

# Kintore Parish Church of Scotland

SC001406 Registered Scottish Charity

1 May 2018

Dear friends,

After two very successful Strategic Planning Conference Sessions in February and March, we met again on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April to Review our Year-plan and set goals in the light of the vision agreed. We spent a considerable amount of time sorting through our current activities and trying to analyse how, if at all, they contribute to the three core tasks of Missional Church formation: Mission, Hospitality and Discipleship. It proved to be a harder job than we had anticipated and there was a sense that we might have got bogged down a bit in the details of our current activities which left little space or time for us to brainstorm new ideas with which we could experiment. This became particularly clear as we moved to the last part of the meeting to consider our “shining lights” (those activities that bear a great deal of fruit), areas where we’re struggling (activities that demand many resources but bear little fruit), and “gaps” (places where we should be considering new opportunities to act).

In the end, I don’t believe we took the conversation of our strategic planning far enough forward at our third meeting, and this was largely down to the fact that we were perhaps not asking quite the right questions. But all is not lost... There are some positive learning points that came out of our meeting, which I believe we should note as we go forward:

- A significant number of folk in the congregation (there were again almost 40 participants at the conference) have a far deeper appreciation for the complexity of the changes and challenges we face. Change costs. There is no easy way around the fact that with limited resources we need to choose wisely what to do while simultaneously experimenting boldly with new ideas.
- I was encouraged by the passion with which people at the meeting engaged with the issues.
- We are definitely beginning to grasp both the meaning and the importance of the three core tasks (Mission, Discipleship and Hospitality) that we have identified.

According to our schedule we will move on at our next meeting to discuss the leadership structures within the church (both committee structures within the Kirk Session, and other areas of leadership). We had intended that we would take the new ideas raised in Conference Session 3 and allocate them to fit-for-purpose task-groups or committees. In reality, I believe there is still some work to be done before we get there. We will therefore create some space at the start of our final Conference Session to do some more brainstorming before moving on to rethinking our committee structures. May I therefore ask you to give some prayerful thought to the following questions:

**What would you love to see Kintore Parish Church do, that we are not currently doing?**

**What would you love to do that you currently don’t have the opportunity to do at Kintore Parish Church?**

**What experiments would you like us to try – even if they don’t end up working?**

Our final Strategic Planning Conference Session takes place at **7pm on Tuesday, 22 May 2018, in the Church Hall.**

I look forward to your ongoing participation and prayer.

With much love,

Rev Neil Meyer