

**FIRST LIMA VADY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105555)

**FIRST LIMAVADY CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

First Limavady Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
Church Street,
Limavady

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105555)

CHARITY TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees who served during the year or who were trustees at the date of this report were

L Cubitt
W Deehan
W Guy
K Keys
N Keys
O Martin
O Martin

A McConnell
M McCully
N Murphy
O Murphy
J Pearson
S Pearson
D Shiels

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Minister

A McConnell

Clerk of Session

M McCully

Treasurer

L Young

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Mark Donaghy, , Limavady.

BANKERS

Ulster Bank, Catherine Street Limavady

Danske Bank, Catherine Street, Limavady

SOLICITORS

R G Connell & Son, Main Street, Limavady

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STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

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 congregations. All members are entitled to propose, speak and exercise equal votes at meetings, except that the Moderator, the ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk session were held 10 times in 2023.

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 the 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 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. First Limavady congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Coleraine and Limavady Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The membership of the Presbytery consists mainly of the active ministers of 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.

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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, administration 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.

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The charitable purpose of the congregation is the advancement of religion.

First Limavady Congregation of the 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 congregations mission purposes is - by the grace of God, to help people of all ages become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, to teach; to witness; to reflect Christ in our church and in the community - passion for Christ and compassion for people.

The congregation aims to live out its Mission and Vision as a family of God's people by being:

- A Covenant Family: where our faith is rooted in Christ and the promises of God and in sharing our faith with one another
- A Worshipping Family: where young and old engage together learning from each other what it is to live in God's kingdom with humility and love.
- A Missionary Family: where we join in prayer and witness for the blessings of God to fall upon others in the church and into the community.
- As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, we believe that the Bible is the supreme authority over all we do, and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms set out what we understand the Bible teaches on key matters of Christian faith and practice.

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ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The congregation meets for worship every Sunday and visitors are welcome to join. The Sacrament of the Lords 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 weekly bible study and prayer meetings and has a wide range of organisations including

- Sunday School
- Youth Fellowship
- Girls and Boys Brigade
- Bowling Club
- Junior Christian endeavour
- Ladies Bible studies
- Presbyterian Women
- Elderly Friendship Hour

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and prayer

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12 Noon and 7.00pm. During the week every Thursday evening there is an opportunity for members to meet together for fellowship, to study scriptures and for a time of prayer.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life we had no Sacrament of Baptism, we conducted 1 marriage services and we regularly pray for those who have been bereaved during the year.

At 31 December 2023 there were 250 communicant members and 191 families connected with the congregations. The average week attendance at morning worship is {85}

Pastoral care

Members of the congregation who are unable to attend church due to sickness or age are visited on a regular basis by the minister, elders or by one of the congregation's pastoral visitors.

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Mission and outreach

At a local level the congregation are involved in various missionary activities. We have been partnering for the last 13 years with a Presbyterian Church in Malawi. We also hold evangelistic missions in May and are currently meeting to organise a mission in August as well. We are also associated with CEF Europe; Samaritans Purse Northern Ireland; Leprosy Mission and Christian Aid.

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The congregation supports the United Appeal for Mission which is a central fund of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. This fund enables congregations to support the wider mission of the denomination and to do mission and outreach on a denominational basis beyond what the congregation could do on its own. The United Appeal Fund provides financial support for mission personnel at home and overseas, assists congregations with the deployment of locally based staff, enables church planting, provides grant support for the upkeep of church premises, assist with the running costs of Union Theological College, the Church's training college for ministry students, and financially supports congregation in the areas of worship, discipleship, global mission, outreach, leadership and pastoral care.

The congregation also contributes to the denominations annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School project and any other special appeals.

Presbytery

The congregation was represented at the regular meetings of Presbytery by our minister and / or one of the elders. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

General Assembly

The minister and one of our elders were nominated to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland held in Assembly Buildings, Belfast, in June.

Property

During 2023 small repairs and maintenance were carried out to our properties.

Organisations

On every other Sunday morning Junior Christian endeavour meet with 14 primary school children and 3 leaders. On Wednesday evening Girls Brigade meet with approximately 60 girls and on Friday evening Boys Brigade meet with approximately 50 boys. Sunday School meet every Sunday morning at 10.45 am with approx 35 children and 8 teachers. The Bowling Club meet on Tuesdays.

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Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their deep appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on committees and helping with organisations and other church activities.

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 purposes of the Church include the gaining of an understanding 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 centrally. Local delivery is facilitated by central resources in almost all cases. Public access is made known through the use of noticeboards, printed material, press advertisement, websites, and social media or in other ways.

The benefits are demonstrated through regular evaluation of the services and informal and 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 with

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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 Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

2023 marked a return to net surplus on the general unrestricted fund as incomes rose from all sources in the wake of COVID 19 restrictions. Despite rising costs the general fund returned a surplus of £11,511 (deficit £358 - 2022). In particular donations increased by 12.2% to £74656 from £66542 in 2022, and closing bank balances were £40,772.

The stronger performance of the congregational restricted funds was the main factor in the restricted funds surplus of £19,178 (£9,565 in 2022 excluding transfers to investments). Trading income was much stronger than 2022, and other income sources were also ahead of the prior year.

Despite donations to organizations growing year on year, restricted funds of organizations continue to decline, although in 2023 the deficit was reduced to £963 compared to £2,409 in 2022. Some organizations fared better than others in a climate of rising costs, and it was pleasing to see the Church's children's organizations of GB, BB and Sunday School collectively return to a better financial performance than 2022.

The Church's investments continue to strengthen and increased value 12.9% during 2023.

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements of the congregation in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting practice.

As the congregations total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 208 to prepare a receipts and payment account and a statement of assets and liabilities.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the congregation's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the congregation and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Kirk Session at a meeting on 22/9/24 and signed on its behalf by

[Name] Rev Drewe McConnell

[Name] Oliver Murphy

[Date] Rev Drewe McConnell
22/9/24

[Date] 22/9/24