

Belmont Presbyterian Church



Mission Plan

May 2022

1) CONTEXT

- A. The life of the congregation was badly disrupted by the Covid pandemic and a 'post-Covid syndrome' is now evident.
- B. The congregation has been vacant since 1 February 2022.
- C. The congregation has undertaken the Congregational Life and Witness Council's 'Growing in Fruitfulness' programme, including a series of five sermons, a congregational meeting to identify areas of fruitfulness that can be further developed and of unfruitfulness that need to be addressed. The week after the congregational meeting the members of kirk session met and discussed the present and recent reality of those areas, and the opportunities there are to do something practical about them.
- D. There have been a few difficult years following decisions at the 2018 General Assembly. Current relationships within the congregation are good however there is still some antipathy towards these decisions both within kirk session and the congregation. Our aim would be that we are a welcoming, loving church of everyone who seeks The Lord.

2) THE FORMAT OF THIS PLAN

This Mission Plan has been drawn together in the context above. It is not detailed with a lot of specifics, but more of a framework to be built on when a new minister is installed: as such a new minister will have particular interests and gifting, and it is appropriate that he or she will play a large part in helping the kirk session to develop the specifics.

3) FOUR AREAS TO CONCENTRATE ON ARISING OUT OF 'GROWING IN FRUITFULNESS'

FRUITFULNESS

A. Developing the life of Belmont as a community of God's people

Existing (including pre-Covid)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Belmont Tots- Tuesday Coffee Morning- Heart and Soul Praise Group- Saturday Youth Club (Lighthouse)- Presbyterian Women- Sunday Children and Youth Ministry including TotZone (0-2s), KidZone (2-4s), M.A.C (4-11s) Breakfast Club (11-18s)- Post Service Refreshments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use of PCI online resources- Accessible teaching via sermons- PCI's 'Share; resource: Build, Cultivate, Invite'- Summer Praise in church grounds- Re-establish some social groups - Book Club, Film Club, Quiz Night- Small Groups for Discipleship - e.g. Lads and Dads- Reinstate Fairtrade Traidcraft Stall- The Big Breakfast- A Church Magazine

B. Making an impression for God locally and globally through outreach and involvement in his wider activity in the world

LOCALLY

Existing (including pre-Covid)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting The Larder Foodbank - Christmas Appeals - Belfast Central Mission Toy Collection, The Larder's 'Christmas Dinner in a Box' appeal - Outdoor Community Carols - Visitation of local primary and post-primary schools by minister and youth worker - Currently 3 members are Governors of local primary schools - Fun Days (activity afternoons for children with special needs) - Communication with community about special events using banners and leaflet drops - Thanking local businesses for their contribution to our area - Beavers / Cubs / Scouts / Explorers and Guides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanding events for community e.g. Easter Egg Hunt - Reconnect with Belmont District of Churches - Fundraising for charities - Intentional relationship building through small groups - Reaching out to men of working age - Re-establishing Rainbows / Brownies and provision for boys aged 4-6

GLOBALLY

Existing (including pre-Covid)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stand By Me - sponsoring two children - World Development Appeal - Christian Aid collection and lunch - Presbyterian Women inviting speakers - Habitat for Humanity support for young volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stand By Me - reporting updated to congregation - Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - Link with Rev. Nigel and Antonia Craig as Global Mission Workers in Hungary - Overseas Teams - Nurturing of young people for future aid visits

UNFRUITFULNESS

C. Leaders are expected to do all they can to maintain everything the way it is now

Existing (including pre-Covid)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of change - unimaginative- Some perceived resistance to change- Challenge of getting volunteers in an ageing congregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Someone who can help kirk session lead change- Inclusion of everyone- Elder training in serious illness and bereavement visitation

D. 'Going to church' is just a weekly routine

Existing (including pre-Covid)	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Some people have not returned after Covid restrictions- Apparent surface level faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Follow up with those who have not returned to church- Have services in July and August in Hyndman Hall - more relaxed feel with Praise and Reflection- Child orientated beginning of the service- Involve good relationships with children of all ages- Involve people in worship (every member ministry)- Involve more people in prayer - silent prayer encouraged in groups- Home Groups- Praise evening with favourite hymns and readings- Teaching new hymns to congregations- Recognise importance of music in development of faith