June in Assembly Buildings. Our Minister continues to act as the Convenor for the General Assembly's Council for Congregational Life and Witness, which involves chairing a number of committees and helping to present the Council report at General Assembly. Stormont's representative elder at General Assembly in 2024 was Stephen Duffield.

Buildings and Maintenance

This year some heating issues have been addressed and work has been done to refresh and repaint our vestibule area. Internal signage has been improved by repurposing directional signage using the hymn boards from the church sanctuary. A new oil tank has also been installed at the manse.

Organisations

A wide range of organisations use our buildings and serve our community. Guiding and Scouting are well established organisations and during the week six different groups meet in our church halls, catering for all ages. A Youth Fellowship which aims to encourage faith and share fellowship meets on alternate Friday evenings, and a Youth Club re-established in February 2023 for P5 and above, meets on the alternate Fridays. This has proved to be a very popular addition to our youth programme. First Friends is our tots group which meets weekly and brings together parents, carers and toddlers to build early friendships. For our senior members, Evergreens meets weekly with lifts provided, and members can enjoy a cup of tea and chat and listen to various speakers on a variety of topics. PW gives fellowship opportunities for ladies in the congregation as well as a missionary focus. This year PW has met eight times and contributed a total of £1,050 to PCI for mission projects. A badminton club meets weekly. Stormont hosts an active playgroup which is attended by forty pre-schoolers each week day, and the Julie Dorman School of Dance holds classes in our building each week. Jo-Jingles meets in one of our halls on Friday mornings. During the summer months several of our rooms were leased to NI Opera as rehearsal spaces for their forthcoming production. All user groups completed risk assessments and were compliant with all health and safety and security and kitchen protocols.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in the attached financial statements.

God is good! God is faithful! We are blessed with God's bounty in many ways. Stewardship is primarily an act of praise and thanksgiving. The breadth of our ministry is dependent on the generosity of our donors. But most of all, we give our offerings in faithful response to the love and grace of God. As you give, know that you are putting your faith into action, and faith pleases God.

Giving and generosity are vital issues for churches and congregations to consider. Money that is given provides resources for the work of the Church.

Therefore, church finances are the responsibility not only of the committee members in deciding how to spend our financial resources but of all the church members who contribute to our finances. As well as encouraging church members about individual giving, we need to demonstrate that as stewards of our finances we are responsible, transparent and accountable for the money entrusted to us. I hope this finance report clearly demonstrates and explains our financial situation and challenges you to review your contributions.

These accounts reflect the income and expenditure that happens in a calendar and financial year and 2024 was quite a steady year for us with no big projects incurring large expenditure. When reviewing the accounts the most important factor is the money that we have in the bank.

Our Danske Bank account finished the year with a balance of £33K and we have just over £38.7K in our Nationwide savings account.

During 2024 we had a number of appeals which the congregation were very generous in supporting, these were:-

Storehouse - £1,056
United Appeal - £9,156
UDR Benevolent Fund - £545
WDA - £3,507.50

Our income is primarily made up from planned giving and gift aid, bequests, donations for use of church facilities and bank interest. Our income also includes hire fees from external organisations using our church halls. Formal agreements and policies are in place for use of our premises. We receive many requests to use the premises and these are considered carefully and balanced with ongoing regular activity as well as our vision of Showing People Christ. The organisations and income they have generated are:-

Jo Jingles – £1,440
NI Opera - £5,000
Ballet - £2,036
Playgroup - £2,000
Badminton - £185
Scouts - £484.50
Guides, Brownies & Rainbows £285.28
Evergreens £0

The income from these organisations help to cover the costs of heating, lighting and cleaning the building.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Thanks to some hard work, research and monitoring of gas bills, Colin Kirkwood managed to reduce our VAT levy to a lower rate of 5% and this resulted in a refund of £4,370.55 which increased our yearly income.

Our planned giving to Freewill Offering and Building & Maintenance funds has decreased by £3K from 2023. However, taking into account organisational income, increase in interest rates and the gas refund our overall income has only dropped by £748 from 2023.

The increase in interest rates benefitted our finances and we received combined bank and building society interest of £1,153.

So, how do we spend the income that is for church use rather than appeals?

