

THE OMAGH PRESBYTERY 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

The Omagh Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland
7 Derg Road, Victoria Bridge, Strabane, Co Tyrone, BT82 9JW

Registered Charity in Northern Ireland (NIC106389)

PRINCIPAL OFFICE BEARERS

Moderator
Clerk of Presbytery

Rev Edwin Frazer
Rev David Reid

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Glenda McIlwaine
28-30 Old Mountfield Road
Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BT79 7BJ

BANKERS

Ulster Bank, 14 High Street, Omagh BT78 1BJ
Danske Bank 5-7 Market Street Omagh BT78 1BN

SOLICITORS

McConnell and Fyffe, 21 Church Street, Omagh BT78 1DG

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CHARITY TRUSTEES

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

Surname	Initials	Title	Date appointed	Surname	Initials	Title	Date appointed
Adams	A T	Mr		Anderson	I	Miss	
Andrich	G M	Rev		Beacom	D	Mr	
Beacom	R S G	Rev		Beattie	J	Mrs	
Boyd	J J	Rev		Brown	R	Mr	
Buchanan	M	Mr		Busby	C	Mr	
Clements	C F D	Rev		Cowan	J	Rev	
Crawford	E	Mr		Cummings	M	Mrs	
Cupples	W D	Rev Dr		Curran	D P	Rev	
Emo	C R	Mr		Ferguson	J	Mr	02/05/2023
Frazer	E T	Rev		Garrett	D	Mr	
Gaston	S	Mr		Giboney	R J	Mr	07/02/2023
Hemphill	D	Mr		Henry	N	Mr	
Herron	R	Rev		Hunter	K	Mr	
Hunter	W	Mr		Kerr	R	Miss	
Keys	B	Mr		Keys	L	Mr	
Knox	A	Mr		Liggett	W	Mr	
Lockington	J W	Very Rev Dr		McClea	I	Rev	
McCracken	M J	Mrs	07/11/2023	McElnea	R G	Rev	
McFaul	R W	Rev		McKibbin	C	Dr	
McMullan	N	Mr		Millar	D	Mr	06/04/2023
Mullan	E	Mr		Murdoch	J F	Rev	
Nelson	P J	Rev		Nevin	J	Mr	
Orr	R A	Rev		Reid	D W	Rev	
Robinson	N	Mr		Robinson	N	Mr	
Smith	J	Mr		Smyth	R	Mr	
Somerville		M		Sproule	G	Mr	03/07/2023
Stevenson	E	Mr	06/04/2023	Thompson	R B	Rev	
Trimble	C	Mrs	12/09/2023	Trimble	W	Mr	12/09/2023

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Resignations								
Surname	Initials	Title	Date resigned		Surname	Initials	Title	Date resigned
Good	M	Mrs	07/02/2023		Atwell	R	Mr	12/09/2023
McCrory	J	Mr	07/02/2023		Young	I W	Mr	12/09/2023
Rutledge	R	Mr	07/03/2023		Patterson	J A	Mr	07/11/2023
Stevenson	S	Mr	06/04/2023		Neill	R S K	Rev	07/11/2023
McElrea	D	Mr	06/05/2023		Casement	J L	Rev	07/11/2023
Deering	C H	Rev	18/05/2023		Honeyford	H J	Rev	07/02/2023
Mulligan	R	Mr	02/05/2023					

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

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 following congregations of the Presbyterian Church have been assigned to The Omagh Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland:

Ardstraw, Aughentaine, Aughnacloy, Badoney, Ballygawley, Ballymagrane, Ballynahatty & Creevan, Ballyreagh, Castlederg – First, Castlederg – Second, Cavanaleck, Clogher, Clogherney, Corrick, Douglas, Dromore, Drumlegagh, Drumquin, Edenderry, Enniskillen, Fintona, Gillygooley, Glenelly, Glenhoy, Gortin, Irvinestown, Killeter, Lisbellaw, Lisnaskea, Maguiresbridge, Mountjoy, Newtownbutler, Newtownstewart, Omagh – First, Pettigo, Seskinore, Sixmilecross, Tempo, Trinity Omagh, and Urney

A Presbytery makes arrangements for the election of ministers in a congregation, ordains licentiates and installs or inducts and appoints ministers in the congregations assigned to it. They also ordain or install and appoint elders, commission and appoint deaconesses, senior lecturers, auxiliary ministers, lay agents and missionaries who have been called by an authorised body in the Church. A Presbytery has a role in seeing that ministers preach the Word faithfully to their congregations, regularly visit the families under their charge, visit the sick, promote peace and temperance and see that the duties of the eldership are properly discharged. Presbyteries oversee the resignation and retirements of ministers and elders.

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Presbyteries provide advice to Kirk Sessions and Congregational Committees when required and have a role in approving matters in relation to congregational property. They report annually to the General Assembly and have the right to make a nomination for the office of Moderator of the General Assembly.

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. This provides an important link between the congregations and the wider structures of the church.

Stated meetings of Presbytery are held on the first Tuesday of the months of February, March, May, and November and the second Tuesday of September. A Communion Service, for all ministers and elders in the Presbytery, is held on the first Tuesday in October.

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

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 a 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 Presbytery is the advancement of religion.

The Omagh Presbytery is a Presbytery 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.

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ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES

The Presbytery has five stated meetings in the year and meets on other occasions as required. All meetings commence with worship and are opened and closed with prayer.

The Presbytery carries out the following activities

- Supports candidates for the Ministry
- Installs Ordained ministers
- Provides pastoral support for ministers and their families
- Holds training events, including elders' training, marriage preparation
- A Presbytery Elders' Fellowship which meets on five occasions during the year.
- PW Link is an initiative of Presbyterian Women intended to improve communications and build relationships between Presbyterian Women. PW links include a representative from each congregation and run events to support the mission and outreach of Presbytery. The Omagh PW Link provides an annual report of activities to Presbytery.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

At 31 December 2023 the following numbers of personnel were under the care of Presbytery:

	2023	2022
Ministers in active service in congregations	15	15
Retired Ministers	13	9
Licentiates	-	-
Students for the Ministry	0	1

During the year two ministers retired and one resigned and was presented with credentials to the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster. One student for the ministry was licensed as a Probationer for the Ministerial Office. Eight new elders were ordained and installed.

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The Presbytery encourages the congregations assigned to it to support 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 Presbytery also encourages congregations to contribute to the denominations annual World Development Appeal, Sunday School and Youth project and any other special appeals.

General Assembly

Presbyteries are represented on the various Councils of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and report on an annual basis to the General Assembly.

Property

Presbytery agreed resolutions regarding three congregational property projects. The Presbytery does not hold property.

Volunteers

The Trustees wish to acknowledge their appreciation of those who give freely of their time by serving on Presbytery, its commissions and panels.

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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 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 charity's beneficiaries are its 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 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 Presbytery has had regard to the Charity Commissions Public benefit requirement statutory guidance.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Presbytery's main source of income is an assessment that is levied on the congregations assigned to it and £12,101 was received in the current year (£10,577 in previous year)

Total expenditure increased from £13,870 to £14,553. This includes a payment made to the Clerk of Presbytery for the responsibilities of that position.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

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


As the Presbytery's total income does not exceed £250,000, the Trustees have elected under Section 64(3) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 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 Presbytery's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time its financial position. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Presbytery and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Presbytery at a meeting on 5 March 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Rev Edwin Frazer



Rev David Reid