

## **UNION ROAD 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 2024 including a Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at that date.

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Union Road congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

16 Union Road  
Magherafelt  
Co Londonderry  
BT45 5DF

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC105591)

### **CHARITY TRUSTEES**

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

I Cousley	A Hatrick
I Francis	S McKeown
F Gallick	T Patterson
J Grant	G Watterson

### **PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS**

Minister	Rev Ashley Graham
Assistant Minister	Vacant
Clerks of Session	Gordon Watterson
Treasurer	Frederick Gallick

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

David Lyttle + Co Ltd  
15 Meeting Street  
Magherafelt  
Co Londonderry  
BT45 6BN

### **BANKERS**

Ulster Bank  
20 Broad Street  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6JR

## **UNION ROAD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **The Kirk Session**

The Charity Trustees of the congregation are members of the 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 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 ministers in active duty in the congregation, has no deliberative but only a casting vote.

Stated meetings of the Kirk Session are held on the second Tuesday of alternative months (October, December, February, April & June) and at other times as required.

To be chosen for the office of the eldership in the congregation a person must be a voting member and a regular attendant at its ordinances. The selection of those proposed to be called to the office can either be by the congregation or by 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. The Union Road congregation of the Presbyterian Church has been assigned to the Tyrone 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.

#### **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.

## **UNION ROAD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **Objectives and activities**

Union Road Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

We hold regular services of worship and other religious activities. These, and all that follows, are open to anyone of appropriate age and/or gender to access, without regard to whether they are members of our congregation. Through prayer, support our members, our own Church, other Christian Churches, the community and leaders in society and government. Organise meetings and events that promote our charitable purpose. Participate in the life of the local community. Participate in and support what the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the supervising Presbytery does. Support other secular and Christian organisations and charities through volunteering, financial gifts and prayer.

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 meets for worship every Sunday (12 noon & 6.30pm) 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 profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The congregation holds regular times of Bible Study and prayer meetings alongside a wide range of organisations including:-

Boys Brigade

Encounter

Ladies Bible Study

Bible Class

Sunday school

Presbyterian Women

Hard Corps Men's Bible Study

Mums & Tots

Discipleship Groups

Pause for Prayer

### **Achievements and performance**

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.

## **UNION ROAD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (CONT'D)**

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 congregational churches and 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 and support for both Christian and other secular organisations, charities and individual members of the public.

The congregation normally meets for worship each Sunday at 12 noon and 6.30pm. On Thursday evenings, we meet for 'Pause for Prayer' alternating with Home Bible Study Groups [Discipleship Groups] which generally meet in homes across the town and beyond.

As well as our regular services during the year we acknowledged God's gift of new life through 1 Sacraments of Baptism. During the year there were no new Communicants added to the Church family.

At 31 December 2024 there were 166 communicant members and 175 families connected with the congregation. The average weekly attendance at morning worship is around 200.

## **UNION ROAD CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT (CONT'D)**

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The congregation's main source of income is members' contributions to the General Fund through the Weekly Freewill Offering, and the Building Fund.

The results for the year are set out on in the financial statements, which the Trustees consider to be satisfactory.

The reserves of the Congregation are held for the advancement of its charitable purpose, other than restricted reserves which are held for a designated purpose.

### **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.

In preparing the financial statements the congregational committee should follow best practice and:


- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- follow the recommendations of the accounting professional with regard to the form and content of the financial statements, or to disclose and explain any departures therefrom; and
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the congregation will be able to continue to meet its obligations.

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.

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved on 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE and signed on behalf of the board of Trustees by :  
2025



Frederick Gallick  
**Trustee**



Gordon Watterson  
**Trustee**