The main areas of expenditure are:-

Church Assessments, Staff costs, Governance, Life and Work, Property & Equipment

This financial year we have spent £9,600 more than we have received in income which is a similar figure to last year.

In an ideal world our income should always meet expenditure however, we do not live in an ideal world. The global economy is still unstable with costs across the board increasing. Just as you have noticed an increase in your household bills, we are seeing the same increase in our church costs, however we continue to negotiate competitive prices for things and change providers to get better deals and because of these actions our costs for the year are only £406 more than 2023.

Moving forward we will continue to prayerfully review all expenditure and curb all spending to essential items only whilst keeping the building fit for purpose. We will continue to remind people to be aware of the space they are using and close doors and switch off lights to conserve energy.

It may be strange to hear from the treasurer however giving is not just about money – but also about how we use the time, talents, gifts and possessions that God has entrusted to us so that our living starts to resemble the overflowing generosity of God and thanks to the talents and gifts of various church members we save a lot of money through tasks they do anonymously and quietly in the background and to all of these people we are very grateful. Also, enormous thanks to our administrator Edna who keeps on top of all contract renewals and researches savings we can make as well as supporting the admin needs of the various groups using the premises.

Finally, we will continue with our support of United Appeal, WDA, Moderator's Appeals, UDR Benevolent Fund and Storehouse whilst maintaining our core values and objectives.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Reserves Policy

We hold a sum of £36K as our reserve. This is in a savings account with Nationwide and is held for the following reasons:-

- To cover our running costs such as salaries, gas, electricity, cleaning and other financial commitments, such as our quarterly return or United Appeal, should we be unable to pay any or part of these as a result of reduced income.
- An Emergency Fund to cover unforeseen events relating to our buildings, e.g. emergency repairs to the heating, electrical systems, audio-visual system etc
- Risk of unexpected changes in legislation, both financial, such as a change of Gift Aid rates, or relating to Building Standards or Health & Safety requirements, for example, new requirements in relation to the current pandemic.
- Funding that may be required at short notice to initiate a programme/opportunity related to our church mission

Major risks

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Plans for future periods

We will continue with our support of United Appeal, WDA, Moderator's Appeals, UDR Benevolent Fund and Storehouse whilst maintaining our core values and objectives.

Structure, governance and management

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mr C Keers
Mrs L Cardy
Mr C Kirkwood
Mrs C Patterson
Ms E Pollock
Mr S Duffield
Ms J Pollock
Mrs P Fenton
Mr B Robinson
Dr R Hamilton
Mr R Reed
Mrs R Hunter
Rev A Rankin
Mrs J Power
Mrs F Clarke
Mrs A Wilson

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Organisational structure

The Kirk Session

The charity trustees of the congregation are the members of its Kirk Session. Under the congregation's governing document, The Code, the book of the constitution and government of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, the Kirk Session seeks to watch over and promote the spiritual interest of the congregation and of persons not connected with any congregation who are within its bounds. It ensures pastoral care is in place in the congregation and seeks to further the contribution of the Church to Christian witness and service in the local community. The Kirk Session has delegated to its Congregational Committee the temporal affairs of the congregation including administering all funds and property belonging to the congregation. Members of the Kirk Session are ex-officio members of the Congregational Committee. The Kirk Session consists of the ordained minister and the ruling elders of the congregation. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the minister in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held normally at two-monthly intervals with additional special meetings as the need arises.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant on its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to office can be either by the congregation or by the Kirk Session. Members are elected if they obtain two-thirds of those who vote.

Presbytery

Under the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's form of governance the corporate oversight of a congregation is the responsibility of a Presbytery, which superintends generally the spiritual and temporal affairs of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Stormont Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the East Belfast Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of the congregations assigned to it by the General Assembly, ministers who have retired from active duty and an elder appointed by the Kirk Session of the congregation.

The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church, representing in one body the whole Church and acting as its supreme legislative, administrative and judicial authority in dealing with all matters brought before it. The General Assembly is normally constituted during the first week in June for worship and to conduct its business. At the end of business it is dissolved. The membership of the General Assembly consists mainly of the active ministers of each congregation, retired ministers and a representative elder appointed by the Kirk Session of each congregation.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs L Cardy
Trustee

Linda Cozely

25 February 2025