Statement for Congregations: October 2024

As Interim Moderators, we are delighted that the locums, Rev Susan Galloway (Currie Kirk) and Rev Derek Munn (Balerno) are now in place, and we are sure the congregations are enjoying their respective ministries.

Discussions with Presbytery and within the Kirk Sessions are continuing. It has been acknowledged that, for a variety of reasons, both congregations would benefit from a little bit of building up before going forward into a full Union. The Presbytery is well aware of the future potential of Currie and Balerno and would like to make that Union as strong as possible. As was mentioned in the previous statement, it is thought that a temporary period of linking would help that process by allowing each congregation to move to a stronger place.

In addition, Presbytery hope to deploy the resources of the National Church by appointing an Interim Minister who would serve both congregations during that period of linking. Interim Ministers are experienced ministers with specialist training who are appointed, for a short period, to lead congregations to specific outcomes. In the case of Currie and Balerno, that would be to bring the two congregations and the two Kirk Sessions, which have quite different ways of working, together effectively. There are still agreements to be reached with the National Church, but we are hopeful that will happen shortly and the timetable for the process is set out below.

The Basis of Linking will appear on the Church websites once finalised. Copies will be made available on request.

Meantime, all the very excellent work on the Basis of Union which was carried out by the Water of Leith steering group will not be lost, as Union between the two congregations remains the overall goal, hopefully within a couple of years.

We are grateful to Presbytery for their care for the congregations as we move forward together.

*Rev. Dr Anne Logan*. Interim Moderator, Currie Kirk

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**Tuesday 8th October, 7pm Gibson Craig Halls**: Joint Kirk Session meeting to consider Basis of Linking: Kirk Sessions separately vote on Basis of Linking and Interim Ministry.

**Sunday 13th October**: Congregational Meetings at close of Worship to vote on Basis of Linking.

**Thursday 17th October, 7pm Gibson Craig Halls**: Presentation to both congregations on Interim Ministry. Congregations then vote separately on Interim Ministry.